



Packington

Church of England Primary School

March 2013

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

Well despite it being such a short term school has never been busier. I've really enjoyed talking to the children about their learning as part of my regular observations.

What a vibrant school Packington is! Please do enjoy sharing our news.

Great Website News

Over the last month a small group of staff headed by Mrs Braithwaite have been busy updating our website. We had been experiencing a number of problems following a change over from our internet provider but thankfully this is nearly all sorted. The website is now much friendlier and packed full of information – in fact it's looking great! It has all the usual information pages including a calendar of upcoming events and pages about staff, governors and the PSA and of course each class also has their own page. You will also find policies, menus, holiday request forms and many other useful documents. Do take a look – it's packed full of photos and also has a parent's zone and a kid's zone with lots of useful links to activities, information and resources. The website will be continually updated.

We have decided that we will have an official re-launch of the website to pupils and parents at our first achievement assembly on Friday 12th April and there will be an opportunity for you to explore the site using our laptops. So please come along.

If you can't make it don't worry Mrs Braithwaite is going to set up a laptop in the entrance hall during the first two weeks of term and you are very welcome to pop into school to explore the site at your leisure.

Should you want to take a look at home then you will currently need to use the following address: <http://leicestershire.schooljotter.com/packington>. We are currently working on changing the address so do keep your eyes out for more details.

Christian Values and RE

It has been RE week in school this week and once again we have linked themes with our work on 'Our Year of Questioning'. This term the pupils have been asking and answering questions on "What is important in choosing how to live your life?" Each class has taken a slightly different aspect to focus on. The Robins and Blackbirds have asked the question "What can stories teach us about life?" The Owls have explored different values and "What matters most?", and the Eagles have thought about "What can we learn from reflecting on Sikh, Christian and Muslim wisdom?"



It has been a delight to hear the pupils answering and asking 'big questions' and participating in a variety of activities. I've observed some marvellous Godly Play in KS1 with the pupils discussing a Buddhist story. I've heard pupils debating moral issues and I've seen some fantastic ideas for a peace tree.

The pupils will share some of their work with you at our Easter Service. After the holidays the pupils will be deepening their understanding of our eight core Christian values. Come and find out more at our first achievement assembly in the summer term.

RE CONFERENCE FOR CHILDREN "All the same all different"

Mrs Rogers said how marvellous it was to take a group of Year 5 pupils to an RE Conference at Brockington College. The children enjoyed meeting pupils from other schools and had the chance to discuss what could be learnt from other religions.



NEWS HEADLINES

***BEAUMANOR** ~ Thank you to all the parents who completed questionnaires about the Beaumanor residential visit. Mrs Braithwaite is going to discuss them with the Curriculum Committee and a decision about next year's visit will be made based on the broad consensus of parental opinion.

***ART PROJECT** ~ The Owls have met up with pupils from Linden Primary School (our link school in Leicester City) to work on a joint art project with our National Forest Partners. The pupils worked together in Packington Wood to plan and design a new information board to be displayed in the woods. All their ideas have been collected and we are eagerly waiting to see the final results.

***SATS MEETINGS** ~ Our SATS meetings for parents were very well attended and received some excellent feedback. Please note the date for SATs week in the diary section on the reverse of the letter.

***FANTASTIC CLASS ASSEMBLIES** ~ This month we have been treated to two fantastic class assemblies by the Owls and the Blackbirds. The Owls provided us with lots of interesting information about inventions that have changed the world and the Blackbirds treated us to a journey into space to "Infinity and Beyond!"

***POLICE STATION VISIT** ~ The Eagles had a great time at their recent visit to Coalville Police Station. They had a guided tour and a real hit was the opportunity to try on the 'riot gear' used by the police. I also know they had quite a bit of enjoyment locking Mr Emery into the cells! The class were buzzing when they returned. The work continued in the afternoon when PC Mark Arjoo visited school to talk about community policing and to answer questions. We would like to thank PC Arjoo for all his help and support – it was a super learning experience. Mr Emery has put photographs of the visit on the website so do take a look.

Please come to our Achievement Assembly on Friday 12th April to find out about our:

Christian Values and Updated Website

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.

GOVERNOR CORNER

This term two of our governors, Mrs Julie Cooper and Mrs Louise Beeston have decided to resign as they near the end of their tenures as a result of family and work pressures. Both governors have been extremely dedicated to the school over the years and have worked hard to support our school improvement work. On behalf of the staff and pupils I would like to thank them for their commitment and support.

