



# Packington

Church of England Primary School

February 2013

# Newsletter

## DEAR ALL,

One of the most favourite parts of my job is being able to spend time in each class and I'm really pleased that this term I've had quite a few opportunities to observe the learning taking place across the school. As a result I've seen lots of hands on learning, the buzz of children answering big scientific questions, the Owls enjoying the new experience of learning to play the clarinet, some fabulous writing and I have been delighted with the year 6 pupils telling me how they have grown in confidence when working on the concept of angles. All in all a great start to the Spring term. *Please do enjoy sharing our news.*



## Science Problem Solving Days

Our two fantastic Science Problem Solving Days proved to be a great success with the pupils. The days were planned as part of "Our Year of Questioning" and school development work and were the brain child of Mr Emery to raise the profile of science. Pupils worked in groups and had the opportunity to participate in six different investigations to answer questions such as "What happens to raisins when you put them in lemonade?", "What makes a paper helicopter fall faster?", "How can you blow up a balloon with a bottle?" and "What floats and sinks?" The days were great fun, but there was also a serious side to the learning with children having to predict, observe and explain what and why things happened.



## Small Schools News

Education is currently undergoing some major changes and one key area has been the opportunity for schools to move away from Local Authority control and become an academy. Over the last 18 months the governors and myself have carried out a large amount of research and attended extensive meetings to consider the best way forward for the future of Packington. Currently the governors do not feel that converting to an academy would be of any benefit to the pupils and the school but they will continue to assess the situation. This is a similar view to many local primary schools and particularly to the smaller primary schools, like Packington, who are too small to become academies in their own right and who want to retain their unique small school ethos.

However with the decline in services from the LA we do feel it is important to work together with other schools. This already happens in a number of ways such as the Small Schools Network, which has successfully worked together for many years providing enrichment opportunities for pupils and staff development. Over the years we have closely developed shared aims and values and the group have now decided, with the backing of governing bodies, to form a school partnership company so we can extend our school to school support and enrichment activities and develop opportunities for procurement. The group has been given a new name and from the start of the summer term the Smalls Schools Group will now be known as **Unity**.

## NEWS HEADLINES

**\*BEAUMANOR** ~ Miss Alldred and Mrs Braithwaite were really impressed with all the pupils who took part in the residential visit to Beaulieu. Mrs Braithwaite said, "All the children challenged themselves and had a good go at everything." Our thanks also go to Mr Wilson and Mr Cresswell who supported the visit and gave up their time to help.

**\*SCIENCE VISITS** ~ Our Year 6 pupils recently enjoyed a visit to Ivanhoe to participate in a science lesson on forces. The specific focus was on the effects of static electricity and it seemed to involve some interesting activities including using a ruler to bend water and finding out how much iron was in a bowl of cereal.

**\*FIRST STEPS** ~ Over the last few weeks our Yr 1 pupils have been working with Mrs Murby from the Road Safety Team to learn about keeping safe in car parks and when crossing the road as part of the First Steps Road Safety Programme. They all worked hard and passed with flying colours!

**\*LEICESTERSHIRE CHILDREN'S BOOK PRIZE** ~ We were really pleased to hear that Harrison Dring was the winner of the online voting competition for the Leicestershire Children's Book Prize. All pupils in the Owls class had the opportunity to participate in the event as part of project work with the Library Service. Harrison voted for Bill's New Frock and his prize is £25 worth of books of his own choice. Well done Harrison and happy reading!

## Parent Governor Elections

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Nicola Beanland was re-elected as a Parent Governor at the recent elections.

The Governor Body have also decided to ask Mrs Sarah Dallow to become an Associate Governor to support their work in school.

## FISH N CHIP BINGO

It's eyes down once again for the PSA's Fish n Chip Bingo

On

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall

So put the date in your diary and get your marker pens ready.

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](mailto:headteacher@packington.leics.sch.uk)).

## AT PACKINGTON WE WANT TO DO OUR BEST AND WORK TOGETHER.

### **GOVERNOR CORNER**

Normally at this time of the year the governors arrange a special training evening to improve their own skills and knowledge. This year they decided to focus on the new changes to OFSTED and explored how they can best support and challenge the school. The governors also combined this meeting with a final discussion to agree to become a member of the new Small Schools Partnership Company (Unity).

