



Packington

Church of England Primary School

January 2019

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

January always seems a quieter time in school after the busy Christmas period at Packington. However, don't be fooled as all our classes are a hive of activity and full of curiosity with pupils engrossed in a wide range of new topics to capture their imagination. The Eagles are finding out about life on Earth in their topic called 'Pachamama'. The Owls are currently getting spicy as they journey through their topic on India and the Robins and Blackbirds are deep in the icy wilderness of Antarctica.

Attendance – Help Us to Improve

At the beginning of the term the Head Teachers from the schools in the Ashby Learning Community met to track pupil attendance data and discuss attendance issues. The secondary schools presented data and information that clearly showed that pupils who have poorer attendance (below 95%) at primary school do not improve on this when they move on to secondary school, and, that this has a negative impact on their exam results. As a group it was decided that we need to continue to work together to improve attendance for the benefit of our pupils so that we can give them the best possible help to flourish. Thus, over the next few months we will review our shared policies and practice and explore strategies such as the issuing of holiday fines and inviting parents to attendance review meetings to discuss how they will improve their child's attendance. Overall attendance at Packington is above average but we are beginning to notice a dip with more children having attendance below 88% (a red certificate). Some of those pupils do have a genuine reason for their lower attendance eg a long period of illness or a hospital stay and we do note this in our records. However, this isn't the case for every pupil. So please support us and help encourage your child to develop good attendance habits.

NSPCC VISIT – SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE - HELPING OUR CHILDREN TO FLOURISH BY STAYING SAFE



We welcomed Jane and Shelley from The NSPCC who gave two separate age appropriate talks to FS/ KS1 and KS2 pupils, followed by a special workshop for the Eagles. We were introduced to Buddy, the speech bubble, with the focus on encouraging pupils to speak to an adult if they felt sad. Pupils were also taught a little rhyme to help them remember the telephone number for Childline (0800 1111).

LETTER POSTING

The Robins started the term by writing letters home to their families and there was great excitement when they set off to the village post box to post them. It was super to see their pride in their work and the care they took in carrying their envelope.



NEWS HEADLINES

* **BEAUMANOR VISIT** – The excitement is building in the Owls classroom as their overnight visit to Beaumanor Hall gets ever closer and they look forward to trying a range of different activities including den building, the climbing wall and hide & seek in the cellars. Not forgetting the fabulous food, now with the option of a full cooked breakfast!

***NEW SPORTS CLUBS** ~ This term we are trialling two new sports clubs using part of our Lottery funding, a girls table tennis club and a Friday Lunchtime Sports Club. It's early days but the pupils attending are giving us lots of positive feedback. (These clubs are by invite only)

***BOOK TALK SESSIONS** ~ Nicole Jordan from the Leicestershire Library Services will visit our Key Stage 2 classes later in the term to deliver two Book Talk sessions. This is a popular activity as it provides the children with the opportunity to discuss, read and share their views on a set of recently published books.

***NATIONAL TRUST FUNDING** ~ we are delighted with the news that the National Trust has given us another round of funding to help us take part in an educational workshop at Calke. This year we hope to take the Reception and Year 1 pupils so do look out for further details.

***THREE PLACES OF WORSHIP VISIT** ~ We have been successful in our application for a group of Year 2 pupils to take part in a special event organised and funded by RE Today. Twelve Leicestershire schools will participate in the project to visit three different places of worship in Loughborough. The visit supports our work to learn about different faiths and beliefs and will help our pupils understand the importance of showing respect for diversity and difference.

***EAGLES SPLIT BOOSTER SESSIONS** ~ This term Mrs Pope will teach the Year 5 pupils in the hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays whilst Mr Emery teaches the Year 6 pupils. Both teachers will focus on teaching 'tricky' areas of the curriculum where pupils benefit from being in smaller groups.

***FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS START** ~ Our Forest School has now been set up and staff have organised a timetable for KS1 pupils to have a turn working with Miss Twigg on a variety of forest activities.

***ASTRO TURF** ~ A big thank you to Mr Gammon and Shirleena Smith who kindly donated the astro turf for our shoe changing area. It's really helping us to keep school tidy.

TOGETHER WE CAN FLOURISH – with Jesus as our guiding light!

