



Packington

Church of England Primary School

March 2015

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

Well isn't it nice to see the colour of flowers appearing in the landscape and the first signs of Spring as well as the increased opportunity to be out and about. At Packington outdoor learning is a regular feature at the school and this week it has been great to see pupils using our outdoor space for drama and reflective activities.

Please do enjoy reading our news.

Join us on Twitter



The school now has a twitter account to keep you up to date with what's happening in school. The account is a closed account and only families, staff and governors of the school will be allowed to follow. To find us you need to search for Packington CE School and you then have to send a request to be able to follow us. Should you use a name on your account that is not easily recognisable then please let school know prior to sending a request to follow us. There will be regular updates including photographs of what is happening.

Courageous People Day

"What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?" by Vincent Van Gogh

To continue our Year of Courage this term we are having a "Courageous People Day". Each class will study a range of courageous people from the past to the present and they will explore what qualities they have that we can learn from. The children will then produce an aged related presentation or "Museum" style presentation about what they have learnt. Parents will be able to view the pupils work at our "Museum of Courageous People" open afternoon event on Wednesday 25th March. Please save the date. More details will follow in the next few days

NEWS HEADLINES

***ROTARY SPEAK** ~ For the first time pupils from Packington are taking part in the Ashby Rotary Junior Speak Competition. Five pupils from the Eagles will talk about a range of topics from Car Rallying, The International Space Station, Giraffes, Karate and even Lettuce!

Governors Mrs Jones and Mrs Mugglestone were allowed a preview and commented in their report to Governors on the knowledge and enthusiasm the pupils demonstrated for their chosen subjects. Let's wish them all good luck.

***CLUB ACTIV8** ~ Gail Rushton from Hood Park Leisure Centre will join us at our Achievement Assembly on Friday 20th March to talk about the Club Activ8 scheme. If you don't use it do come along as it's a great way to get free activities at the Leisure Centre. **As a result the achievement assembly will start at 2.35 pm on Friday 20th March.**

***PLAY IN A DAY CYBER**

BULLYING WORKSHOP ~ The Owls will take part in a play in a day workshop organised by PALS Theatre Group on the first day back after the Easter holidays. The theme of the workshop is Cyber bullying and E-safety. At the end of the day the Owls will perform a play to the rest of the school.

***CHESS TOURNAMENT** ~ Hopefully it will be "Check Mate" when eight pupils from KS2 represent the school at the Unity Chess Tournament at Higham School on Monday 23rd March.

***KURLING FESTIVAL** ~ Mrs Morris was very impressed with the pupils from KS1 who attended the Kurling Workshop at Forest Way. It was great to hear about their super teamwork. The pupils will now teach the rest of the Robins and Blackbirds how to play.

***EASTER 'EGG-CERCISE'** ~ The Owls had an 'egg-cellent' time at the Easter 'Egg-cercise' Festival that came to Packington. Brian from the NWLSSP took pupils through their paces with a variety of circuit training activities including "Bunny Burpies" and an egg relay.

***EASTER BONNET PARADE** ~ Don't forget our traditional Easter Bonnet Parade and competition on the last day of term. More details to follow.

FOOD BANK CHALLENGE

Over the last few weeks the Eagles have been delivering all our Food Bank contributions to the centre in Ashby. Pupils have helped the volunteers to weigh and store all the produce. Thanks to your generosity school raised a marvellous 159.1 Kg of food and household goods. Thank you so much for your kindness.



Helping in the Store Room

GOODBYE MRS BEASLEY

We are sad to announce that Mrs Beasley has decided to retire at the end of this term. Over the years Mrs Beasley has worked tirelessly at the school to make our music teaching very special and she has been the driving force behind countless productions, special events and musical clubs. On top of this she has inspired many children to learn an instrument. In short she will be very much missed by all the pupils and staff. However, we understand that the time is now right for her to spend more time with her family and wish her a very happy retirement.

We do plan to say a special farewell for Mrs Beasley at the Easter Service. Should you wish to contribute to the gift from the school then please send your donations to the office.

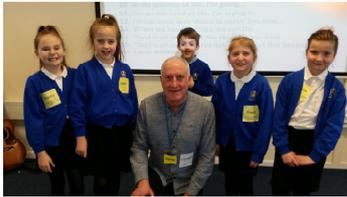
We are currently looking at how we will replace Mrs Beasley. We have already arranged for her PPA work to be covered by Mrs Borg and Mrs Wilkinson. Mrs Borg will focus on the teaching of French in the Eagles and Mrs Wilkinson will focus on Art in the Owls. Both Mrs Fryer and Mr Emery have interests and experience in music so will cover this area of the curriculum. We are aware that many of Mrs Beasley's private pupils are either moving with her or have made alternative arrangements however over the next few weeks we will be looking at the possibilities of finding a replacement for the provision of piano/ keyboard tuition as well as extra-curricular musical activities.

