



Packington

Church of England Primary School

May 2018

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

It has been a long half term but as the holiday approaches all I can say is, 'Where has the time gone?' May certainly has been a busy month starting with our May Fayre and continuing with the apprehensions of SATs, not to mention the excitement of the completion of our new multi-use games area (MUGA) and our grandparents' tea. It has also been great to see the pupils growing and developing and 'exercising' their learning characteristics. *So, please do enjoy reading our news.*

EXPERIENCE PENTECOST

Pupils from Year 2 upwards have had the opportunity to visit the Experience Pentecost event at Holy Rood Church. A team of volunteers from the church led a range of different activities to help pupils understand and reflect on the meaning of Pentecost and the role of the Holy Spirit. Staff were delighted by the pupils' thoughtful questions and answers and it was clear that everyone enjoyed the experience, especially all the practical opportunities such as being able to light a candle.



Pupils get their first chance to use our new MUGA



Work has nearly been completed and our new Muga has finally been revealed. We are just waiting for some final touches and then it will be fully operational. However, the children have all had an opportunity to give it a go and test it out.

OUR GRANDPARENTS' AFTERNOON TEA MADE US SO PROUD



We were delighted to welcome over 90 of our grandparents to join us for an afternoon tea and tour of the school. Once again Packington's team work was on show with pupils, parents and staff working together to make the day a great success. We were so proud of everybody. Our PSA provided a wonderful tea that was given a 5-star rating by our visitors and our KS2 pupils were passionate tour guides, waiters and waitresses; showing courage and confidence to lead and serve our guests. Thanks also go to our grandparents; their support provides such a marvellous opportunity for our children to develop their learning characteristics and their generous donations raised a fantastic £335.85 towards our outdoor learning projects. However, it was the very positive comments and thanks we received from our grandparents that made us all feel extremely proud of our school.

MAY FAYRE SUCCESS

The month started with our May Fayre and as always it was a super opportunity to spend time with family and friends. We would like to thank everybody for their help and support and say well done to all our pupils who provided the entertainment.



NEWS HEADLINES

***UNITY SWIMMING GALA** ~ We are sending a small team to this year's Unity swimming gala on Saturday 9th June and wish them the best of luck.

***NEW PACKINGTON PARENTS APP** ~ Please be aware of changes being made to our school app. Due to changes being made by Apple our provider has had to rebuild the app. As a result, a new app is now available for android and IOS. To download it, search for "School Jotter" in the app store and then select our school from within the app. Once the school has been selected by the user, the app will adapt to and then match the branding and theme of our current school app- effectively looking like our existing standalone app. If you don't download the new app, you will receive a notification that your app will soon be out of date. In the links section, you will be provided a transfer guide and links to the apps in the App Store and Google Play Store. Starting 1st June 2018, your current standalone app will be blocked and you will be directed to download and use the new School Jotter app.

***3M MARBLE CHALLENGE** ~ Our first attempt at the 3M Marble challenge has proved really successful. Three groups of pupils attended the next stage of the competition in Loughborough and we were over the moon to hear that Anna and Oliver Mitchell have progressed to the final presentation evening. They have already had their presentation filmed as part of the promotional materials for next year's competition. We wish them well at the final.

*** MRS BLEWITT** ~ the Principal of Ivanhoe College visited school earlier this week. She met all our Year 6 pupils transferring to Ivanhoe in September. The session provided an opportunity for pupils to ask any questions about moving on.

***YEAR 2 CAMP OUT** ~ Our Year 2's are counting down the days until their Camp Out in June. The chance to sleep out under the stars with their class mates is always a popular activity so we hope they have a great time.

***ROBINS CLASS ASSEMBLY** ~ The Robins impressed the whole school with their presentation on Homes in the Past and their eloquent speaking skills during their class assembly. We asked our visiting adults to spot any of our learning characteristics on show and many parents commented on the confidence of all the pupils. How they have grown since they started school! Well done!

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

UNITY CROSS COUNTRY

Overall Season Results

The overall winners of the season's races have now been calculated and it is my pleasure to congratulate the following pupils for their success:

Foundation Stage Girl's: Lucy Simkins (3rd)

Year 1 Boys: Charlie Sharpe (3rd)

Year 3 Girls: Florentyna Dring (3rd)

Year 3 Boys: Bailey Baker (1st)

Year 4 Girls: Anna Mitchell (1st), Katie Sisman (2nd)

Year 4 Boys: Samuel Sharpe (2nd)

Year 6 Girls: Poppy Mathias (1st)

Year 3/ 4 Girls Team 1st place: Anna Mitchell, Katie Sisman, Jemimah Dring

All the pupils mentioned above will now be invited to the Unity Presentation Evening at Ivanhoe on Wednesday 20th June. Invitations and further details to follow.

