



Packington

Church of England Primary School

February 2014

Newsletter

Dear All

This first half term of Spring has really flown by. Pupils have had their heads down at work, with KS2 pupils having a go at some early assessments. However, as you'll read there have been lots of interesting activities as well. Please enjoy reading our news.

End of an Era as Mr and Mrs Collier Announce Their Retirement

Mr and Mrs Collier, our husband and wife Premises Team, have announced that they wish to retire at the beginning of the Summer Term. Over the years Mr and Mrs Collier have shown dedication and commitment to the school, not only within their own roles as Premises Officer and Cleaner but also through their support of the wider life of the school, volunteering to help with visits, supporting concert preparations as well as other special events to name just a few activities. Staff and pupils have valued and appreciated their support. We will certainly miss their knowledge, experience and kindness and they will be difficult to replace. However, we do wish them well and understand that the time is now right for them to spend more time with their family.

We have now advertised the positions on the Leicestershire County Council website and hope to appoint next half term.

Goodbye to Abby

We are sad to announce that Abby Hillier, who serves our school dinners, will be leaving her post at the end of this half term for family reasons. Abby has worked at Packington ever since the school started to serve hot dinners and she will be missed by staff and pupils. We wish her and her family well and hope she will keep in touch in the future.

Tracey Woodley has been appointed by the School Meals Service to take over the position. Tracey has worked at the school as an additional help for Abby so she is already a familiar face to the children.

OFSTED COMPLAINT- PARTIALLY UPHELD

You will be aware that the school made a formal complaint following our OFSTED Inspection. The complaint covered a number of issues and concerns raised by staff and Governors and we were supported in making the complaint by the Local Authority and the Forest Way Teaching School Alliance. Our concerns have now been investigated by an OFSTED Investigating Officer at SERCO and the outcome is they have been partially upheld in our favour.

The investigator has agreed that it would **"...have been helpful to have involved the Teaching School."** His report also states **"I have upheld the aspect of your complaint about the management of the inspectionI am asking the inspector to take greater care in future."** The investigators report also agrees with the school that **"the school's historic data is impressive" and that "the picture in the 2013 RAISEonline is also very strong"**.

Where the investigator was unable to uphold our complaint he states this was because it was **"not possible to reach a conclusion. That is not to say that one party is believed over another, simply that there is insufficient evidence...for that reason, I am unable to make a decision."**

We are pleased that we have moved forward and concerns have been recognised, but we are disappointed that **"although the school's data shows its very strong track record for high attainment and achievement"** there will be no amendment to our final report to reflect the outcome of the investigation. However, we are assured that lessons will be learnt so that processes can be reviewed and improved.

"I am sure the inspector would want to share in this apology."

NEWS HEADLINES

***PUPILS PREPARE FOR BEAUMANOR VISIT** ~ The excitement is building in the Owls classroom as their overnight visit to Beamanor Hall gets ever closer and they look forward to trying a range of different activities including archery, the climbing wall and maybe a treasure hunt, as well as the fabulous food.

***SECOND PHASE OF WINDOW REPLACEMENT TO START** ~ Work to replace old and inefficient windows in the Owls classroom and the staffroom will commence next week. The work in the Owls classroom will be completed whilst the pupils are at Beamanor and the staffroom windows will be replaced after half term.

***SCIENCE PROBLEM SOLVING** ~ This term's Science Problem Solving Day was another success. It's great to hear the scientific vocabulary being used by pupils.

***LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR** ~ Rev' Tim Philips enthralled the pupils with his talk on the Ashby Food Bank and his re telling of the Good Samaritan Story helped the pupils to think about how they can show care and compassion towards others.

***THE BLACKBIRDS CLASS ASSEMBLY** ~ We are really looking forward to the Blackbirds Class Assembly on the theme of the life and work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The assembly is on Tuesday 11th February at 9.15 am and refreshments will be served at the end.

***BOCCIA FESTIVAL** ~ Mrs Morris and Mrs Mayles were very impressed with the pupils who attended the Boccia Workshop at Forest Way School. It was great to hear about their excellent behaviour and teamwork.

