



Packington

Church of England Primary School

January 2016

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

January has been a fairly quiet month in school but everybody has been busy. All the classes have new topics to capture their imagination, the Eagles have started their split lessons where they can focus on specific curriculum areas, the Owls are keeping the home fires burning as they immerse themselves in the Second World War and we have two collective worship teams who are hard at work planning their assemblies. FS/KSI are deep in the icy wastes of Antarctica. *Please do enjoy reading about our news.*

NEWS HEADLINES

* **BEAUMANOR VISIT** – The excitement is building in the Owls classroom as their overnight visit to Beaumanor Hall gets ever closer and they look forward to trying a range of different activities including archery, the climbing wall and maybe a treasure hunt, as well as the fabulous food.

* **NEW GATE** ~ We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new security gate. As many of you will know we have been having lots of problems with the button to open the gate and the wet weather hasn't helped. We have had the gate repaired on numerous occasions but have now decided that a total replacement is required.

* **ICT IMPROVEMENTS** ~ In the next few weeks work will take place to install a new wi-fi system in school. This is great news as it will provide a vast improvement to our connectivity. The work is the first phase of a long term plan to improve and update our ICT infrastructure and hardware.

* **BLACKBIRDS CLASS ASSEMBLY** ~ Make a date in your diary for our next class assembly. Parents of children in the Blackbirds are warmly invited to their class assembly that takes place on Thursday 11th February at 9.15 am. Refreshments will also be available after the assembly so do come along.

* **RE-CYCLING WORKSHOP** ~ Mrs Dyche has organised a re-cycling workshop for the Owls. The session will provide pupils with the opportunity to participate in a range of drama and musical games to help them learn about how to dispose of waste responsibly.

* **FOOD BANK PRESENTATIONS** ~ The School Council will launch our Food Bank Collection with a special presentation in Achievement assembly.

The Robins Accept the Challenge!

The Robins really enjoyed their Polar Challenge and writing letters about it to send home. It was a bit of an adventure going to the post box in the rain to post them! And the children were really pleased when the postman delivered their letters.

"I really liked it when my letter came to my house."



Awesome Leicestershire Learners Character Education Project

We are pleased to announce that Packington will take part in a project along with other Unity schools to develop character education. The main focus of the project is to develop character, resilience and positive learning attitudes. Pupils in Key stage 2 have already completed a questionnaire that asked them to evaluate their characteristics and attitudes to learning. Areas they had to consider include to what extent they take their time in their learning so they don't need to do it again, how well they bounce back when things go badly and to what extent they come to school feeling positive. These questionnaires are currently being collated so we can identify what areas need to be developed. A launch event for the project has also been planned and this will take place at Oakthorpe Primary in February. Dan Brothwell and Poppy Mathias in Year 4 will attend the day along with Mrs Rogers and Mr Emery. They will be involved in joint training with other schools and will examine the results of the questionnaire to plan how we can further develop our character education work. After half term they will introduce the project to the rest of the school. Later in the year a special conference for pupils will take place to share ideas and try out new activities. Motivational speaker Shonette Bason-Wood has been booked to be a keynote speaker. This is an important project because the DFE are putting a high focus on character education and they have expressed interest in our work. Indeed, Nicky Morgan may also visit the conference.

Over the next two terms we will keep you up to date with the work and the impact on pupils.

COMING SOON!

WORLD BOOK DAY THURSDAY 3rd MARCH

LOOK OUT FOR A FLYER COMING HOME SOON.

Collective Worship

Our Collective worship theme for this term is "Living Well – Developing Christ-like character." Over the coming weeks the children will have the opportunity to think about our Christian values that help us live well. Each week will take a different theme covering areas such as relationships, behaviour, wisdom, forgiveness and hope. Our pupil teams will also plan and present their own whole school worships and will choose their own themes.

British Values – Anthem Writing Day

As part of our work to teach and promote British values we have planned a special anthem writing themed day. The pupils will have the opportunity to learn about the meaning and history of our national anthem and will discuss what they think about it. Older pupils will also discuss some of the different opinions about our national anthem and the view by some people that England should have its own anthem. Every class will then identify the values that they think should be included in an anthem and will write an anthem for either Britain or England. Each class will share their work and anthems at a whole school assembly at the end of the day.

