

May 2017

Head Teacher: Mrs. Sue Teague BSc, PGCE, NPQH

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term seems to have gone in a flash with all of the activities and events that have taken place.

During the Easter holiday, a group of children, staff and parents visited the Normandy beaches; developing their historical knowledge and experiencing where such poignant events actually occurred. Great feedback was received by all and the children were exemplary role models for the school. Thank you to everyone involved for making the trip such a huge success.

Children in Years 2 and 6 have 'worked their socks' off in the last few weeks during their SATs. Year 6 particularly have been focussed, supportive of each other and determined to achieve their best. As always, Mrs Smith's legendary breakfasts proved to be a highlight of the week. We would like to thank all of the children for their superb efforts. Thank you as well to the grown-ups at home for making sure that children were rested and prepared.

We recently welcomed our German friends from our linked school in Eitorf. Children from Caddington, Slip End and Germany enjoyed a fun-packed few days of games and activities including a visit to Stockwood park, a sleepover in the Caddington school hall, fish and chips and of course the delights of the variable British weather!

Another highlight of the term has been watching our ten chick eggs hatch. Staff, parents and pupils became addicted to 'chick cam' as the excitement unfolded. We have since enjoyed watching our little chicks eat, play and grow over the past two weeks.

Next term will prove to be another exciting one, with sports day, the summer fete, football tournament and transition days.

We look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on Tuesday 6th June and wish you all a relaxing half term break.

Laura Jackson
Acting Deputy Headteacher-Head of School

NORMANDY TRIP

We are pleased to report back on a very successful trip to Normandy during the Easter holidays. 50 people left Caddington early on the Monday morning and enjoyed 4 days of activities including walking along Normandy beaches, visiting Pegasus Bridge museum and reflecting on all those who lost their lives in the British and American Military Cemeteries. The weather was beautiful and the children represented the school brilliantly.

We are looking forward to sharing our next trip on Tuesday 6th June in the main hall. Hope to see you there!



EYFS NEWS

Great excitement was had by Reception when watching the chicks hatch! The children have been fascinated when observing how the chicks changed over a short period of time. This led to some fantastic writing in Reception and detailed descriptions of what had been seen. Reception children have learned how different parts of the world differ from one another and have found out where different food stuffs are grown. We were interested in seeing that we can eat different parts of a plant such as the flower or roots.

Nursery have been on a bear hunt and talked about the different places that they saw. The children enjoyed exploring ice when learning about the Arctic and investigated how it melts.

We look forward to the next half term and continuing this topic which is teaching us about the world around us. Please remember to bring your sunhats next half term and to put sun cream on before school.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Summer time is rapidly approaching and it is important to remind everyone of the importance of avoiding taking holidays during term time.

The academic calendar for 2017 – 2018 can be found on our school website; please check term dates before booking holidays for next year too.

It is proven that children who have good attendance attain well at school and achieve significantly better GCSE results when they are older.

The National Average attendance is 96% and our current school attendance for this academic year in Years 1-6 is 94.2% which is significantly below the National Average.

The attendance for each Year Group is as follows:

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|-----------|-------|
| Reception | 91.2% |
| Year 1 | 91.4% |
| Year 2 | 95.3% |
| Year 3 | 93.3% |
| Year 4 | 95.0% |
| Year 5 | 94.6% |
| Year 6 | 96.2% |

A big 'Well Done' to Year 6 who are our highest attenders this year so far.

We would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support in promoting good attendance and punctuality.

LIVING EGGS

Included in most year group's curriculum is learning about life cycles and hands on experience is better than looking at a book. So this year we have had the pleasure of hatching out ten fertilised chicken eggs. The eggs arrived on Monday 15th May and the incubator was set up. Chicken eggs take 21 days to hatch but these arrived at day 19ish, so we expected new chicks from the Tuesday onwards.

The eggs twitched and rocked and we waited for the first egg to show a crack. We didn't have to wait long and Tuesday afternoon brought our first baby. Much to our amazement by the time the children arrived Wednesday morning we had seven. There was much interest on the egg cam and this was wonderful to see parents and carers sharing in the experience. By Wednesday afternoon, we were lucky to have a brood of 10 healthy chicks. Six females and 4 males.

All year groups have been able to visit the chicks across the two weeks and all have shown much love towards them. Sadly, Friday brings the end of our time with them and the chicks are speeding off to various locations to continue their growth. We have not been able to answer the age old question of which came first but we have enjoyed the part of the cycle we have shared.



KEY STAGE 1 NEWS

This term, Year 1 have been learning all about the life and times of Florence Nightingale and the impact she had on nursing. They have learned all about her life and the difficulties she faced treating soldiers during the Crimean War.

The children have also been learning about plants and have been observing the growth of a sunflower using scientific equipment whilst doing so.