Mrs Beeston is a Foundation Governor (a Church representative) and her replacement will be chosen by the Parochial Council. Mrs Cooper is a parent governor and we will be organising a parent election in the first week of the summer term. Should you be interested in the position then do contact school or talk to Mrs Tracey Mitchell who will be only too happy to talk to you about what it means to be a governor. (You could also look at the governor page on the website.)

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

FOOTBALL

Packington have had a good start to the second half of the football season and are playing well. They had a convincing 5:3 win over Ashby CE Primary School but despite some great play and an extremely close game they lost 3:2 to Donisthorpe.

E- Safety - Digital Parenting Magazine

This week we sent home a Digital Parenting magazine produced by Vodafone. I do recommend you to take a look. It has some really useful "How to ..." guides such as setting up parental controls on the Xbox 360 and setting privacy controls on Facebook and parent controls on Blackberry (Did you know you can control ratings and content and set a family timer on the Xbox 360?) The book contains guidance for toddlers to teens so it is well worth keeping for reference.

PSA

We would like to thank the PSA for the fantastic events they have put on this half term. The Fish and Chip Bingo was a great evening of family entertainment and was enjoyed by all and raised nearly £300. The Mother's Day chocolate was also a big hit. Thank you so much for your hard work.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18th Mar ~ Chess Competition
20th Mar ~ Open the Book Visit
21st Mar ~ PSA Easter Egg Hunt
22nd Mar ~ Easter Service 2pm in Church and break up for the Easter Holidays
8th Apr ~ Summer Term Begins
9th Apr ~ New Age Curling Group event
13th Apr ~ Unity Cross Country Final at Albert Village
16th Apr ~ Open the Book Visit
Yr6 visit to the Warning Zone
19th Apr ~ Yr3/ 4 Faith Stories visit to Leicester
20th Apr ~ Unity Swimming Gala at Whitwick
23rd Apr ~ Ashby Youth for Christ Visit
24th Apr ~ Robins Class Assembly
26th Apr ~ Fire Fit Yr1/ Yr5 presentations
3rd May ~ May Fayre
W/b 13th May ~ SATS WEEK
22nd May ~ Open the Book Visit

Cross Country Sporting Success

We have had some marvellous successes at our last two cross country events this term:

First we had 6 KS2 pupils who qualified to run at the **NW Leicestershire Cross Country Final**. All the pupils had superb runs and were fantastic sporting representatives for the school. There were some fabulous results and I was absolutely delighted to hear that Packington were overall winners of the year 6 Boy's team event. Well done to Lewis Eaton and Sam Tebbett who came first and second respectively. Our thanks go to Mrs Uzzell who kindly coordinated our runners at the event.

Success continued at the **Unity Learning Partnerships Cross Country event at Woodstone**. Again there were some fantastic results but special mentions go to Lewis Eaton, Louis Bassett and Sam Tebbett who came in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the boys yr 5/ 6 race and to Harrison Eaton and Ania Tebbett who came second in their races and Holly Powell who got a third place. Well done to all our runners!

We are now looking forward to the final at Albert Village on 13th April.

School Uniform Thanks

Thank you for the positive response to our message about school uniform in the last newsletter – we've really noticed your support and we just want to say we appreciate it.

Parent View

"Let's work together to maintain our high standards and improve our school"

On our website you will find a link to our OFSTED and Diocese Inspection reports. You will also find a link to Parent View. This is an online questionnaire launched by OFSTED in 2011 that allows parents to give their view about school at **any time of the school year** and at the time of a school inspection. It has replaced the paper survey that used to be circulated just at the time of an inspection. To complete the questionnaire you simply need an e mail address and password to register and once your login has been activated and you have agreed the terms of use then there are 12 short questions to answer on different aspects of school such as the quality of teaching etc.

Your views are important in helping inspectors make a decision about our school and help us know what is going well and what could be improved. *(However, please do be aware that the quickest way for us to respond to specific issues is for you to contact us directly.)*

We will still continue to send out our own questionnaires to gather your opinions about general and specific issues and to help us in our decision making.

Please do take a look at Parent View and if you are happy with school then let us and OFSTED know.

EASTER SERVICE IN CHURCH

Friday 22nd March 2 pm 2013

Please do come along and join the children and staff at our traditional Easter Service

So please put the date in your diary!

