

## Newsletter 1st March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those of you who attended some of the support groups held recently in school. The opportunity for you to meet with other parents facing similar challenges is, I feel, always a useful experience. As such, we will be running a second round of **Team-Teach for Parents training event on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May**. We are also staging a **coffee morning at 9.45am on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** for all parents and carers. Please feel free to join myself and Mrs Griffiths, our deputy head, to have a natter over a cuppa and a biscuit or two. Letters will be distributed about both of these events. Please respond to them or notify the school office if you would like to be involved in either.

As we all know, the taxis to and from school are somewhat of a necessary evil and a model not without its hiccups and issues. Whilst I appreciate the fact that the flexibility to choose a different drop off address can be useful, Oxfordshire County Council have a strict policy of not allowing any deviations from a named address. Recently, there have been a number of occasions where taxi drivers have, quite rightly, refused to drop the pupils at different addresses. This leads to some pupils becoming very distressed and a delay to other children needing to get home on time. Try as I might, I do not have the jurisdiction to override the drivers - even when I know there is a valid reason to change the stated destination. Please work with the school by not putting the drivers and staff in a difficult position by asking them to alter their routes.

Some of you may have seen or heard media reports about a game called the *Momo Challenge*. This is a disturbing online 'suicide game' that encourages young people to hurt themselves – and each other. The challenge first started doing the rounds last summer, but the warnings about the game have been gathering pace more recently, thanks to concerns raised by parents and police via social media. Momo is a creepy looking, doll-like character with bulgy eyes that targets young children online. The doll encourages them to add a contact on the messaging service WhatsApp, then bombards them with violent images and dares. Please be mindful of this issue and talk to your child about the ever increasing need to be safe and sensible when engaging with social media or looking at content on the internet.

On a more positive front, **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day**. We are inviting the pupils, and staff, to come into school dressed as their favourite book character. This is always a fun day with lots of different reading related activities being made available to the pupils.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the parental questionnaire that is still open for your responses. The questionnaire takes less than 5 minutes to complete and is a useful way of gathering your opinions to make changes to the school. Last year we had 41 individual responses to the questions posed. As it stands, we have only 22 sets of responses. It would be great if we could generate a higher response rate than last year. The more opinions we gather, the better informed we are regarding where you feel improvements can be made.

The link to the questionnaire is as follows: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XXBFPHG>

With my very best wishes,



Jonathan Willis  
Headteacher

### **Woodpecker Class (Mr Jeffries):**

In Maths, Woodpeckers have been continuing to work on a variety of different forms of statistics: where they are found, their significance to us and how to read different types of tables and graphs. This is further reflected in our ongoing Geography focus, where we have been learning about continents, countries and cities and how to research and record information about the world around us. Our Literacy focus continues to be Beowulf: we are now able to use newly learnt grammar points to improve our descriptive writing. The opportunity to visit the Ferry pool on Wednesday mornings has come back round to us and despite some nerves on Tuesday I can report some fantastic demonstrations of character and perseverance, where nerves were overcome. This resulted in some of our number being moved up a group! Well done gang!

### **Chaffinch Class (Mrs McClimont):**

The class were invited to Matthew Arnold School to watch their amazing school production of Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*. Everyone was fantastically behaved throughout the production which had highly amusing policemen and a twist in the tale. The last week was mainly taken up with assessments. We completed some past SATs papers and looked at strategies for managing these tests. We had lots of discussions about how it is important to be building up stamina for reading and how to manage our feelings and anxieties in a test situation. We have started to use some practise websites in school for which the children have their own logins. Some children have asked for more websites; I will send a list home later next week.

### **Wren Class: (Miss Davies):**

Wren Class have settled back into school well after the half-term holidays. We have all been very excited about our new classroom guests, the chicks. We have enjoyed watching them hatch and have been taking good care of them. Wren class have been discussing and practising ways to keep healthy. We have created healthy lunchboxes and participated in lots of physical exercise, including

swimming. We are going to look at methods on how we can have a healthy mind too. In English, we have started looking at spring poems and are exploring rhyming words. In Maths, we are looking at how to add on from a bigger number.

### **Red Kite Class (Miss Morgan):**

In English, we have been reading about Beowulf and his battle with a character called Grendel. We have been learning how to draw a cartoon version of a Viking in our topic lessons. During our Maths lessons, we have been learning about negative numbers, what happens when you count below zero and when you might need to work with numbers less than zero. I have been helping the Year 6 pupils in the class prepare for our SATs tests in May by revisiting some of the work we completed since starting school.

### **Falcon Class (Mrs Rolfe):**

Falcon Class has started a new topic called Road Trip USA. As part of this, we will be practicing our map reading skills by finding famous landmarks across America. Also, our Science topic will see us cover all things electrical. We have enjoyed our weekly visit to the domestic science room by baking blueberry muffins. Falcon Class has an exciting term ahead. Lots of the pupils were congratulated for achieving spellings and times-table certificates in our weekly whole-school awards assembly.

### **Kingfisher Class (Mrs Burns):**

In Kingfisher Class, we started our new topic 'Road Trip USA' with a memorable experience. We were given 14 abbreviations for states in America. We had to work in teams to find a ticket to match each state – these were all around the playground and the outside area. Back in class, we found the location of each state on a map of the USA. In Maths, we have been doing some statistics work. So far, we have collected data in tally charts and drawn a pictogram and bar chart. In Literacy, we are working on a myth called 'The Story of the Navajo Spider Woman'. We had lots of fun acting it out. Finally, our new Science topic is electricity.

### **The Nest (Miss Youngman):**

We have started our new topic all about the seas and oceans of the world. In doing so we have been using an atlas to name and locate them. Did you know that about 71% of the Earth's surface is water-covered, and the oceans hold about 96.5% of all the Earth's water? We also learnt about the continents of the world. As a class we came up with a list of things we would like to learn about. We have been working hard to develop our number bonds – some to 20, and some to as many as 2000!

### **Eagle Class (Mrs Bishop):**

In English, we have continued our work on Beowulf, but also written some persuasive letters about Fair Trade that were linked to our PHSE work. We discussed that it is currently Fair Trade fortnight. We have enjoyed our trip to the Oxford Academy for our trampolining session, where we also managed to fit in a game of indoor-football. In our topic lessons, we have been designing our Viking Shields by looking at Viking art for inspiration.

### **Robin Class (Miss Ferrer):**

This week Robin Class have been reading the thrilling conclusion to Beowulf and Grendel's battle, have completed some work related to compound nouns and have been discussing where to use statements, questions or commands. In Maths we have put lots of effort into drawing polygons in four quadrant co-ordinate grids. In Science, we have carried out an experiment in order to understand the process of evaporation. Some of us also went to the swimming pool on Wednesday – thankfully, the water there hadn't evaporated. We also had a fabulous music technology lesson, where we used iPads to compose our own tracks.