***FOOTBALL SKILLS** ~ This half term KSI pupils have been enjoying some special FA Skills football lessons.

***CLARINET PERFORMANCE** ~ Pupils who are learning the clarinet in years 3, 4 and 5 will give a special performance to parents on 14th February. The "concert" will begin at 9.30 am in the school hall.

***FIRST STEPS ROAD SAFETY TRAINING** ~ Our Year 1 pupils have just completed a 3 week road safety course covering dangers in a car park, the green cross code and the school crossing patrol. The sessions were organised by the Local Authority's Road Safety Team.

Please remember we have an open door policy so should you have any concerns please contact your child's class teacher or myself. You can contact us either in school, by phone (01530 412425) or e-mail (headteacher@packington.leics.sch.uk).

AT PACKINGTON WE WANT TO DO OUR BEST AND WORK TOGETHER.

GOVERNORS CORNER

This term the Governors have met as a full Governing Body to discuss the progress of our OFSTED complaint, the Log Cabin project and staffing changes as a result of the retirement of Mr and Mrs Collier. The Foundation Governors (Rev'd Birtwistle, Mrs Mugglestone and Mrs Jones) have also been very busy collating survey responses by both parents and pupils to help us improve Collective Worship. So thank you to everybody who completed a survey, your comments will help us with our school improvement work.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

Collective Worship Teams

Our first pupil Collective Worship Team from Years 5 and 6 delivered their first Collective Worship to the whole school. Megan Cooper, Elissa Brothwell, Laura Davies and Sophie Stafford all in year 6, had organised the whole event with guidance from Mrs Swindells. Their presentation talked about the determination of Noah and was presented with confidence. Well done girls!



Victorian Day

The Eagles enjoyed their day re-enacting life in a Victorian School. They looked fantastic in their outfits and really got into the spirit of the experience. I think they secretly liked the stern teachers. Our thanks also go to Mrs Harris Marsh who bought in all her Victorian resources from Snibston and helped make the day as authentic as possible.



CROSS COUNTRY FINAL RACE CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that the date of the final Unity Cross Country Race at Albert Village has been moved from Saturday 1st March to

Saturday 8th March.

This year there have been some changes and this meeting will now be the final race of the season rather than an actual final. Medals will be presented at a special Unity Schools Awards ceremony later in the year. Just to reassure runners there has been no change to the scoring system and it remains the same as previous years.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8th Feb ~ Unity Cross Country at Woodstone - CANCELLED
10th/11th Feb ~ Yr 3/ 4 residential visit to Beaumanor
14th Feb ~ Clarinet Performance to parents
School breaks up for the February Half Term
26th Feb ~ Open the Book
3rd/4th Mar ~ Parents Evenings
8th Mar ~ Final Unity Cross Country Race at Albert Village
W/b 10th Mar ~ RE Week
25th and 26th Mar ~ Open the Book
11th April ~ Easter Service

ASHBY FOOD BANK

The Ashby Food Bank is a charity that helps people who need food and are in debt and can't afford food. Please donate food like:

- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Custard
- Orange juice
- Tuna
- Tinned meat
- Powdered milk/ UHT milk
- Soup
- Jam
- Pasta
- Cereals
- Sugar
- Instant Mash Potato
- Tea bags/ Instant Coffee
- Pet Food
- Toiletries

Be compassionate, would you like it if it were you? It will make you feel very good. Please bring your donations to the entrance hall. People need your help now.

Thank you very much.

From

Charlie Kuper and Nathaniel Marston, Year 5 – The Eagles

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT TOWARDS THE ASHBY FOOD BANK PROJECT.

The boxes in the entrance hall are beginning to fill up so thank you very much for your kind donations. The pupils have been inspired by the challenge and are delighted with what they have achieved so far.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY DATES

7th Feb- Owls
14th Feb – Blackbirds
28th Feb – Robins
7th Mar– Eagles
14th Mar- Owls
21st Mar – Blackbirds
28th Mar – Robins
4th April– Eagles
11th April – No Achievement Assembly –
Easter Service in church



PARENTS EVENINGS ARE Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th March

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO CLUBS DURING THIS WEEK.

CROSS COUNTRY
The next Unity Cross Country at Woodstone on Saturday 8th February
Has been
CANCELLED