

# MINETY NEWS



Minety C of E Primary School's Newsletter  
Friday 16th November 2018/Iss. Nov 1  
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“Sparkle,  
Help,  
Imagine  
Nurture  
Excel”

## PARENT DATES

An update of the Parent dates until Christmas is attached.

## PHOTOGRAPHER – MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Photographs have been circulated – please remember the deadline for ordering is Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November. If you have any queries about your photographs or order contact the Office.

## PARENT WORSHIP DATES

Thank you to Year 2 Otters Class 3 who shared their wonderful learning about Pirates, Ships and the Ocean in their “Ship Ahoy” topic. There was so much interesting information on offer from the children – presented so very well with wonderful singing, artwork and ditties. Thank you to the whole Year 2 team and Mrs Griffin, Mrs Ockwell and Miss Murry for leading this lovely event.

Please come and join us for our other Parent Worships. The dates are as follows:

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Years 4 and 5 Class 5

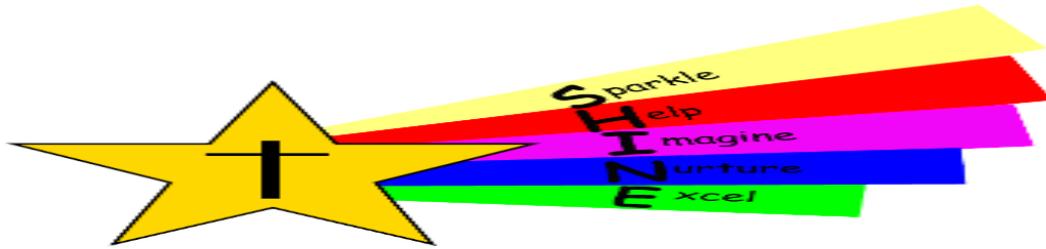
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Years 3 Kingfisher Class 4

## SAD NEWS ABOUT VERONICA FINNIE

I am writing with some very sad news re Veronica Finnie – her family, friends and colleagues were taken off guard as sadly Veronica died last Wednesday on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Approximately 10 years ago Veronica worked at Minety Primary School as a Year 5 and 6 class teacher and was also a member of the Senior Leadership Team. She stayed with us for a couple more years as a Peripatetic Music Teacher and Support Teacher. She then moved off to pastures new becoming a SENCO and then Deputy Head at Oakhurst School in Swindon. After this she re-joined Minety school approximately less than 2 years ago – she worked again in a support capacity with some of our children who she gained the very best from.

Veronica received a late diagnosis of a very aggressive form of Motor Neurone Disease. In July she



clarified she could not continue working with us at Minety but still had hope she may be able to return to support work in September. Alas - it was not to be and the wretched disease took a virulent turn.

Veronica was such an amazing colleague, teacher and work friend to many of us – her death is a terrible loss. She had so many talents, such warmth and vitality that it is hard to really take in that she has gone.

Veronica had a loving family - three grown up children and a husband; their loss is immense but they are happy, should you wish to celebrate her life, for you to attend a service in Ashton Keynes tomorrow morning (Saturday). Please contact me or the office for details of this ceremony.

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS – TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AND THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

This was very well attended – thank you to all parents and carers who could come. If you did not manage it please book in separately to see your child’s teacher.



## PTA NEWS



Thank you to all those who were able to attend the PTA meeting last week. If you would like to see for yourselves what we do please feel free to come along to a meeting at any time. Alternatively, if you're unable to make it, then you can catch up with the meeting minutes on the PTA page on the school website.

### **Second hand uniform sale**

As you have hopefully seen, and maybe even purchased, some items the sale happened last week. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and we have managed to raise £48.50.

### **Stargazing evening**

Huge thanks to the School for organising such a fun and educational evening for children and parents alike. What a wonderful success. The event raised £100.

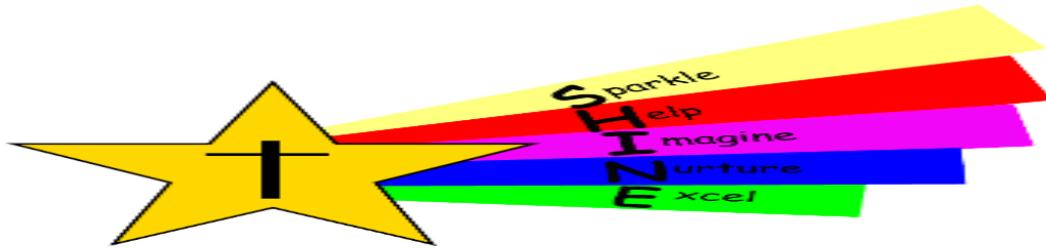
### **School Ball**

Just a reminder that the meeting will be on Tuesday 20th November 8pm at the Vale of the White Horse. All are welcome. Look forward to seeing you there.

