



Packington

Church of England Primary School

November 2013

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

There's a fantastic buzz in school at the moment with children really demonstrating a commitment to our Year of Determination and showing us their positive learning attitudes. More pupils than ever have achieved a Citizen's Award and our Star Citizen's book is quickly filling up. Pupils have been keen to audition for our Key Stage 2 Pantomime, Robin Hood, and the main parts are now allocated. We have also started to present our weekly Learning Superhero Award and Shea McGahey was the first pupil to achieve this honour for his super enquiry skills. It's really great to see. So please enjoy reading our news for this month.



EXCITING LOG CABIN PLANS ON THE WAY

One of the key issues that Governors and staff have identified is the need for more space. At Packington we really use our environment well with a wide range of excellent teaching and enrichment activities taking place around the school. We know it could be even better if we had another teaching space that would provide a space for children to work quietly, have music lessons, work on phonics etc. Over the last year we have been exploring how best to solve the problem with the current constraints on our budget and today Mrs Mitchell and myself have submitted plans for the erection of a Log Cabin which we hope to be sited on the main field near the raised beds. The Governors have been working hard to collect quotes for the work and the PSA have pledged to help with funding. However, we will need to seek other funding streams to make this project a reality. In recent weeks Mrs Mitchell has been busy contacting local firms to ask for help towards this project. The good news is that we have already been offered £250 from local company H.K. Wentworth. One of our parents, Mr Kelsall, who also works for the company, has pledged £50 of his own money towards the project so we would like to say a very special thank you to him. Another firm, Teleperformance, have agreed to hold a fund raising event for the school in December. So it looks like we are on the way!

BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT



It was a great honour to be invited by the National Forest Partnership to attend a tree planting ceremony with Princess Anne. Twenty three pupils took part in the activity including our Head Boy and Girl, the Fun Singers, the Eco Committee and the Environment Club. The afternoon began with a walk across the fields to the tree planting site where the children worked in pairs to plant over 100 trees. We then watched the arrival of Princess Anne in her helicopter.



Our Fun Singers then sang "Thank You for the Trees" to all the VIP guests, who included Para-Olympian Ellie Simmonds. Next, it was our turn to watch Princess Anne and Ellie Simmonds plant their trees. Then came the highlight when they walked over to talk to us. Princess Anne asked about the age of the pupils and Ellie Simmonds was eager to ask about sport and swimming and really inspired us to be determined. It was a fantastic afternoon completed by a muddy, but fun, walk back to our cars. My thanks go to all the parents and grandparents who came along to help.

NEWS HEADLINES

***HARVEST FESTIVAL** ~Thank you very much for your support with our Harvest Festival. We raised £167.50 for our two charities.

***PHOENIX PONY TO VISIT SCHOOL** ~ On Friday 29th November representatives from the Phoenix Charity will visit school to talk about their work and will bring one of their ponies as a special guest.

***EAGLES CLASS ASSEMBLY** ~Put the date in your diary for our first class assembly on 26th November.

***CHILDREN IN NEED** ~ It's time to get searching through the dressing up box once again with pupils being asked to come to school dressed up as their hero or heroine for a small donation.

***KITE MARK PRESENTATION** ~Mr Emery and a group of pupils have been invited to a special presentation of our Sports Kite Mark at the end of the month.

***WRITING/E-SAFETY WORKSHOPS** ~ Mrs Braithwaite has organised an e-safety workshop for parents on 13th November – everyone is welcome and I would urge you to attend as it will cover a wide number of areas to help you keep your children safe. As a result we have decided that we will hold the writing workshop in the Spring Term in order to space out the dates for parents.

***READING FOR PLEASURE** ~ Our "Book Talk" Programme in the Eagles is going well and pupils have made a waiting list for the titles they would like to read. We have decided to purchase additional copies of some titles for our kindles so more of the most popular books are available to the pupils.

***NEW WINDOWS** ~The new windows are looking great; making the school look much more modern. Best of all we are already feeling much warmer.

***SCHOOL HEALTH CHECK** ~ This week we had our school health check with a consultant OFSTED Inspector. We are awaiting her report but I am pleased to announce that it went well and staff are already working on our next areas for development.

***CLIMBING FRAME** ~The climbing frame is currently out of commission because of a broken part that unfortunately is no longer made. We are working on the situation but it has taken longer than anticipated to ensure the repair is to a high standard.

