



Packington

Church of England Primary School

October 2016

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

The weeks are already racing by and I'm happy to report that the pupils have made a fantastic start to the new academic year; working hard to be 'the best that they can be.' Our new starters in the Robins have also settled into life at the school and are due to join us for Growing and Glowing Time this week. The Eagles have enjoyed their residential visit to Bude and we've even had auditions for our KS2 Christmas production. So all in all a busy time in school.

Please do enjoy reading about our news

RELIGION AND BELIEF ROADSHOW



Our Religion and Belief Roadshow, 'A Journey of Faith', was a great success. It was a lively, active day with pupils having the chance to participate in seven workshop activities based around school. The day was planned with staff and pupils from Newbold Church of England Primary School and we were delighted that they were able to come as a whole school to further extend our friendship. We started the day with a special worship to think about respect and difference and how we welcome people. Eleven different faith practitioners from the St. Philips Centre in Leicester came to help us learn about their beliefs. There was just so much to see and do and find out about. We learnt about different welcome greetings, tasted different foods (the sugar cubes were a firm favourite), tried on clothes and had the chance to learn about a wide range of religious artefacts.

Three of the activities were led by staff from Newbold and Packington and the Foundation Governors from Packington. One activity provided the pupils with the opportunity to visit Holy Rood Church where they considered how Jesus loves us all and the importance of the symbol of the cross. Another activity provided a spiritual experience for pupils and gave them the chance to explore what it would be like to walk in someone-else's shoes and to think about difference. During this activity the pupils thought about the Para-Olympians and used a shell to help them reflect on what is important in life. The final activity was art based and provided the pupils with the opportunity to tell God their hopes for the world. They also had the chance to contribute to a joint prayer thanking God that we are all different and special. Our art work is now on display in the hall and it looks stunning- do take a look when you visit.

During the day we welcomed visitors from our local community, these included the trainee Pastor from the Baptist Church in Ashby, representatives from St Helen's Church in Ashby, members of the Open the Book Team, members of the Packington History Group, retired staff from the school, the Church Warden and governors. We also welcomed parents from both schools.



NEWS HEADLINES

***NEW SHED** – Over half term we will take delivery of two brand new sheds to replace the old PE shed on the playground. They will provide the same amount of space but should make access and storage easier.

We would really appreciate help to empty the shed. If you are available to help be part of a working party to do this on Thursday 13th October, then please let Mrs Price know. Thank you.

***NEW GATE POSTS** ~ Over the next few weeks we will also have some new gate posts fitted at the entrance to the car park in order to improve the entrance. This should not affect our families but can I please remind you that parents should not use the carpark entrance to drop off or pick up pupils.

*** RE-DECORATION** ~ Many of you will notice that we have had the outside of the school re-painted by the LA. Can I thank you for your co-operation whilst the painting took place. I'm sure you will agree that school does look much smarter.

***BREAK OUT AREA** ~ You may have noticed that we have started work in the entrance hall to renovate the corner near the news board. We are planning to re locate the trophy cabinet and develop a break out area for small group and 1:1 work, enabling pupils to have a quieter space to work.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SUCCESS

"What a lovely service, super reading and singing by the children."

– A Guest at our Harvest Festival

The children and staff were very pleased to hear the lovely comments about this year's Harvest Festival which was well attended by parents and visitors. In turn the staff and myself would like to thank all the parents and pupils for their support and their contributions towards our fund raising activities. The gifts, produce and donations we received were astounding so thank you very much. And, the best news is that we raised a fantastic £176 which will be donated to the church to help with replacing the lead roof.



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

Summer Reading Challenge

We have just had the results from this year's summer reading challenge organised by the Library. This year we have been pipped into third place by Willesley and Hilltop, after being in the top spot for the past three years, however it was a really close finish. So well done to our readers.

ASHBY RUGBY TOURNAMENT

The Owls put in an excellent performance at the Year 3/4 Ashby Rugby Tournament. Two teams represented the school and a special well done goes to Team A who reached the quarter finals. Mrs Dyche and Mr Sharp were delighted with everyone's sporting attitudes!



