



Packington

Church of England Primary School

March 2016

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

How quickly Easter has approached us after our somewhat busy month. There have been so many interesting activities going on in school. We seem to have had everything from fund raising activities to a Space Party in the Robins and Blackbirds. We've included a flavour of things in our newsletter so please do enjoy reading our news.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful Easter

SPORT RELIEF SUCCESS

Our Sport Relief activities were a resounding success with a total of £303 being raised thanks to the support of the school community. The Year 6 pupils set themselves the challenge to run a full marathon between them. They organised the activity from start to finish, complete with drinks station and water guns to cool themselves down!! It was a hard task, particularly with the cold weather and the damp grass, but they persevered and ran to success raising £152 from sponsorship. A further £80 was raised from the yummy cake sale and a special mention goes to Alice Green who raised £16 for a sponsored silence. Well done to everyone who participated in the day.



Achievement Assemblies

Our first achievement assemblies for the summer term are:

Friday 15th April – Blackbirds

Friday 22nd April – Robins

Friday 29th April – No assembly
May Fayre

We will send out a full list of dates for achievement assemblies in the summer term.

WORLD BOOK DAY AND EXTREME READING

The whole school really enjoyed World Book Day. It was fantastic to see everybody in their different costumes- what super ideas! We also enjoyed the chance to 'Stop and Read'. When the bell rang everybody, and we mean everybody, stopped what they were doing and took time to get stuck into a book. It was a marvellous opportunity to raise the profile of reading. However, it didn't stop there as we also had a super gang of volunteer readers, including parents, grandparents and governors who came to read stories to different groups of children. So we had reading going on all day and in every nook and cranny. Well done Packington for making World Book Day great!



But it's not over yet as Mrs Dyche has introduced her extreme reading challenge. The idea is to get reading in strange places or when doing weird things and take a photo of yourself doing it. Mrs Dyche is collecting all the photographs and is displaying them on the website or on a display in school. (Do pop in and take a look – we've already got children reading on the top of cars or when skiing!)



NEWS HEADLINES

* **GRIFFYDAM CROSS COUNTRY** – The new date of Saturday 16th April has been set for the next Unity cross country event at Griffydham. It has been decided that this will be the last event of the season so we need as many runners as possible

* **FOOD FOR THOUGHT** – The Year 6 pupils enjoyed their visit to Ivanhoe School to take part in a 'Food for Thought' lesson. The session enabled pupils to explore the science behind food. The children said that they particularly enjoyed making their own sherbet and deciding whether custard is a solid or a liquid.

* **WELCOME TO NICKY** ~ We would like to welcome Nicky Boyle, our new cleaner/keyholder to the staff team at Packington. Nicky will predominantly work at the end of the school day so do say hello if you see her.

* **RE CONFERENCE** ~ Kaitlee, Iona, Poppy and Joseph in Year 5 represented Packington at the annual RE children's conference. The theme of the event was 'musical RE' and it was a great opportunity to share ideas with other children.

* **RECYCLING WORKSHOP** ~ The Owls really enjoyed their recycling workshop organised by the PALS Theatre Group. The session involved drama, singing and the chance to put your hands in a real-life pile of 'wormy' compost!

* **LIVING EGGS** ~ after Easter we are 'eggpecting' an 'eggciting' arrival in school as once again pupils will have the opportunity to follow the incubation process of a batch of live eggs. Our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Gammon who are loaning us an incubator and providing the eggs. This will be a marvellous chance for children to observe the hatching process and see how a chick develops in the first few days of life. The incubator will be based in the Owls, but all the pupils will be given an opportunity to see what is happening.

RE WEEK

Our RE week this term gave all the pupils time to ask and reflect on big questions. The Eagles explored the power of meditation and taught us about 'stilling'. The Owls considered the consequences of our actions and the Robins and Blackbirds looked at what stories can tell us. It was great to hear the children link their work to our Christian values, for example, the Owls thought about how peace, patience and friendship help them do good actions.