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

Parent View

The Governors had a high level of success getting parents to sign up for Parent View at the Parent Evenings. For a small school we have an impressive number of parent responses so thank you very much. If you haven't yet completed the survey please do so it is one way that we can listen to your views and improve the school for our children and please complete it if you are happy with us – it helps us know what we do well.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

JULIE ANN HEATH DETERMINATION WORKSHOPS

Julie-Ann has now spent two days working with classes talking about how she was determined to change her life to become a vicar and how the Bible can help us to achieve our dreams. She worked with all the pupils on a "carpet of dreams" and was really impressed with the pupils enthusiasm and work. She has taken away all the designs and will return the completed artwork in the next few weeks.



CITIZEN'S AWARD

We are delighted with the number of children that are supporting the school community and successfully achieving their Citizen's Award. Several children are now asking if there is anything else they can do so we are going to work with the School Council to explore this further.

ASHBY FOOD BANK

Earlier in the term the Heads of the Ashby Learning Community met with a representative from the Ashby Food Bank. In the last year the need for this support in our community has risen dramatically. Several schools had already committed their support from their Harvest Festivals but the bank really needs a steady flow of donations across the year. As a result the Heads have proposed that each school takes a different month of the year to collect donations and support this worthwhile cause. A timetable is currently being organised and I will write to you again at a later date.



REMINDER

The School is collecting Morrison's vouchers so please send them into school.

CHANGES TO ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

FRIENDSHIP ASSEMBLY 22nd NOVEMBER

We have planned a special Friendship Assembly to end our Anti-bullying week in school. Each class will prepare a short presentation to parents to showcase the work they have been doing. We will still have our Stars of the Week, Star Workers and Learning Superhero as normal so please do come along.

NEW OUTDOOR STAGE

The Robins and Mrs Rogers were delighted to return after the half term break to find a fantastic stage in their outdoor learning area, and of course it didn't take long before our young thespians were given it a try. Our thanks go to the PSA and Mr Keller for making this project possible.

We plan to have an official opening ceremony on Friday 29th November at 2.30 pm. Parents of pupils in the Robins are invited to attend and the ceremony will be followed by an Achievement Assembly for the Robins – this is a change of date from 22nd November.

NEW DATES FOR OUR ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLIES TO THE END OF TERM

15th November – Blackbirds
22nd November – Friendship Assembly
29th November – Robins
6th December – No Assembly/ Christmas Fayre
13th December- Eagles
20th December – Carol Service in church

GRUESOME SCIENCE

The children were buzzing at our recent problem solving morning as they had the opportunity to carry out some "gruesome" science investigations. "It's been great", one child announced "we've been making snot!" Do take a look at some of the wonderful photographs on the school website of our brilliant scientists at work.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

W/c 11th Nov ~ RE Week
13th Nov ~ E-safety Workshop for parents 6pm
15th Nov ~ Children in Need - dress up as your hero.
W/c 18th Nov ~ Friendship Week (National Anti-bullying Week)
22nd Nov ~ Friendship Achievement Assembly
26th Nov ~ Eagles Class Assembly 9.15 am
29th Nov ~ Opening Ceremony for the outdoor stage/
Robins Achievement Assembly
29th Nov ~ Christingle Making
1st Dec ~ Christingle Service in Church- 4pm
5th Dec ~ Christmas Creative Time
6th Dec ~ PSA Christmas Fayre
7th Dec ~ Unity Cross Country at Viscount Beaumonts
9th Dec ~ Working Space Theatre
10th Dec~ Christmas Party
10th/11th Dec ~ KS2 Christmas Concert
13th Dec ~ Christmas Lunch
17th/18th Dec ~ KS1 Nativity
19th Dec~ Whole School visit to the Pantomime
20th Dec ~ Carol Service in Church/ End of Term
7th January ~ The Spring Term starts for children
18th January ~ Packington Cross Country

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER 3.30 PM
PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY AND
COME ALONG TO THIS EXCITING EVENT.**

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE - COME AND LIGHT UP THE CHURCH !

**SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 4pm
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME TO THE CHRISTINGLE
SERVICE AT HOLY ROOD CHURCH.**

**THE PSA WILL SERVE REFRESHMENTS IN THE
SCHOOL HALL AFTER THE SERVICE.**

(All the Pupils in School will help make the Christingles on the Friday)