### **School Disco**

Don't forget the school disco is in two weeks on Friday 30th November. As a new addition we have added a section where the children can request a song for on the night. Feel free to add your requests and we will endeavour to get them on the playlist.

Please return your registration forms by Wednesday 28th November to the School Office. After the closing date if you wish your child(ren) to attend then you will need to stay with your child(ren) and pay an extra £1. Please see the form attached.



There will be a little shop full of bright and glowing items, water and sweet treats on the night. Please only let children bring a small amount of funds with them for on the night.

If you are able to help out on the night then please could you note this on the registration form and the PTA will be in touch.

### **Preschool Bazaar**

The Preschool will be holding a Bazaar on Friday 7th December, 5-7pm at the playing fields pavilion. The PTA will be having a stall at the event. Please come and support the preschool and us.

### **Lucky Numbers**

Congratulations to the lucky winners from the draw last week. They are as follows:

- 1st Sally and Phillip Allen
- 2nd Florence Gilpin
- 3rd Honey Brown

The lucky numbers draw for November will be on Friday 30th November. Please return forms to the school office by Wednesday 28th November.

You can join the lucky numbers draw at any point during the school year whether you are a parent, grandparent, child, brother, sister etc. The cost is £1 per month per number. Forms are attached.

### **PTA Meeting**

The next meeting will be on 10th December at the School. Whatever you have to offer we would love to hear from you and see you in the staff room at 8pm. The PTA really needs your support to be successful so any help you can give, no matter how small, would be most appreciated.

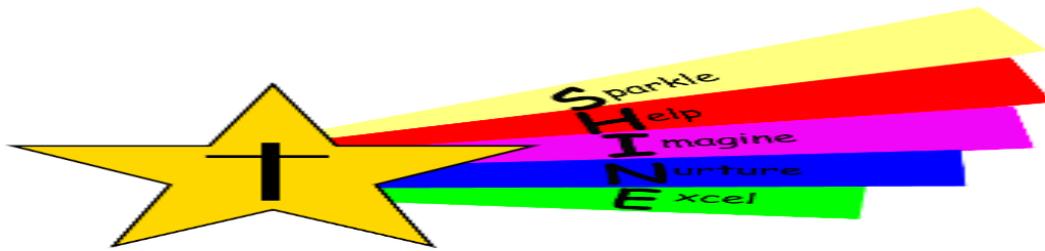
### **Dates for your diaries**

- Ball meeting 20th November
- November Lucky numbers draw 30th November
- School Disco 30th November
- Preschool Bazaar 7th December
- PTA Meeting 10th December
- Infant Nativity 19th & 20th December

Many thanks

PTA Committee





THEME WEEK – “SHINE LIKE THE STARS” –Daniel 12.3



From Monday a very successful “Shine Like the Stars” RE and Science Theme Week has taken place with the children considering how they can be agents of change as well as the world beyond Minety and how they can affect their world and beyond. The children have been learning about global issues that affect us all: Homelessness, Endangered Animals, Recycling, Global Warming and the Plastic in our Oceans – fundraising for Fair Trade and awareness-raising have taken place and will continue as the year goes on. The Worship Leaders today led a thought-provoking worship on pollution and the effects of our reliance on plastics.

The links to science have been comprehensive with visits from the Space Dome, The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Wiltshire Astronomical Society. During the Astronomical Day/Evening the children also had a chance to look at some superb telescopes – unfortunately the weather was not with us and a cloudy sky prevented putting these into action. The hall was full and there were warming refreshments of hot chocolate and hotdogs courtesy of the P.T.A which along with the amazing learning made it a very successful and awe inspiring event. The children have also expressed with great feeling how their current beliefs and actions link in to Daniel: 12.3 - a sample of quotes from our oldest children are given to exemplify this **“This shows people the right way to go like the stars at night. Each star is unique like us. Stars shine and we could shine as in Daniel 12.”** Jake Cox *“Shine like the stars means that we are all unique and special in our own way; even though there are loads and loads of us in this gigantic universe. We are all fascinating and different.”* Poppy Watts *“It means that you should not be afraid to stand out and be different.”* Ellie Whiting Thanks to Ben John and Maria Madeley for leading this stimulating week.