Several other committees have also met including the Health and Safety Committee who have reviewed the Health and Safety Policy and carried out a general inspection and the Finance Committee who have completed an audit document known as the School Financial Value Standards.

On a further note our Clerk to Governors, Mr Mike Smith, has announced that he would like to retire at the end of this academic year. Mike is an unseen member of the Packington team working predominantly after school hours. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his commitment and dedication to the school over the last six years. We are also pleased to announce that we have appointed Mr John Bennett as our new Clerk to Governors.

*Governors can be contacted via the office email.*

### **Open the Book**

This week we were delighted to receive our very first visit from Packington's Open the Book team who came to read and act out the Bible story of God calling Samuel. We are very lucky as we already receive visits from the Ashby Open the Book team who visit several times a term. Both teams will be a great support in the delivery of our Collective Worship, helping us to make the Bible come alive for our pupils.



### **New Technology Project**

This week has been rather exciting as our order of 6 mini ipads has finally arrived in school. The ipads will be used by groups of children as part of our improvement work to develop new technologies. Staff have already started to receive training and have been using their own class ipads to experiment with different apps. Mrs Rogers is particularly thrilled with an app that produces an electronic book.

The new technology project is also extending into our music work with Mrs Beasley introducing a new music technology programme called Charanga, which involves the children developing their own music avatars to develop music skills and knowledge and eventually pupils will be able to use the programme at home.

### **PSA**

We would like to show our appreciation to Mrs Sharon Miller who has sadly had to resign as Chair of the PSA. Sharon has worked very hard for the benefit of the school over the last few years, making a great impact; helping to raise a fantastic amount of money and supporting enrichment and social activities for pupils and families. So, on behalf of all the pupils and staff I would like to say a great big thank you to her.

As a result the PSA have undergone some re-organisation and Mrs Sarah Dallow has kindly stepped into the role of Chair.

### **PSA CAKE SALE**

The PSA have decided to organise a cake sale at the end of each half term. The first cake sale will be on

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February  
After the Achievement Assembly.**

### **SATs Meeting For Parents of Yr 2 and Yr 6**

Mrs Braithwaite and Mr Emery are hosting meetings to explain the SATS process to parents of Year 2 and Year 6 pupils. They will also offer some tips and advice for you to support your children. The meetings will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6 pm. Further details will follow.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Feb ~ Open the Book Visit
- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb ~ PSA Cake Sale/ Break up for Spring Half Term
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb ~ Donisthorpe Cross Country
- 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Feb ~ Parent Evenings
- 26<sup>th</sup> Feb ~ Rev Vivien to take Collective Worship
- 27<sup>th</sup> Feb ~ Open the Book visit
- 28<sup>th</sup> Feb ~ Packington/ Linden Primary Art Project
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mar ~ Yr 1 Multi-sports Festival at Ashby School
- 4<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ SATS Workshop for parents of pupils in years 2 and 6
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ Owls Class Assembly
- 7<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ Blackbirds Class Assembly
- 8<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ Creative Time – Mothering Sunday  
Fish n Chip Bingo
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ Cross Country at Woodstone
- W/C 11<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ RE Week
- 12<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ Open the Book visit
- 14<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ RE Conference for a group of pupils
- 15<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ Red Nose Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ Chess Competition
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mar ~ Open the Book Visit
- 21<sup>st</sup> Mar ~ PSA Easter Egg Hunt
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar ~ Easter Service 2pm in Church and break up for the Easter Holidays

### **School Uniform**

**“Let’s work together to help maintain our high standards”**

We have had one or two children wearing chinos or black jeans to school rather than school trousers as well as some children wearing trainers or hi tops rather than school shoes. We are keen to maintain our high standards and would like to remind you that these are not part of our school uniform and therefore should not be worn

On another note over the last few summer's it has been fashionable for girls to wear shorts; for the vast majority of children these have looked both practical and smart and have been an ideal choice. However, last year we noticed that a very small minority of girls, particularly in upper KS2 were wearing shorts that were far too short for school. Fashions change but I thought it appropriate as the summer months approach to make you aware of this issue before you go shopping for new summer uniform. We really want to avoid any potentially embarrassing situations for both pupils and staff.

### **EASTER SERVICE IN CHURCH**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2 pm 2013**

**Please do come along and join the children and staff at our traditional Easter Service**

***So please put the date in your diary!***