PACKINGTON CROSS COUNTRY – 29th October 2017

We will be hosting a Unity Learning Partnership Cross Country event on 29th October. All pupils from Reception to Year 6 are welcome to run. There are races for the different year groups and it's a great morning out. We do need more runners so please dust off your trainers and come and have a go at our event after half term. All pupils who run will get a certificate in our Growing and glowing Time. Scores are kept over the season and children who have the lowest combined score over three races are presented with an award from the Unity School Partnership.

MARSHALS WANTED

We do need marshals to help with our cross country event so if you are able to help then please see Mr Emery or Mrs Price.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8th Oct ~ Unity Cross Country – Bosworth Country Park

11th/ 12th Oct ~ Parent Interviews

14th Oct ~ School Closed for an INSET Day followed by the Half Term Holiday

W/B 24th Oct ~ Growth Mindset Week

26th Oct ~ Open the Book visit

29th Oct ~ **Packington Cross Country**

31st Oct ~ Final date to apply for Secondary Schools

3rd Nov ~ Ashby Youth for Christ Visit

W/c 7th Nov ~ RE Week

W/c 14th Nov ~ National Anti-bullying Week

18th Nov ~ Children in Need

30th Nov ~ Whole school visit to the pantomime

2nd Dec ~ Christingle Making/ Christmas Creative Time

3rd Dec ~ Cross Country at Viscount Beaumonts

4th Dec ~ Christingle Service in Church- 4pm

7th/8th Dec ~ KS2 Production

9th Dec ~ Christmas Parties

13th/14th Dec ~ KSI Nativity

16th Dec ~ Carol Service in Church/ End of Term

Governors Corner

Governors have had a busy start to the new academic year. At the beginning of September, a group of governors met to identify strengths and areas for development as a result of monitoring they undertook in the summer term. They also carried out a self – evaluation activity using the OFSTED evaluation schedule. This is helping the governors to gain an accurate picture of how well the school is performing and to quickly respond and put in place improvement work. (Senior Leaders and subject leaders have also worked on a similar exercise in school).

A full governing body meeting has also taken place and Mrs Lesley Birtwistle was voted in as our new Chair of Governors.

Governors have also visited the school both for monitoring purposes and to join in with events in school.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

Updated Attendance Policy

The governors have reviewed and updated the school's attendance policy. It is now published on the school's website and a copy will be e-mailed out to families. I would like to draw your attention to some key changes:

- Should a pupil need to attend a medical appointment on a Friday afternoon or around a holiday period ie the day before or day after, then proof will be required along with an absence request form. (Please collect a form from the office).
- Requests for a leave of absence are not granted for pupils to attend routine/ regular sporting or leisure activities e.g. swimming, tennis or dance lessons. Parents must ensure that lessons are arranged for out of school hours and they should allow sufficient time to travel from school to the venue. Pupils must not leave school early just because there is not enough time from the end of the school day (3.15pm) to get to an activity.
- The school recognises and encourages pupils who are gifted and talented, and as such, will grant a leave of absence for a pupil to be educated off site to help them develop their gifts and talents (eg specific coaching, coaching programmes, attending an academy scheme or participation in competitions.) Parents must seek permission from and discuss arrangements with the Head Teacher. They must also provide the school with written proof from the child's coach, club or academy in order for the school to agree to the request. (Class teachers are not able to give permission for any leave of absence.)
- Parents who wish to collect pupils early for any reason **MUST** report to the school office and wait for a member of staff to collect their child. Parents must not go directly to the class.



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF CROSS COUNTRY DATE. THE UNITY EVENT AT WOODSTONE WILL NOW TAKE PLACE ON 4th FEBRUARY 2017 (not 25th Feb as previously advertised)

INSET DAY

School is closed on Friday 14th OCTOBER for staff training

Please remember to check the school website for school holidays dates

(The Ashby Schools have different holiday patterns to those advertised on the LA 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). Remember if you are coming into school please report to the school office.