



Packington

Church of England Primary School

April 2016

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

We've had a really great start to the term with all the excitement of our Science Fayre as well as preparation for the May Fayre. As always we will showcase some of our dance curriculum work at the fayre and each class will present a dance they have been working on, ranging from traditional country dancing and Maypole dancing to something more modern. I am really looking forward to it as I know one group is attempting a new Maypole dance and I've been impressed to see another group recording their performance on ipads so they can review and improve their work. Alongside all this hard work the pupils have had their heads down working on core subjects with some preparing for SATS or internal school tests, so it really is a busy time in school. In fact, the summer term is always busy so we've tried to include as many dates as we know about in the diary section. We will try to keep you up to date with all our events but do please be aware that for some activities school also gets short notice.

So please do enjoy reading our news and have a super May Bank Holiday weekend.

GREAT START TO THE TERM with the KS2 Super Science Fayre

The judges were really impressed with the independent work and wide range of subjects and projects chosen by the pupils to study and present at this year's Science Fayre. The quality of presentations and super ideas got everybody thinking, talking and asking questions. Many visitors commented on the scientific knowledge and understanding of the pupils as well as their confident explanations.



All the pupils in KS2 deserve a special well done for the amount of work they put into their projects and their hard work paid off as everyone agreed it was the best ever Science Fayre at Packington. It was a difficult decision but Karyn Brocklehurst was judged to be the overall winner with her clear explanation of a tsunami. Five groups will now go on to represent Packington at the Ashby Science Fayre in June so congratulations also go to Max Uzzell, Oliver Mitchell, Iona Dring, Freya Edwards, Seren Marston and Nancy Flook. Vanessa May Lappin was also given a special mention by the judges for her demonstration of global warming. Our thanks go to Mrs Salter and Mr Sisman who gave up their time to be our expert judges. We would also like to thank all the parents and families who have supported the children with their work and visited the Science Fayre.



Remember to label it - As the warmer weather approaches and the children start to take off their jumpers can I send out a plea and ask you to check that garments are labelled with your child's name. Even if you have labelled them could I ask you to check that names haven't been washed off. This really helps us.

NEWS HEADLINES

* **E-SAFETY HOUSE DAY** – We are going to complete our SATS week with something a little different and have organised a special morning for pupils to work together in their Houses. The activity will take the theme of e-safety and support our work to keep pupils safe.

* **CHRISTIAN VALUES DAY** – On Friday 20th May the pupils are going to work together to review our school Christian values. They will specifically look at how Jesus teaches us about our Christian values in the Bible and then consider how we live out our values in school. The work will form part of a new display in the entrance hall. There will be no achievement assembly on that day.

* **NEW LIBRARY BOOKS**– We would really like to thank Mrs Boulton for helping us do our largest library book swap ever. It was a mammoth task to collect in over 600 books to go back to the library but she did a super job. We still have a few missing so please have a final look at home. Already the library looks much tidier and attractive but it will soon be even better as in a few weeks a new selection of books will be on the shelves for pupils to read.

* **NEW IPADS** ~ We are continuing our planned programme to extend and improve our ICT hardware at the school and following our work to upgrade the wi-fi in school last term we have now just placed an order for 5 more ipads. The next stage is to purchase a new set of laptops and we are really pleased that the PSA have promised to help us with this.

* **ROBINS CLASS ASSEMBLY** ~ The Robins will be performing their own class assembly on Wednesday 18th May at 9.15. Please put the date in your diary.

LIVING EGGS UPDATE

The eggs have arrived and are busy incubating. We started with nine eggs in total but it looks like seven have fertilised. We are now waiting to see how many will hatch. Hopefully we've got just over a week to wait before we hear the 'chirp of little beaks! So watch out for further news.



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

SPORTS PAGE

We've got a busy term ahead of sporting events. As you will see from our diary we have set a date for our Sports Day. Once again we have arranged for the Sports Leaders from Ivanhoe to come and help us and be future role models for our pupils. We do hope to run Sports Day before half term as this allows us time to re-arrange another date if we have to postpone because of poor weather.

