



Packington

Church of England Primary School

January 2015

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

Is it only me who thinks January has come and gone very quickly? In fact we have had a relatively quiet term so far compared to the excitement of Christmas. I am happy though to report that pupils have been working very hard in school and I have been especially proud to see their determination and perseverance during my recent learning walks around school.

Please do enjoy reading our news.

Meet Grace and Charlie our new Head Girl and Boy



Welcome Back Mrs Fryer

Mrs Fryer is due to return from her maternity leave on Monday 2nd February and will once again job share with Miss Alldred. (Mrs Fryer will teach the Owls on Monday and Tuesdays and Miss Alldred will teach the class for the rest of the week.) The two staff have met to do some preparatory work and planning to ensure a smooth transition for the pupils.

FOOD BANK CHALLENGE

The School will once again support the Ashby Food Bank during the month of February. The School Council are organising this year's challenge. Last year Packington raised a fantastic 212.8 Kg of food, enough to feed 20 people for 3 days. This year the School Council want to beat that record and raise even more. They will write to you shortly with details but in the meantime they would be very grateful if you could search through your cupboards for unwanted items such as tins, packets, toiletries, pet food etc that could benefit families in need.

In order to add to our total it is important that food is not out of date as unfortunately the Food Bank is unable to accept that to hand out. Our collection boxes will be in the entrance hall from Monday 2nd February.

New Curriculum and Assessment

With Parent Evenings approaching I thought it opportune to inform you about some of the changes taking place in schools. As you may be aware a new National Curriculum was introduced in September and schools have a duty to teach this curriculum. However, because Year 2 and Year 6 pupils will be assessed on the old curriculum through Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs), then this year schools will continue to teach the old curriculum to these year groups.

This means that Year 2 and Year 6 pupils will be assessed using Levels. For pupils in these year groups staff will therefore discuss targets using levels at our Parents Evening, but will not talk about levels for pupils in other year groups.

The New National Curriculum has a greater emphasis on breadth of learning and pupils will not be assessed by levels. Instead schools will report on whether a child has reached the expectation for their year group.

Schools have also been told that there will be no nationally agreed system for assessing pupils and that they are expected to design their own systems to assess pupils. As a result we are working with a group of schools in the Ashby Learning Community on a project to design our own assessment system (this is considered good practice). Heads and Subject Leaders have worked together over the last two terms to produce assessment materials and we are currently trialling these.

At our next Parents Evening it will not be possible for staff to talk in great detail about these changes on an individual basis to parents but they will inform you about whether your child is on track to meet the end of year expectations for their age.

We will be arranging a separate meeting for parents to talk about the changes taking place in much greater detail.

For this year pupils in the Reception Year will continue to be assessed using the Early Years Profile.

NEWS HEADLINES

BEAUMANOR VISIT ~ The Owls will once again be heading off on their residential visit to Beaumanor Hall for two days of outdoor activities. Their programme looks very exciting and the pupils are looking forward to their evening 'Murder in the dark' session. Miss Alldred and Mrs O'Shea will accompany the pupils.

***MRS WALKER RETURNS** ~ We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Walker to support our booster work for year 5 and 6 pupils. She will teach the Year 5 pupils in the hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays whilst Mr Emery teaches the Year 6 pupils. Both teachers will be able to focus on specific areas of teaching for their particular year group. Booster sessions will take place up until the Key Stage 2 SATs.

***JOINT STAFF MEETING** ~ Staff from Newbold Primary will join Packington Staff to moderate and quality assure our assessment work in February.

***TWO NEW SPORTS CLUBS** ~ This term we have two new clubs for KS2 pupils. Badminton takes place on Monday morning before school and Zumba is after school on Tuesdays. The pupils tell me they are enjoying learning new skills and both clubs are great fun.

***CUBASE WORKSHOP** ~ The Eagles will visit Ivanhoe in early February to take part in a Cubase workshop which had to be postponed in the Autumn term because of illness. The workshop will introduce the pupils to the techniques of generating music using computers.

***STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORK** ~ Mr Emery is working with other teachers from the Unity Learning Partnership on a project to improve writing skills. So far he has had the opportunity to share our good practice and has also visited another school. As part of the project staff will be able to participate in a literacy course led by Alan Peat. The project is funded by LEEP (Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership).