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE – with Jesus as our guiding light!

RE CONFERENCE

Mr Emery and five Year 5 pupils attended the Children's RE Conference at Lutterworth College. This year the theme was **'Musical RE in the School'** and the pupils had the chance to work with nationally acclaimed songwriter Stephen Fischbacher. It was a great opportunity as Stephen is the founder of Fischy Music, a charity that has worked directly with children for many years and their resources are used in thousands of schools across the UK and beyond. They emphasize the uniqueness, creativity and worth of every child and produce memorable, easy to learn, fun songs that all can sing. The charity has its roots in the Christian Faith but the songs and resources are inclusive and appropriate for all students regardless of outlook on life or religious belief.

The pupils and Mr Emery came back buzzing and with some great resources for school. The five pupils now want to become Christian Ambassadors to share the activities with the rest of the school.



New Playground Resources

Have you noticed the new playground markings appearing in the playground? Keep your eyes open for new changes appearing shortly thanks to the PSA and the generous support of you parents. Already the pupils are enjoying the Roman numeral hopscotch, a fun way to learn about one of the new areas of the maths curriculum.

Visit to Great Bowden School

Mrs Rogers and I went to visit Great Bowden School near Market Harborough last week. The visit was organised to share our good practice. Both schools are small village Church of England Primary Schools so very similar and it was very valuable to discuss our uniqueness as well as the challenges we face and the solutions we have found. Mrs Rogers can't wait to share ideas with the school council.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17th Mar ~ Open the Book visit
18th Mar ~ Rotary Speak Event
21st Mar ~ **CANCELLED** - Cross Country at Albert Village
23rd Mar ~ Unity Chess Tournament
26th Mar ~ Easter Creative Time
27th Mar ~ Easter Service in Church and break up for Easter Holidays
13th April ~ School starts for the Summer Term
Cyber Bullying Play in a Day – for the Owls
20th April ~ Avoncroft Visit for Robins and Blackbirds
22nd April ~ London Visit for the Eagles
25th April ~ Unity Cross Country at Griffydham
28th April ~ Visit of Carolyn Lewis Diocesan Director of Education
1st May ~ Whole School Panoramic Photograph
MAY FAYRE

Governors Corner

This term the Governors hosted a training session for governors who are part of the FWTSA. The session on effective monitoring and evaluation was led by Nigel Grimshaw a Lead OFSTED Inspector and experienced governor and trainer. Our governors found it very useful in helping them to ask questions and gather evidence to support and challenge the school.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

Assessment Update

As you will be aware from my previous communications and our recent parent interviews the way pupils are assessed is changing. For pupils in years 1, 3, 4 and 5 levels no longer exist and we are required to report on whether a pupil is emerging, expected or exceeding for their year group. You will also be aware that we are part of an assessment project to develop a rigorous and consistent assessment approach across our network of schools. Just to give you an update on the project, staff are just about to use the materials for the second time to complete their Spring Term teacher assessments. Following this staff across the schools will meet to moderate their judgments and then an independent assessment and data specialist will review the project as a whole and quality assure the proposals. As soon as this is complete and proposals are finalised then we will host an information session for parents.

Collective Worship Teams

We have had some fabulous Collective Worship activities led by our pupil teams this term; quite professional and I really think they could go on tour with the Open the Book groups! Three teams made up of year 5 pupils will have delivered stories from Daniel in the well, Samuel hears a noise and Jesus chooses the disciples. Well done Year 5 for your impressive independent work.



VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOLS PLEASE HELP

We are collecting **SAINSBURY'S Vouchers** for schools.

In the past we have bought some fantastic resources from the vouchers for schools schemes. So please send your vouchers into the school office where they will be gratefully received.



Cross Country Success for Yr3 Team

Well done to Archie Linney, Ben McLean and Will Cross who won the final of the NW Leics Cross Country Team event for Yr3 Boys. A superb effort!

PLEASE ALSO NOTE

THE UNITY CROSS COUNTRY EVENT AT ALBERT VILLAGE ON SATURDAY 21ST MARCH HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

EASTER SERVICE IN CHURCH

Friday 27th March 2 pm 2015

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

Please put the date in your diary!

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). Remember if you are coming into school please report to the school office.