

Dear Parents and Carers,

This newsletter has somewhat of a musical theme running through it. Next week is jam-packed with harmonious events involving some of our pupils. The group of pupils who sang at the Royal Albert Hall in November have been asked to stage a second performance of their well-received repertoire of songs at Blenheim Palace. Given the standing ovation they received in London, I was keen for the Oxfordshire County Music Service to build on this success and pushed for them to help recreate the magic closer to home. Tickets for Wednesday's event can be purchased from this link: [www.blenheimpalace.com/ocms](http://www.blenheimpalace.com/ocms)

Furthermore, Tuesday will see the start of our annual project with musicians from the Oxford Philamusic Orchestra and pupils from St. Nicholas' School, Marston. As in previous years, the children will work in partnership with their mainstream peers to choreograph a dance that will be set to their own, original compositions.

I am also very pleased to announce last Monday's awards assembly included me sharing with the school news that one of our Year 5 pupils successfully sat and pass a formal drumming exam. Some of you might be aware that we employ the services of a percussion tutor each week. The child in question has been working with the tutor for some time and is the first pupil at the school to ever achieve such an accomplishment; with a merit, no less!

In other news, with only 13 more days of the summer turn left to run, some of your thoughts may be turning to how to occupy your child's time during the summer holidays. In light of this, the Oxfordshire Museum Service are running a number of family-based workshops with titles such as Teeth Detectives, Fly Fantasia and Poo from the Past. The following link has all the details about these events:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/museums/oxfordshire-museum/whats-oxfordshire-museum/childrens-activities>

Please search your child's bookbag for a copy and order form of this year's whole school photograph. The British weather interrupted the staging of the event: dodging various rain showers caused much excitement or annoyance amongst the pupils. The deadline for submitting an order is Monday, so please get them in fast. The eagle-eyed amongst you will notice the photograph was taken at the front of the house. This is due to the start of some building work on the back of the house. It will be completed during the summer holidays. Rest assured that the site remains safe whilst the children are still in school.

Finally, the majority of my time this week has involved the admission meetings of pupils joining the school in September. A record number of 27 children will be welcomed to the school over the first two and a half weeks of the new school year. Getting to know this many new pupils has led to a short delay in releasing to you the names of your child's teacher next year. I will share these important arrangements with you and your child by the middle of next week.

With my very best wishes,



Jonathan Willis

Headteacher



### **Red Kite Class (Miss Morgan):**

We have been very busy in Red Kite class. Last week we had a visit from a real firefighter, and we learnt about the profession and fire safety. We have also been learning about poetry, creating our own poems with metaphors and other different features. Red Kite are also learning to cook healthy snacks like banana pancakes and pitta pockets. Finally, we made a whole class display painting all together. We are very proud of our hard work!

### **Falcon Class (Mrs Rolfe):**

The children in Falcon class have been writing newspaper articles and finding out what features make a good newspaper. Our science lessons have involved us staging investigations to examine the best conditions under which to water plants: measuring how much water travels up the stems of a plant. This week's maths lessons have focused on using multiplication facts to attempt division-based questions.

### **Kingfisher Class (Mrs Burns):**

In Kingfisher class we are focusing on a newspaper article called 'UFO Sighting in Greenville Village'. We are using this to help us plan and write our own articles. In maths, we have been working on measuring length, weight and capacity. We have done lots of work in ICT about how to keep safe online and how to find reliable websites. In PE, we have been learning how to play badminton and practicing our running and throwing skills.

### **Osprey Class (Mr Moar):**

We have had a spelling, punctuation and grammar focus: looking at the use of commas as well as extended noun phrases in English. In our maths lessons, we have been looking at lines of symmetry in two-dimensional shapes. We have used computing time to debug lines of coding. Our science work has involved us looking at how sound travels.

### **Chaffinch Class (Mrs McClimont):**

Chaffinch class have been discovering the terrifying symptoms of the Black Death and some of the strange cures that people attempted! Strangely very few were effective. As we move into the final weeks of their time at Northern House the children have been visiting their new schools. There has been a mixture of excitement and anxiety, but I feel they are well prepared for the next stage in their education.

### **Wren Class: (Miss Davies):**

Wren class have continued their topic of Memory Box. The pupils really enjoyed playing the memory game and guessing which object was missing from the tray. In Science, we have enjoyed identifying and exploring their five senses around the school we took a tour of the school and recorded what we could see, hear, taste, touch and smell. In Maths, Wren have looked at Pictograms, we discussed and interpreted information from graphs. Also, we have practiced measuring in non-standard units.

### **The Nest (Miss Youngman):**

We have been continuing our learning on shape this week thinking more about symmetry and angles. We have been learning all about right, acute and obtuse angles in our environment and also in shapes. We are continuing with our Aladdin topic in English, the class really enjoyed making their own lamps in preparation for some role play earlier this week. We considered the metaphorical meaning of the lamp rather than the literal meaning and everyone came up with some interesting ideas.

### **Eagle Class (Mrs Bishop):**

Eagle Class have been finding out the gruesome facts around the black death and some of the interesting ways people attempted to cure it. We have also been learning about micro-organisms and are investigating the conditions where mould grows best. We made careful drawings and posters to remind people to 'Wash Your Hands' if coming into contact with germs.

### **Robin Class (Miss Ferrer):**

We class have been working very hard with the past tense and especially irregular verbs. In PSHE the pupils have been talking about their personal qualities that they are proud of and how to raise self-esteem. We had a very interesting discussion about what happens when we die and how different religions have different ways of celebrating life and death. We also had two amazing PE sessions doing athletics and all of us did a great job and put in lots of effort.

### **The Bridge (Mrs Lee):**

The Bridge have cooked Mrs Lee's Pot noodles - not noodles. A healthy meal with vegetables - enjoyed by all! In maths we have subtracting using the column method. We have been creating our own Aztec masks using collage and making them 3D.

### **Woodpecker Class (Mr Jeffries):**

Woodpeckers have been learning all about the Black Death and how it changed medieval society. We imagined we lived during that time and decided who we could have liked to have been; a king, nobleman, serf or freeman. In maths, we have been doing lots of work on fractions, column addition and subtraction and even started to solve algebraic problems.