Governor Corner

In the last month governors have joined the staff for a whole school safeguarding awareness training session. The Health and Safety Committee have met to review the policies for Off-Site Educational Visits, Stress Management and Close Personal Relationships and have completed an annual Health and safety return. The SIAMS Committee have also met to discuss the effectiveness of the school as a church school.

Governors can be contacted via the office e mail.

KS2 SCIENCE FAIR - Monday 4th June 2018

We are getting excited in school as we approach our annual Science Fayre for KS2 pupils.

This year we will have 4 judges. Each judge will focus on a different cohort and they will select 2 entries to go forward to a final judging session.

The three best ideas will go to the Ashby Learning Community Science Fair on Tuesday 12th June.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Following a parental complaint about a recent facebook comment that was made about the school we would like to remind parents of our Parent's Code of Conduct and the agreements made in our Home School Agreement regarding the use of social media and posting comments about the school. Could we remind parents that it is unfair and unacceptable to post comments that damage the reputation of the school and staff. In the recent instance there were inaccuracies but the school is not able to comment or make a reply. All issues should be dealt with directly with the school and not in the public arena. The misuse of social media and/or failure to use the complaints policy may result in the school reporting the person to the LA, police or following procedures outlined in our Vexatious Complaints Policy.

Staffing Changes

It is with very mixed feelings that I write to inform you that three members of staff have chosen to retire at the end of the summer term. Mrs Marriott (Robins) has been on a planned phased retirement for the last three years and is now looking forward to spending more time with her husband and grandchild. Mr Armstrong, our Premises Officer, had already delayed his retirement from last year but he is now ready for a new chapter in his life. Finally, Mrs Morris, who it may surprise you reached retirement age a couple of years ago (yes we do think she drinks from the fountain of youth), would now like more flexibility to visit her daughter in Australia. Although we have known about the planned retirements for quite some time we will sorely miss all the staff who have shown great commitment and dedication to the school and pupils over the years. We wish them all well for the future. However, it may not be the last we see of Mrs Marriott and Mrs Morris as both have offered their help on a more informal basis.

As a result, we are currently looking at our staffing structure and are making good progress towards recruiting new staff. I will write to you with more details once all the appointments have been finalised.

ART WORK UNVEILED

Last week we unveiled our new Christian values art work. Each class was asked to express two of our eight core Christian values (thankfulness, friendship, peace, forgiveness, compassion, endurance, justice and trust). The results are stunning and show the careful thought that has gone in to the choice of images, quotes and colours. The pictures are now on display in the hall. Do pop in and take a look.

SRE PARENT INFORMATION SESSION – SAVE THE DATE

We are expecting the DFE to publish a new sexual relationship curriculum possibly in 2019. As a consequence, we will continue to use our present curriculum this year. We have planned an information session for parents on **Tuesday 26th June** prior to the units of work being taught in all classes in the week beginning 2nd July. Over recent years we have noticed that the number of parents attending early evening workshops has dropped therefore we plan to hold the meetings straight after school at 3.30 pm and provide after school care for pupils whose parents attend. All the staff will deliver two back to back presentations of approximately 30 minutes each, outlining the plan of lessons and key vocabulary taught, with the chance to ask questions. This should allow parents with more than one child the chance to visit two different sessions. During the sessions we will also gather opinions on how parents would like us to disseminate information about the new curriculum in 2019. Look out for further details soon.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25th May ~ Sports Day in the morning (first attempt).

Break up for half term

4th June ~ KS2 Science Fayre

7th June ~ Eagles visit Leicester for a culture and faith visit

8th June ~ Sports Day – second attempt

9th June ~ Unity Swimming Gala

12th June ~ Ashby Science Fayre

W/B 18th June ~ RE Week

20th June ~ Unity Presentation Night at Ivanhoe

21st June ~ Saffron Lane Area Athletics

26th June ~ SRE Parent Information Session

28th June ~ Clarinet Players perform at De Montfort Hall

29th June ~ Year 2 camp Out

4th July ~ Open the Book visit

4th/ 5th July ~ Year 6 Ivanhoe/ Ibstock Taster Days

11th July ~ Owls Faith Stories Visit (to be confirmed)

12th July – Leavers Service in Church. End of term.

LEAVERS SERVICE

Thursday 12th July 2pm in church

Please join us as we say a fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils and celebrate the end of yet another successful year.

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.