



Packington

Church of England Primary School

October 2013

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

Well the pupils have made a fantastic start to the new academic year. Our new starters in the Robins have quickly settled into life at the school and “Our Year of Determination” is really inspiring children to think about what they can achieve and the qualities they need to do this. I have been really impressed with the number of pupils working hard on their Citizen’s Awards. I’ve already awarded bronze, silver and gold awards this year and have been impressed with the range of community work and different activities our pupils do. As a result of our eager pupils I’m now researching how we can put in another level!



Please do enjoy reading about our news.

NEWS HEADLINES

***CROSS COUNTRY** ~The first Unity cross country event takes place on Saturday 12th October at Bosworth Country Park. There will be races for all pupils at the school. We really need some younger runners so please come along and give it a try. The first race for Reception pupils will start prompt at 10.30am. Mrs Braithwaite will be the member of staff attending so please look out for her.

***PUPILS TO SING FOR PRINCESS ANNE** ~As part of our regular work with the National Forest Partnership the school has been invited to send a group of pupils to perform a song for Princess Anne when she visits the Jubilee Wood at the end of October. The Eco Committee, Environment Club, Fun Singers and Head Boy and Head Girl will attend the event.

***TAG RUGBY FESTIVALS** ~Over the next two weeks pupils in the Owls and Eagles will participate in the Ashby Tag Rugby Festivals. The classes have been training hard with the expert guidance of Charlie Eaton and Vince O’Regan, two of our parents who are keen rugby coaches. We wish both teams well and would like to thank Charlie and Vince for their support.

***YEAR 6 INTERVIEWS** ~Mr Emery and myself have carried out our first round of pupil interviews with our Year 6 pupils. We do this each year to help prepare pupils to be ready for secondary school. The meetings give us time to talk individually with each pupil and to jointly set end of year targets and they help us to bespoke any support and guidance to each pupils need. The interviews will be repeated at key points over the coming year.

***WRITING WORKSHOP** ~Next half term we will hold a writing workshop for parents and staff will explain how we teach writing across the school. Please look out for the date and further details.

***INTERNET SAFETY** ~Mr Emery and Mrs Braithwaite have recently updated their e-safety training and bought back some new ideas and resources to use with pupils. They are also keen to organise a workshop for parents and are busy planning this, we will write when we have more details.

***NEW DECKING** ~A little bird tells me that thanks to the PSA and Mr Keller the Robins outdoor learning area will soon have a new decked area for the pupils to use as a stage and in their creative play.

DETERMINATION WORKSHOP

On 28th October and 1st November Julie Ann Heath will visit school to work with each class to develop an art display based on the theme of a “Carpet of Dreams”. During the sessions Julie Ann will talk about her life story and how she changed career to follow her dreams of becoming a minister in the Church, an author of books and an artist. She will also use stories from the Bible to help the children understand how God wants us to follow our dreams.

SPORTS KITE MARK

We are really pleased to announce that the school has been awarded with the Sainsbury’s School Games Bronze Kite mark for its sports work. To achieve the mark the school has to provide at least 2 hours physical activity during curriculum time, engage in competitions and provide a wide variety of extra-curricular sports opportunities. The award reflects our commitment to provide high quality sports and improve the well being of our pupils.



LEARNING SUPER HERO DAY

The children had some fantastic ideas at our recent “Learning Super Hero Day” where they thought about the skills and qualities they need to be good learners. There were some great creations such as Captain Creative who has great “looking” powers, Miss Muscles who is speedy and flexible and Map Man who has a good knowledge of places. Once finished our heroes will go on display in the hall.



DONATIONS FOR THE RAFFLE BOX

Every Monday we hold a prize draw for the children who have earned a raffle ticket for their good attitude in school or for reading at least three times at home and getting their planner or home school book signed by an adult. This is very popular with the children and they enjoy dipping into our treasure box of gifts. Most of the prizes are items you might find in a party bag; for example, whoopee cushions, hair slides, stationery items, puzzles, mini toys etc. However, at the moment our box is running a little low in stock, particularly in terms of items for boys so if you have any unwanted but new items to donate then we would be very grateful to receive them. Thank you for your support.

READING FOR PLEASURE

At Packington we are regularly looking for ways to encourage our pupils to develop a love of reading for pleasure. Last year we had a class of children work with the Library Services team on the Children’s Book of the Year Award. This year Nicole Jordan from the LSE will visit the Eagles to work on a “Book Talking” Scheme. Her first session is on Monday 14th October and she will introduce the pupils to 12 recently released books.

