



Packington

Church of England Primary School

January 2017

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

January is always a much quieter time in school following the busy festive period and the staff and myself are pleased with the way that the pupils have settled down to their learning activities. I'm especially pleased that the children are working hard on our whole school New Year Resolutions and that this has been noticed by many of our visitors. So well done children! Please do enjoy reading our news.

FOOD BANK CHALLENGE

The School will once again support the Ashby Food Bank during the month of February. The School Council are once again organising this year's challenge. The pupils would be very grateful if you could search through your cupboards for unwanted items such as tins, packets, toiletries, pet food etc that could benefit families in need.

In order to add to our total it is important that food is not out of date as unfortunately the Food Bank is unable to accept that and hand it out.

Our collection boxes will be in the entrance hall from Wednesday 1st February.

Bread Making

The Robins have been 'tormenting' the rest of the school with the lovely smells coming from their bread making. They certainly did an excellent job and they really enjoyed the end results!



Many thanks to all parents who completed our Church School Questionnaire. They are now being collated by Foundation Governors.

Reflection Garden and Climbing Frame

Our long held wish to replace the KSI climbing frame and create a reflection garden in the pond area is getting closer. We have already received funding from the Alderman Newton Charity, a local company and the Parish Council and the PSA have also agreed that they will fund raise for the project. The PSA have some exciting fund raising schemes planned and we hope they will help us secure the funding to enable us to get the climbing frame replaced in time for the summer and commence the renovation of the pond area.

We would really like to re-develop the pond so that it becomes an area that can be used all the time by all the children so that they have a space where they can sit quietly, reflect and think. The funds that we received from Alderman Newton have been ring fenced for the work and should help us to get the work started.

Please look out for details from the PSA about their plans and watch this space for more details about our special project.

Rev Vivien Brings Bran to Visit

The pupils were absolutely delighted when Rev' Vivien brought her dog, Bran, to collective worship. He helped them to understand the concept of 'worth' and what things are worth to us.



NEWS HEADLINES

***INTERNET SAFETY DAY** ~ On Tuesday 7th February it is National Safer Internet Day. During the day all the pupils will take part in a workshop session led by PC Jason (Harriman). The pupils will also learn how they can use the Dolphin Logo we have put on our computers to stay safe when using the internet in school. Some of the resources we will use will come from the Think U Know website - www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

***E-SAFETY GROUP** ~ Mr Emery has set up an e-safety working party that includes governors and Jake Tilson, our ICT technician. The group are reviewing and updating our e-safety policy and exploring strategies to ensure that pupils remain safe online.

***GRANDPARENTS TEA PARTY** ~ As part of Our Year of Wisdom we would like to work with pupils to organise a tea party for grandparents. As well as welcoming grandparents into school for a cup of tea we hope that they will share their words of wisdom with the pupils. A letter will be sent out shortly to see if there is any interest in the event.

***BEAUMANOR VISIT** ~ The Owls are now getting excited about their residential visit to Beaumanor Hall at the end of this half term. They are really looking forward to experiences such as survival skills, the climbing wall and the chance to visit the cellars.

***MUSEUM EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS** ~ This year we have bought a package of workshops led by Museum Educators. The first of these will take place later this week for the Eagles. The workshop will explore 'Wild Things' and will support the Year 5/6 Science curriculum. Later in the term KSI pupils will take part in a seaside themed workshop.

***BRITISH VALUES ARTWORK** ~ This term I have challenged each class to produce a piece of art on the theme of one of our British values. Each class has chosen a value and been given a large canvas. They will unveil their canvas at one of our Growing and Glowing times.

***GOLF EXPERIENCE** ~ The Eagles are currently taking part in a 6 week programme to develop their golfing skills. They have told us that they are enjoying learning new skills.

***DANCE CLUB STARTS** ~ A dance club for pupils in the Robins and Blackbirds has started on a Monday night.

***BREAKFAST CLUB** ~ Letters have been sent out to gather interest in Kids Cabin setting up a breakfast club in school. If you have not received a letter please contact the office.