Throughout the term in their Art learning the children have been drawing themselves building up to painting a self-portrait.

Year 2 have been designing and making their emergency vehicles this term. We saw Fire Engines, Police vehicles and Pet Ambulances being carefully made in the Year 2 classrooms. It was a hive of activity and the children showed how sensible they could be using the saws. Super stuff!

In English, we have been looking at Quest stories that involve high adventure with characters overcoming a range of obstacles to reach some treasure. The children enjoyed reading and listening to Quest stories by a range of authors and wrote their own stories too.

The children have also been looking at places from above and designing their own map symbols in our Geography topic.

Finally, the children made us extremely proud by breezing through their special work and approaching it in a mature and calm way.

We wish you all a pleasant break and look forward to seeing all the children for the final term of this academic year.



KEY STAGE 2 NEWS

Once again KS2 have been very busy this half term. Year 6 have now taken their SATs and we are extremely proud of how they conducted themselves during this time. As well as taking the tests they were treated to breakfast each day and fun activities in the afternoons. Their hard work has been rewarded by a trip to Spy Missions in Milton Keynes, where they work as a team and learn to crack codes.

Year 5 were visited by the Fire Brigade and given a talk on fire, water and road safety as part of their PSHCE work.

Year 4, along with Slip End, have hosted our partner school from Eitorf in Germany and given them an experience not to forget including the traditional wet English weather. They are now all eagerly awaiting the return trip in June. Year 4 have also hosted chickwatch, which has been incredibly popular with pupils, staff and parents. Children have named the chicks and watched intently as they hatched and have become fluffy little chicks in such a short period of time. Cries of "It's hatching, it's hatching" could be heard along corridors to much excitement and rushing to watch the screens.

Key stage 2 have much to look forward to over the next half term with trips, transition days, celebration events and sports day.



GERMAN VISITORS

This time of year brings our visitors from Germany and the weather changed just in time to welcome their arrival. Despite the rain, grey clouds and chill, we had a wonderful time as always. The first day we got to know each other and created a 60ft banner of colourful creations from all the children.

Unfortunately, the trail around the village was rained off and the BBQ was cooked in the kitchen as the charcoal would have floated. However, there was a fantastic turn out for the evening and parents and carers were able to meet the children's partners.

The second day, thankfully the weather improved a little and we all set off for Stockwood Park for a day of fun. The children looked around the Discovery Centre, made natural art and used play equipment around the park. We walked back in time for a fish and chip supper and 48 children sleeping in the hall. We watched a movie and slowly but surely they dozed off. Some slept better than others due to a member of staff who snored!

On day three, we all got up, had a hearty breakfast and set off for Slip End Village School. Here we had another day of exciting activities including art, Swallows and Amazons camp making and swimming. We then had our goodbye assembly and walked back just in time for nibbles and departure. It is only 4 weeks until our return visit and all the thrill that brings.

COMMUNITY NEWS UPDATE

Last term ended with the school discos taking place organised by Friends of CVS, giving the children time to relax with their friends. This half term the hard earned funds from events have been put to great use supporting the SATs breakfast, reward trip and paying for the Living Eggs.

Coming up in the first few weeks after half term we have the Summer Fete and football tournament. This takes place on Saturday 17th June from 10am until 3pm - so we look forward to seeing you then. We also have the ever popular Father's Day wrap where your child have the chance to purchase that all important present for dads and grandads.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|--------------------|---|
| 26.05.17 | Last Day of Term |
| 29.05.17 -02.06.17 | Half Term |
| 05.06.17 | Inset Day |
| 06.06.17 | Return to School |
| 06.06.17 | Normandy Trip Parents Evening |
| 13.06.17-14.06.17 | Father's Day Wrap |
| 17.06.17 | Summer Fete (10.00am-3.00pm) |
| 19.06.17 | Nursery Open Session (September intake) |
| 20.06.17 | Nursery Open Session (September intake) |
| 21.06.17-23.06.17 | Yr 4 Visit to Germany |
| 26.06.17-28.06.17 | Yr 6 Kingswood Trip |
| 27.06.17 | Yr 2 Trip to Ashridge |
| 30.06.17 | CVS Sports Day |
| 04.07.17 | Yr 5 Gullivers Land |
| 05.07.17 | Transfer Day |
| 07.07.17 | Numberbee |
| 11.07.17 | SEND Coffee Morning |
| 18.07.17 | Reception Celebration Assembly (9.15am) |
| 19.07.17 | Yr 3,4&5 Celebration Assembly (2.15pm) |
| 19.07.17 | Yr 6 Leavers Event (6.00pm-8.00pm) |
| 20.07.17 | KS1 Celebration Assembly |
| 21.07.17 | LAST DAY OF TERM |