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

The Governors had their first full Governing Body Meeting on the 23rd September and immediately got down to the business of electing offices and allocating roles and responsibilities – see below. Within the meeting the governors agreed a range of statutory policies; these included policies on Safeguarding, Behaviour and Special Needs (policies are available on the school website). They also carried out a self review of the previous year, discussed objectives for the new academic year and produced a timetable of visits and areas to monitor in school. Governors have also been available to meet with parents and discuss how to use Parent View at the Parent Interview Evenings. They would really like parents to complete the survey so that the school and OFSTED can gather your views on the school.

Chair: Mrs Tracey Mitchell **Vice Chair:** Mrs Nicola Beanland

Link Governor: Mrs Lesley Birtwistle **SEN Governor:** Mrs Alison Salter

The following committees have also been established: Strategic Development, Finance, Curriculum, Performance Management, Pay, Health and Safety and Discipline and Complaints.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

PSA- CAN YOU HELP!!

We are really grateful for all the hard work and support that our parents provide for the school and over the years the school has benefitted with the provision of extra funding and a wide range of social events. The children tell me that they really enjoy events such as the Fish n Chip Bingo and the Christmas Parties organised by the PSA and they think the trim trail bought by the PSA is great. So please come along to the PSA meetings and offer your support – everyone is welcome and there are lots of different ways of helping. The next meeting will be on Thursday 14th November. Please look out for details coming out shortly.

Morrison's Vouchers

We are collecting the Morrison's 'Let's Grow' vouchers to enable us to receive Free Gardening Equipment for use in school. Please help us by sending in any collected vouchers to the school office. Vouchers can be collected in Morrison's stores up until 27th October 2013.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 11th Oct ~ PSA Film Night
Ragtex Collection
- 12th Oct ~ Cross Country
- 18th Oct ~ Harvest Festival in Church
- 28th Oct ~ Princess Anne/Jubilee Wood visit
- 29th Oct/ 1st Nov ~ Determination Workshop with Julie Ann Heath
- 30th Oct ~ Open the Book visit
- 31st Oct ~ Gruesome Science Day
Final date to apply for Secondary Schools (Yr6)
- 6-9th Nov ~ Yr5/6 Residential Visit to Dobroyd Castle
- 9th Nov ~ Cross Country at Donisthorpe
- W/c 11th Nov ~ RE Week
- 15th Nov ~ Children in Need
- W/c 18th Nov ~ Friendship Week (National Anti-bullying Week)
- 26th Nov ~ Eagles Class Assembly 9.15 am
- 29th Nov ~ Christingle Making
- 1st Dec ~ Christingle Service in Church- 4pm
- 5th Dec ~ Christmas Creative Time
- 9th Dec ~ Working Space Theatre
- 10th Dec ~ Christmas Party
- 11th/12th Dec ~ KS2 Christmas Concert
- 17th/18th Dec ~ KSI Nativity
- 19th Dec ~ Whole School visit to the Pantomime
- 20th Dec ~ Carol Service in Church/ End of Term



CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

The school recently took part in a Flower Festival hosted by Holy Rood Church. Our display was based around a number of key themes representing our distinctive Christian ethos, the importance of community to the school and our future hopes and dreams:



The tree represented our love of the local environment and our participation in activities with the National Forest. It also reminded us of our beautiful cedar tree that was felled and "lives" on in school in the form of our beautiful wood sculpture of the Packington School Bell. To remind us about this we placed the school bell emblem on the trunk of the tree and decorated it in the school colours of blue and yellow, using flowers collected by the children. This also reminded us about the importance of our community links, particularly, the help of the Packington History Group in finding out about the history of the cedar tree and the support of the Horticultural Society in helping the pupils to plant a new tree to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee.

Doves were placed on the tree to represent our Christian ethos and our eight Christian values of **thankfulness, peace, patience, endurance, justice, friendship, compassion and trust.**

The pupils all contributed to the paper flowers that represent "Our Year of Determination" and the pupils as they blossom and grow. Each child made their own petal putting on it their dream for the future and what they would like to become.

We would like to thank Mrs Harris-Marsh, Mrs Mayles and Mrs Cross for their help and support.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

**Friday 18th October 9.15am Holy Rood Church
Everyone is Welcome**

**The hamper raffle of donated harvest produce
will take place on the school yard at 3.15 pm.
Our Year 6 pupils will sell raffle tickets on the
yard from Monday 14th October.**

This year our chosen charities are Diabetes UK and The Phoenix Children's Foundation. Both charities have a special meaning for two of our pupils: One of our Year 6 pupils, Charlotte Noble was diagnosed with diabetes four years ago and we would like to recognise her determination to get on with life and not let it hold her back. We would also like to show our support to another family by saying thank you to the Phoenix Children's Foundation for the support they have given to Luke Culwick's brother Harry, who suffers from Cerebral Palsy.