Feedback and Marking Project

The most powerful single moderator that enhances achievement is feedback' John Hattie

Over the last few months, staff have been reviewing research work on feedback and marking and with the help of a Specialist Leader in Education from FWTSA, have looked at the impact of marking on outcomes for pupils. Often marking is confused with feedback. While research shows that feedback has a very positive impact, marking is only one way of giving feedback. Verbal feedback is seen to have the biggest impact on moving learning forward. Staff have looked at research including that from the Department for Education and the Education Endowment Foundation and have explored different strategies being used in different schools. As a result, over the next two terms staff are going to trial different strategies for marking and feedback such as the use of whole class feedback techniques. This doesn't mean that there will be no marking, staff will still be looking at work and checking to see that learning objectives have been met. However, it does mean marking and feedback will look different and may vary as we try different techniques and evaluate what works for us at Packington. It also means that we have put a freeze on our feedback and marking policy over the period of the trial and staff will use their professional judgement as to whether to use more traditional marking or a different strategy depending on the piece of work. We will of course be reviewing and evaluating this work at regular points as the project progresses.

Our ukulele players showed courage and perseverance when they performed to parents on the last day of the Autumn Term.



The Pupils tell the Story of the Unforgiving Servant in Collective Worship

Our pupil worship group started the new term by organising and leading a very engaging collective worship about the Unforgiving Servant. The rest of the school voted it a great success with pupils demonstrating acting skills worthy of an Oscar. Most importantly, the pupils reminded us about forgiveness and that we should forgive much because God has forgiven much.



WE ARE GOING TO TAKE PART IN A FANTASTIC ART PROJECT IN THE SUMMER WITH THE ALC. KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

FOOD BANK CHALLENGE

Let's work together and show compassion to those in need

Led by the School Council we will once again support the Ashby Food Bank during the month of February. 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 the total that we collect, it is important that food is not out of date as unfortunately the Food Bank is unable to accept it and hand it out. Our collection boxes will be in the entrance hall from Friday 1st February.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

31st Jan ~ Owls Recycling workshop
5th Feb ~ KS2 Library Service Book Talk Sessions
6th Feb ~ Ashby Youth for Christ visit
7th Feb ~ Rev Vivien to take collective worship
9th Feb ~ NWL Cross Country at Hugglescote
11th Feb ~ Ceriann to take collective worship
14th - 15th Feb ~ Beaumanor residential for Owls
15th Feb ~ Year 2 group visit Three Places of Worship event in Loughborough
Half Term ~ Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February
26th Feb ~ Open the Book
7th March ~ World Book Day
12th March ~ Year3/4 Faith Stories Visit
16th March ~ Unity Cross Country at Snarestone
25th and 26th March ~ Parent Evenings
5th April ~ Easter Service and **End of Term**

OUR SCHOOL CHRISTIAN VISION

'Together we can flourish – with Jesus as our guiding light'

As you know we have recently reviewed and updated our mission statement. We are now asking for your help to suggest ideas for a piece of art work to represent our Christian vision. Please, please take the time to fill in our Christian vision ideas form. We really want to collect examples of how pupils and adults flourish at Packington and ideas of Bible stories that represent our Christian vision.

KS2 SATS WEEK IS MONDAY 13th – FRIDAY 17th MAY

Just a reminder to Year 6 parents to pop these dates in your diary and remember not to take your child out of school during the week or at any point near to this week.

Thank you.



SCHOOL NURSE APPOINTMENTS

Tracey Shearer (our school nurse) is now offering appointments on the following dates this term:

Tuesday 29th January – from 8:30am

Thursday 28th February – from 2:30pm

Tuesday 26th March – from 8:30am

Appointments can be booked for 15 minute slots and must be **PRE-BOOKED** before the day. There is now no 'drop-in' option available. Please call the school office to book. The school nurse team can also be contacted on **01530 468570**.

PARENT EVENINGS

PLEASE NOTE PARENT INTERVIEWS THIS TERM WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 25th and TUESDAY 26th MARCH. LETTERS WILL BE OUT AFTER HALF TERM.

WORLD BOOK DAY ~ We will once again be taking part in this event on Thursday 7th March. Look out for a letter coming home 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.