



Packington

Church of England Primary School

November 2012

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of term with only three weeks left to go. Time certainly goes fast when you are busy and as you'll read in this newsletter that is very true at Packington with so many different things happening. You will also see that our thoughts are turning to Christmas. Yes, the stage is up and the sounds of rehearsals for the concert and nativity can be heard around school, and I do believe the Christmas tree arrives in school next week! So, I hope you find the information about our Christmas events useful to put in your diaries. *Please do enjoy sharing our news.*



NEWS HEADLINES

***WORKING SPACE THEATRE** ~ We are delighted that we have been able to arrange for the Working Space Theatre to visit Packington once again. We are always amazed with their creativity in presenting a classic story in a one hour performance, including pupil participation. This year we are looking forward to "The Nutcracker". This activity is fully funded by school and supports our English curriculum.

***WOODLAND VISITS** ~ Our KS2 pupils have enjoyed their recent visits to local woodland areas. The Eagles planted over 91 trees at the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Wood and the Owls gave their visit to Martin Shaw Wood a great big thumbs up. Both activities were funded by the National Forest Partnership and school.

***LIBRARIAN VISIT** ~ This term the Owls have been reviewing the books for this year's LCC Children's Book Prize and they were pleased to welcome back Nicole from the library to deliver their judgements.

***PHOTOGRAPHS** ~ Once again Darren Cresswell has offered to take photographs of our KS1 and KS2 productions and offer them for sale via his website with all profits going to the PSA. Darren will visit school over the course of the productions to get shots in full costume and make up. We will send out more details about the website and password. Photos will be at cost effective prices and available before Christmas.

***HOMEWORK** ~ This year a group of staff and parents have been working together to review our homework system. It has been beneficial to listen and learn from each other and we plan to send out more information about improvements next term.

***TREASURE BOX** ~ Can I thank all the parents who have sent in contributions for our prize draw treasure box. For those of you who don't what it is we have a weekly prize draw in school for pupils who have been awarded a raffle ticket for good attitude, behaviour or reading three times a week. It is really popular with our pupils and parents, staff and school have made regular donations to keep the box topped up. So if you have any unwanted small gifts then please do send them in. Anything from small cars, hair bobbles, puzzles to the ever popular whoopee cushions are desirable items! Many thanks.

Posada

This year our older pupils have been asked to participate in Posada. This is when Mary and Joseph go on a journey and visit different homes before returning to the church. A pupil from the Eagles will collect Mary and Joseph at the Christingle Service and each day the pupils will pass them on to another pupil in our collective worship. Mary and Joseph will return to the church at the Carol Service. We hope the pupils will be able to write a blog about Mary and Joseph's journey.

Christmas Alive'

Pupils from Packington will also take part in "Christmas Alive" a joint collaboration between the National Forest Partnership, the church and school. The event will involve an open air nativity re-enactment with pupils considering the theme of oppression and being asked to "travel to Bethlehem to complete a census". The event will also include carol singing and refreshments. 'Christmas Alive' will take place on Tuesday 18th December at 2 pm in Packington Wood and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Citizen's Award

A special congratulation goes to Jack Roe who has become the first pupil to achieve the Bronze Citizens Award this academic year. Once again we have a large group of pupils who are making a positive contribution to school with a whole new team of lunchtime secretaries and monitors so I'm sure some more awards will quickly follow.

School Improvement

Every year we review how well we are doing in school and set ourselves some key areas to work on to improve the teaching and learning at Packington. This year our key themes are:

- *To continue to improve the teaching and learning of maths and writing.*
- *To continue to improve science teaching as a means to improve maths, writing and the recording of investigations.*
- *To continue to improve the range of new technologies in our teaching and learning.*

So far as part of this work Miss Alldred has attended a tricky maths course to look at different strategies to teach higher level maths concepts. Mrs Rogers and Mr Emery have attended different writing courses exploring strategies to improve writing and the teaching of grammar. Mr Emery is also participating in a science project with the Ashby Learning Community, (formerly the Ashby Family of Schools) and Mrs Braithwaite is participating in a new technologies project, also organised by the ALC.

Remembrance

Pupils marked Remembrance Day with a two minutes silence on Friday 9th November.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER 3.15 PM

PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY AND COME AND SUPPORT THE SCHOOL AT THIS BRILLIANT EVENT.

Great stalls, more space and fantastic calendars produced by your children on sale!

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.

GOVERNOR CORNER

The Governors continue to be busy supporting school with improvement work and monitoring key areas including finance, health and safety and particularly areas of the curriculum such as provision for more able pupils and Special Educational Needs. This term they have had a particular focus on gathering pupil and parent views. This has been especially helpful as it enables us to continue our drive to improve.