***READING CONFERENCE** ~ All the pupils in the Eagles have participated in a reading conference on an individual basis with a member of staff. This was a chance to discuss strengths and areas to develop in reading.

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

Waste Workshop

We were delighted to welcome Alan Parker from the PALS Theatre Group who came into school to deliver a waste workshop to the pupils in the Owls. During the session the pupils learnt all about reducing, recycling and re-using waste items. They particularly enjoyed the activities that involved them in making games and using drama techniques to demonstrate how to reduce, reuse and recycle. However, the absolute highlight was learning a rap and performing it. Having looked at the recording I have to say there were some cool moves!



Collective Worship

This term our Collective Worship theme is: The life and stories of Jesus Christ who turned the world upside down.

During the term the children will explore the life of Jesus in a different way, looking at how he challenged conventions and stood up for the rights of those who were oppressed, ignored and disliked.

Also this term our Year5 will have the opportunity to lead Collective Worship for the whole school and we are really looking forward to listening to their ideas.

Club Activ8

Mr Emery and myself would like to remind you that the school pays for every pupil to join the Club Activ8 scheme at Ashby and Measham Leisure Centres. Parents need to register their child's membership at one of the leisure centres by completing a simple form. Each term the children will collect points for participating in school P.E lessons and extra-curricular sports clubs. Points can then be used to pay for free swimming and selected sports sessions; they can even be swapped to hire a badminton court for a family game. Children quickly collect points so it is well worth joining the scheme. Further details are available when you join.

We are currently arranging for Gail Rushton from Hood Park to visit school to talk about the scheme and will send out further details when we have a date. In the meantime, well done to all who have signed up so far, the list of families keeps growing. So please remember to sign up and let's see if we can make it a full house?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9th and 10th Feb ~ Beaumanor Residential Yr3/4
10th Feb ~ Open the Book
12th Feb ~ Class Assembly for the Blackbirds
13th Feb ~ PSA Disco
W/C 16th Feb ~ Half Term
24th Feb ~ Open the Book
28th Feb ~ Cross Country at Woodstone
2nd/ 3rd Mar ~ Parents Evenings
21st Mar ~ Cross Country at Albert Village
27th Mar ~ Easter Service in Church

Governors Corner

The Governors have agreed the SEN Policy and the Local Offer and these are now available on the website. They are now exploring the new requirements for reconstituting the Governing Body and familiarising themselves with changes to the way schools assess pupils. This month they will receive an update on work taking place by a group of Ashby Schools, including Packington, to develop an assessment system based on the new National Curriculum. Committees have also been hard at work, the Health and Safety Committee have carried out their termly inspection, the Pay Committee have reviewed pay progression recommendations, the Finance Committee have monitored school expenditure and agreed the revised budget and the Strategic Committee have made improvements to governor monitoring of the school development plan.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

Clarinet Concert

“What a fantastic performance – well done everyone”

A performance by children learning the clarinet has been judged a great success by parents and visitors. The pupils performed a variety of musical pieces and exercises, even showing parents how they can make an ambulance sound during the session. Despite a few pupils being nervous they all did extremely well and Miss Alldred said she was really proud of their achievement and learning attitude.



“What a lot of hard work went into this super, fun, performance. Well done!”

“Absolutely brilliant! Can't believe how much they have all progressed.”

(Comments from our Visitors Book)



SOAP SALE SUCCESS

The Eagles have raised a fantastic £83.30 from selling the soap they made as part of a design technology project that linked with work on the old soap factory in Ashby. The pupils have requested that the money go to the PSA to support their work for school.

New Playground Resources

Over the first few weeks of the New Year the PSA have been busy organising quotes for new equipment for the playground. I am pleased to say that they are just about ready to place an order and arrange a delivery date. It is very exciting.

PARENTS EVENINGS ARE

Monday 2nd March and Tuesday 3rd March

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO CLUBS THAT WEEK THAT ARE RUN BY CLASS TEACHERS. WE WILL LET YOU KNOW OF ANY CLUBS THAT WILL RUN IN THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE PARENT INTERVIEWS.

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.