Below you will read about some of our other sporting news:

SWIMMING

We have some fantastic swimmers in school so this year we have decided to enter two swimming galas. The first event is the **NWLSSP SWIMMING GALA** and a group of pupils from KS2 will be swimming for Packington as this letter goes to print. The second event is the **UNITY SWIMMING GALA** which will take place later in May. We will send a team of 10 pupils to represent the school in a variety of individual and team races. Let's wish all our swimmers luck.

HOCKEY

A group of 14 pupils from Years 5 and 6 formed two teams to represent Packington at the NWLSSP Hockey Tournament earlier this week. Despite the cold all the pupils gave their best and Team A were successful in reaching the semi-final stage of the competition.

UNITY CROSS COUNTRY

The final Unity Cross Country event of the season took place at Griffydarn on 16th April. We had an excellent turn out of runners with perfect weather conditions for running. It was a long course and the uphill finish resulted in some determined faces. Well done to all our runners who have showed great commitment in supporting the school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29th April ~ May Fayre – 3.30 pm
(2nd May Bank Holiday)

5th May ~ Ashby Youth for Christ Visit

W/B 9th May ~ SATS WEEK FOR YR 6

13th May ~ House Day – E -Safety

14th May ~ Unity Swimming Gala

17th May ~ Open the Book

18th May ~ Robins Class Assembly 9.15am

20th May ~ Christian Values Day

Unity Science and Technology Day

26th May ~ Open the Book Visit

27th May ~ SPORTS DAY (am)

30th May – 3rd June – Half Term

6th June ~ Back to school

10th June ~ The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

W/B 13th June ~ RE Week

15th June ~ Ashby Science Fayre

16th June ~ House Day – understanding the Trinity

17th June ~ Year 2 Camp Out

22nd June ~ Clarinets Perform at De Montfort Hall

Open the Book

23rd June ~ Saffron Lane Area Athletics

W/B 27th June ~ Responsibility and British Values Week

29th June ~ Unity Celebration Night 6pm at Ivanhoe School

4th July ~ Summer Character Conference for Pupils

7th July ~ Class Swap Day

15th July ~ End of term. Break up for the Summer holiday.

Governors Corner

It's only a few weeks into the term but the Governors have worked hard to put together a timetable of monitoring visits in order to review the improvement work taking place in school. This term they will evaluate the impact of strategies to improve writing and maths, they will look at the progress of our work to develop character education and a growth mindset and they will also review the opportunities pupils have to develop their understanding of spirituality and the Trinity. The work will involve governors in observing lessons, looking at work and gathering the views of staff and pupils.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

Character Development – Being positive and becoming 'Hedgehogs of Happiness'

Poppy Mathias, Daniel Brothwell and the School Council gave a presentation to the whole school about the next stage of our character work. Nancy read the story called 'The Pig of Happiness' by Edward Monkton. The story is about a pig who decides to become an extraordinary pig and he resolves to stop being grumpy and to always see the best in everybody and everything. The pig shares his happiness and this makes all the other animals happy.

Daisy then introduced our own 'Hedgehogs of Happiness'. Each class was presented with a hedgehog and a pack of strips to represent the spines. The pupils were asked to name their hedgehog and put it on display in their classroom. The children were then asked to share their happiness with others by recording things that make them happy on the spines and sticking them on their class hedgehog.

In a few weeks time the classes will share their happy thoughts in a follow up assembly. However, it's really good to see that the hedgehogs are already becoming very prickly, or should that be happy!



Growth Mindset Training

Mrs Rogers and Mrs Dyche travelled to London at the beginning of term to attend some specialised training on developing growth mindset work in schools. They have produced an action plan and will now deliver training to all teaching and support staff. This work will form an important part of the next stage of our character education work in school. So keep your eye out for more information



SATS - As you will be aware from the media there have been problems with the release of the KSI spelling, grammar and punctuation paper. Schools are currently receiving guidance on this and I plan to write to all parents with children in Yr 2 next week in order to provide an update on assessment arrangements in school.

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY

SPORTS DAY

the morning of

Friday 27th May 2016

(Weather permitting)

Please do come along and meet us on the Recreational Ground for a morning of energy and fun.

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.