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

Tanzania Day

We were really pleased to welcome Bob Brown who came to talk to us about the link that the Diocese has with the Diocese of Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. He talked to all the Children in an assembly and then worked with the Eagles on a number of activities to help them learn about life for children living in Tanzania.



Useful Website for Parents – helping you to keep your children safe

<https://www.common sense media.org> is a useful website for parents and provides independent reviews on media, films and video games to help you decide on their suitability for your child.

Funding Formula Consultation

As you may be aware the Government is currently consulting on proposed changes to the way that schools are funded. The aim is to make funding for schools fairer across the country. Leicestershire has been consistently one of the lowest funded authorities in the country. Having reviewed the proposals, it seems that although secondary schools in the area are likely to benefit the vast majority of Leicestershire primary schools will lose out. This is a great disappointment to many primary school headteachers and we are concerned about the impact that a decrease in our budget will have. At a recent meeting of Unity Heads we decided we would write a joint letter to our local MPs and Downing Street to express our concerns. The letter is currently being drafted. In the meantime, we are adding our views to the consultation. Parents can also express their views and complete the survey if they wish. If this is something you would like to do then it is available at <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy->

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st Feb – 1st March ~ Food Bank challenge
Tennis Workshops – for all pupils
2nd Feb ~ ‘Wild Things’ workshop for the Eagles
4th Feb ~ NWL Cross Country at Measham
7th Feb ~ Internet Safety Day – workshops led by PC Jason
7th Feb ~ Blackbirds Class Assembly at 9.15 am
9th/10th Feb ~ Beaumanor Residential – Owls
10th Feb ~ PSA School Disco
21st Feb ~ Library Workshops for Owls and Eagles
28th Feb ~ Open the Book Visit
1st March ~ Rev Vivien Visit
4th March ~ NWL Cross Country at Sir John Moore
8th March ~ Owls Class Assembly
13th/ 14th March Parent Interviews
21st March ~ Open the Book Visit
24th March ~ PSA Fish and Chip Bingo
28th March ~ Open the Book Visit
30th March ~ Seaside Workshops for KSI pupils
School Clarinet Players perform at Loughborough Town Hall
31st March ~ Easter Creative Time
7th April ~ Easter Service in Church at 2 pm

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 understanding the new changes to some of the data documents that are published to help schools identify what they need to improve. They looked at the updated Raiseonline and Inspection Dashboard documents and took time to understand how progress from the end of KS1 to KS2 is calculated. The governors also combined this meeting with a discussion to agree the nomination of a new community governor and to formulate a response to the new proposals for HS2.

We are pleased to announce that the governors have agreed that Mrs Christine Hammond will become our newest community governor on the board. Christine lives in the village and has a background of working in social care.

The Governors discussed the proposed changes to the HS2 route and expressed concern that the line has been moved closer to the school (the nearest point between the school and the HS2 line under the new proposals will be 350 m). As a result, they have written a letter in response to the Governments consultation to express their concerns. The letter will be published on the school website.

Governors be contacted via the office e mail.

Collective Worship Themes for the Spring term

This term we will be exploring one of the most well-known verses in the bible. St Paul’s letter to the Corinthians in which he explores what Love is.

‘Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. | Corinthians 13:4-7 & 13.



KSI Transport Topic Gets to a ‘Flying’ Start with a visit from Mr Linney

Pupils in KSI showed their curiosity and asked some great questions when Mr Linney came to talk about his work as a pilot. We’d like to say a special thank you to him for his help.



Cross Country

Please note the dates for this terms Unity Cross Country events are:
11th March – Woodstone
1st April - Griffydham

OUR YEAR OF WISDOM OUR MOST HELPFUL PROVERB

Thank you to all of you who have told us all about the proverb or wise saying that you find most helpful.

**If you haven’t sent your form back then please do send it in.
We hope to put them on display soon.**



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.