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

WRITING DEVELOPMENT WORK

This year we have a whole school focus on improving the teaching and learning of writing across the school. In the Autumn term staff attended training led by Alan Peat a renowned specialist in providing effective and enjoyable strategies for raising pupil achievement in writing. Staff are now busy incorporating new strategies into their teaching. One such example is the new outdoor writing resource cupboard in the Robins and the introduction of writing action belts; both of which enable pupils to get involved in writing activities in a variety of environments and situations, not just when sitting at a table. This is proving very popular with our younger pupils.



BEAUMANOR MEETING FOR PARENTS MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY AT 6PM

FACT FINDING MISSION

The Eagles will interview local senior citizens at the Packington lunch club to find out how the physical and human geography of the local area has changed over time.

SATS WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS

We will once again be organising presentations about SATs for parents with children in Year 2 and Year 6. This year there are some changes to the assessments and how children are being assessed. The sessions will give you a chance to see what the children have to do and will give you information about how they are preparing, the timetable for the week (Yr 6 only) and top tips for support. Parents have found these meetings to be very informative and have commented that they have helped them to understand what the SATs entail and how they, as parents, can help and support their children. A letter with further details will be sent out shortly.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10th Feb ~ Open the Book Visit
British Values – National Anthem Day
11th Feb ~ Blackbirds Class Assembly – 9.15 am
Awesome Learners Character Project
12th Feb ~ PSA Valentine's Day Disco
15th – 19th Feb - Half Term
27th Feb ~ Unity Cross Country at Albert Village
29th Feb/ 1st March ~ Parent Evenings
1st March ~ Open the Book Visit
W/B 7th March ~ R.E Week
8th March ~ Owls Class Assembly 9.15 am
9th March ~ Open the Book
11th March ~ Recycling Workshops for the Owls
19th March ~ Unity Cross Country at Griffydham
W/B 21st March ~ R.E Themed Project on Easter
24th March ~ PSA Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Service in Church and break up for the Easter Holidays

Governors Corner

This term the Governors have joined with other governors from Unity schools to hear presentations by David Atterbury from the LA and Carolyn Lewis from the Diocese about the future landscape for schools. The Finance Committee have also been hard at work preparing for our audit which will take place in early February.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

Safety and the Zig Zag Lines

We are aware that parking around school can be difficult but it is of paramount importance that our children are safe. Therefore, we have been a little disappointed that the zig zag lines in front of the car park and Mill Street entrance were replaced with the white advisory line. Concern by staff and visitors has been raised that it is difficult to see pupils when they try to turn in. Today one visitor was upset because she nearly didn't spot a child on a scooter. There have also been problems because of people parking and blocking the entrance or there has not been enough turning space for delivery vans. It seems the new zig zag lines at the end of Church walk have improved the safety of our pupils but the new white lines have caused a problem. I have contacted the Highways Department and Traffic Management and they have agreed to resolve the problem as soon as possible and have arranged a site visit. In the mean-time **can I please urge you to supervise your child and take care when crossing the entrance to the car park.**

Football News

Our football teams have had mixed fortunes in their first matches of 2016. The Yr5/6 team drew their first match against New Swannington with a 2 all score line. Sadly, they suffered an overwhelming 9 - 0 defeat against Hugglescote. Mr Emery said that despite the result he was impressed with the teamwork, passion and respect that our players demonstrated. He also said they didn't let it get them down and they came back with their spirits raised and showed true grit and determination and as a result our Yr 4/5 team went on to score a 3-2 win against Woodcote. Well done both teams for representing the school so well.



PARENTS EVENINGS ARE Monday 29th February and Tuesday 1st March

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE
WILL BE NO CLUBS DURING
THIS WEEK.**

VALENTINES DISCO

**The PSA are organising a disco for pupils on Friday 12th
February. Please look out for further details.**

ASHBY FOOD BANK COLLECTION

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FOOD BANK COLLECTION
DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**



Items needed include:

- * Tinned Meat/Fish
- * Custard
- * Tinned Vegetables
- * Powdered Milk
- * Sugar (500g)
- * Fruit Juice Cartons
- * Pasta Sauces
- * Tinned Pies
- * Tinned Puddings
- * Tea bags/Instant Coffee
- * Instant Mashed Potato
- * Rice/Pasta
- * Tinned Fruit
- * Jam

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.