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

Governors Corner

We are sad to announce that for personal reasons Tracey Mitchell has stepped down from her post as Chair of Governors. Tracey will however remain on the governing body. We would really like to thank Tracey for her hard work and commitment to the school in her role as chair. She has had a massive impact on our school improvement work and has helped extend monitoring and evaluation by governors. A new chair will be elected in September. However, in the meantime Lesley Birtwistle, the current vice chair, will cover the role.

On another note the governors have been busy. The health and safety committee have carried out an inspection and reviewed the health and safety policy. The curriculum committee have met to look at KS1 and KS2 interim assessment updates. Catherine Picton has also visited school to monitor PE provision.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Next term our collective worship theme will take the theme of 'Windows for Worship' and ask the question 'what can we see that makes us wonder?'

Payments for School Dinners

Could we please remind parents that payment needs to be received prior to children having a school lunch. We do not offer a credit facility so please ensure that payment comes in with the menu. Thank You.

Financial Audit Success

We are pleased to announce that our Financial audit went very well. The auditor was with us for two days and she was impressed with our financial processes and documentation. The Governors would especially like to say well done and thank you to Mrs Pilbro for her diligence and hard work in making sure that the school received such a good report.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th April ~ Unity Cross Country at Griffydham
18th April ~ Science Fayre for KS2
19th April ~ Open the Book visit
21st April ~ Maths Reasoning Workshop at Worthington
22nd April ~ Class and Group Photographs
29th April ~ May Fayre – 3.30 pm
(2nd May Bank Holiday)
5th May ~ Ashby Youth for Christ Visit
W/B 9th May ~ SATS WEEK FOR YR 6
13th May ~ House Day
14th May ~ Unity Swimming Gala
17th May ~ Open the Book
18th May ~ Robins Class Assembly 9.15am
20th May ~ Christian Values Day
27th May ~ SPORTS DAY (am)
30th May – 3rd June – Half Term
6th June ~ Back to school
10th June ~ The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration
15th June ~ Ashby Science Fayre
22nd June ~ Clarinets Perform at De Montfort Hall
23rd June ~ Saffron Lane Area Athletics
W/B 27th June ~ Responsibility and British Values Week
4th July ~ Summer Character Conference for Pupils
15th July ~ End of term. Break up for the Summer holiday.

SPORTS PAGE

Once again it has been a busy and successful term for sport at Packington with children being involved in a range of events including new clubs such as Yoga for KS2 and a football club organised by Leicester City.

Orienteering

The Eagles had a fantastic day at Donisthorpe Woodlands developing their orienteering skills at a recent NWLSSP tournament. They had to use their map reading skills as well as teamwork and speed to navigate a course planned by the Leicestershire Orienteering Club. Results just in have confirmed that Packington achieved a very respectable fifth place.

Girls Football

It was a cold day but ten of our Year 5 /6 girl admirably represented Packington at the NWLSSP Girls Football Tournament just over a week ago. For a new team they played very well winning one match drawing two and losing one. Overall they came fourth in the tournament. A very good start – well done!

Stargazing

Eleven children and their parents enjoyed a 'cosmic' night of stargazing at Ashby School earlier in the month. Professor Chris North, a local boy who was educated at Ivanhoe and Ashby School and now works at Bristol University was the guest star of the evening. Mrs Johnston says it was a very bright night so the group were able to have an awe and wonder moment and see the Constellation of Jupiter. During the evening the children also made a telescope and their very own comet. What an amazing night!



Key Stage 2 Music

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Pope will be taking over the teaching of music for pupils in KS2. She will work alongside Mrs Walker on a Wednesday afternoon to cover planning and preparation time for Mrs Dyche and Mr Emery. Mrs Pope will work with the Owls for the first half term after Easter.

Clothing Collection

We'd like to say a big thank you to all the families who bought in bags of unwanted clothing for our textile collection. The money raised will be ploughed back into our environment work to help with class gardening projects, resources for the bird hide and art garden.

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY

**Our May Fayre will take place
on
Friday 29th April at 3.30 pm**

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.