"The curriculum committee met on Thursday 1st November, and several matters were discussed. The committee were grateful for the time taken by parents and pupils in completing the Bude questionnaires. The questionnaires have been reviewed and it was clear that all the pupils had a fantastic time and gained a lot from the trip - confidence, positive attitude, independence, and a lot more. The results show that parents would like pupils to visit Bude every other year and for the residential trip to be alternated with a less expensive trip. Plans are therefore in place for an alternate venue for September 2013."

We are also delighted to announce that Mrs Wendy Jones and Mrs Marian Mugglestone will join the Governing Body as Community Governors. Our new members both live in the village and both have previous connections with the school. Wendy was a parent governor when her children attended the school and Marian has been a regular visitor through her road safety work. We are still in the process of electing a new parent governor and more information will be with you shortly.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

Eco Committee and Environment Club

The Environment Club have been hard at work to re-landscape the front of the school with bushes and bulbs – it's looking so much better and fingers crossed should look great in the spring. In recent weeks they have also organised the "Big Switch Off" in school and have been encouraging us to save electricity by switching off lights and electrical items when not in use.

Cross Country

This season there has been some confusion surrounding the number of races that pupils are required to take part in to be eligible for the final following some unclear wording on the rules. I have asked for confirmation at a recent Heads meeting and the decision is that **pupils need to run in 3 races to be eligible to run in the final** as in previous years. I hope this makes things a little easier for family life. We have some superb runners this season and some great potential in both the individual and team events. Special mentions from the Small Schools Cross Country Event at Bosworth Country Park go to:

Lewis Eaton – 1st place Y5/6 Boys

Louis Bassett – 2nd place Y5/6 Boys

Ania Tebbett – 2nd place Y3/4 Girls

Harrison Eaton – 2nd place Y1/2 Boys

A further well done goes to all the pupils who ran in the North West Leicestershire Cross Country Event at Appleby on 10th November and especially Holly Powell and Lewis Eaton who came first in their respective races.

NEW STARTER APPLICATIONS

PLEASE NOTE THAT APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2013 MUST BE SENT TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY BY 15th JANUARY 2013.



Children in Need "Toast, Talent & Teddies"

Thank you to everyone who supported our Children in Need event. It was a great team effort with some fabulous acts at our talent contest and some really yummy cakes at our cake sale. Congratulations go to Sam Tebbett who wowed the judges with his guitar playing to become the overall winner of the talent show. However, everybody deserves a pat on the back for their superb contribution to the day, helping to raise a fantastic £225. Well done!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2nd Dec ~ Christingle Service in Church
4th/5th Dec ~ KS2 Christmas Concert
6th Dec ~ Whole School visit to the Pantomime
8th Dec ~ Cross Country at Viscount Beaumont
10th Dec ~ Working Space Theatre
11th/12th Dec ~ KS1 Nativity
13th Dec ~ Eagles Class Assembly – 9.15 am
14th Dec ~ Christmas Fayre organised by the PSA
18th Dec ~ Christmas Creative Time and Christmas Alive
19th Dec ~ Christmas Party
21st Dec ~ Carol Service in Church/ End of Term
8th Jan ~ Spring Term commences
19th Jan ~ Cross Country at Packington
23rd & 25th Jan ~ Science Days at Packington
24th Jan ~ Joint visit by Owls and Linden Primary to Packington Wood
8th Feb ~ Break up for Spring Half Term
23rd Feb ~ Donisthorpe Cross Country
25th/26th Feb ~ Parent Evenings
28th Feb ~ Packington/ Linden Primary Art Project

Rwanda

Our link with Rwanda has been rather quiet of recent. This is largely due to the fact that our school years don't match for as we start a new academic year Bushara pupils are preparing for their end of year exams and then go on their long "summer" break. However, we have sent the school some of our water poems and presentations from our Harvest Festival and we have had messages of thanks back. Felix informs me that it has been a busy time, both he and the staff have had to work as officers in recent elections and they have had problems with their laptop making communication problematic. The good news is that we have now been informed that we can apply for a British Council Connecting Classroom Grant to continue our work with the other Leicestershire and Rwandan schools. If successful this would provide additional funding and help us to develop projects to support our curriculum.

CAROL SERVICE IN CHURCH

Friday 21st December 2 pm

Please do come along and join the children and staff in singing some of our favourite Christmas Carols at our end of term Carol Service in church. This is always an informal and enjoyable end to the Autumn Term and everybody is welcome.

So please put the date in your diary!