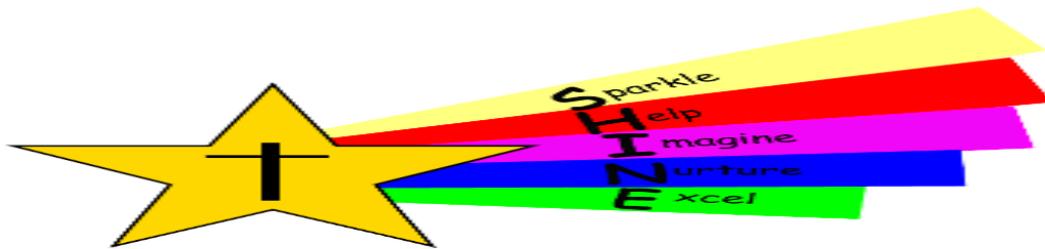
NATIONAL SATS TESTS 2018

The tests for Years 6 take place during the week of 13<sup>th</sup> May – please ensure your children are in school during this week and do not have medical appointments or dental appointments or are out of school for any reason.

At present it is proposed but not yet confirmed that Year 2 will undertake their tests and be assessed during the month of May 2018.

TOPS ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 3 FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Years 3 participated very successfully in the Malmesbury TOPS festival which focussed on team work and all participants worked very cohesively together. Well done Year 3 children. Thanks to Carole Rayner and Emma Ockwell for leading this.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018



Last Friday the children participated in school in a minute of silence to remember all those that have died for us in conflict and particularly those from the Great Wars. Alongside of this School Council members James Ashley, Florence Hurley and Maison Affleck have raised money on behalf of the Poppy Appeal by working very hard last week for everyone to get the chance to buy some poppy stationery or a poppy reflector. Over £200 was raised (precise amount to be confirmed.) Many thanks to all of you for being so generous to this very worthwhile cause.



## CHILDREN IN NEED DAY FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018

The children have enjoyed a lovely day – having dressed up and having had the opportunity this week to buy Children in Need goodies. Due to so much fund-raising having taken place in the last week this has been a lower key day than normal but will still raise a generous sum for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you to Ellie Whiting , Amelia Byrne and Maisy Pilley who have led this supported by School Council.

## ANOTHER FIVE TOP TIPS TO MANAGE CHILDREN'S SCREEN TIME

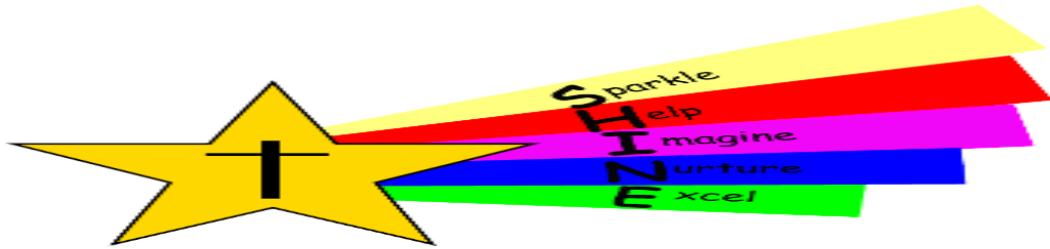
We are alerting you to some excellent advice from internetmatters.org. But 5 key headings are

1. Set a good example with your own device use.
2. Talk together about the time children spend on line.
3. Agree an amount of time that they can use their device.
4. Get the whole family to unplug and create “screen free” zones at home.
5. Use technology and apps to help manage screen time.

From a safeguarding perspective please have devices in a communal space so you can find out who your child is talking or playing on-line games with. Most importantly keep talking to your children and take any changes in behaviour particularly with regard to messaging others very seriously – talk with them and find out what they are doing.

## WEATHER COOLING AND NO HEATING IN TWO CLASSROOMS

The weather is due to cool next week and sadly we have no heating in two classrooms (Class 6 and Class 2) and the office area. Our main boiler has broken down and needs to be replaced. This will take some weeks. We have electric heaters with guards provided by the Local Authority but it will be worthwhile to ensure your children are warmly dressed – particularly if they are in either class.



What a great start to term – the weather has been so mild and the children have enjoyed so much time outside. With a combination of charity-raising and a stimulating theme week – already so much has been achieved. Thank you for all of your support.

Sally Greaves