

Newsletter

February 2014

Dear Parents

When I last wrote to you all I had no idea about the speed at which the building works on the infant site would start. The refurbishment of the toilets is well under way and hopefully you will have had a chance to look at the plans I sent out. The children are very excited about the new toilets and have been very sensible with the builders on site. I am very proud of the responsibility shown by our children. The Infant school councillors have placed pink post-it notes around the school to show where the demolition is taking place in phase 2.

The Library of Inspiration is finally complete with the delivery of a marvellous round table on which we have placed the 8 macs. It looks spectacular. We are still debating the types of chairs we wish to purchase, so are making do with the ones we have for the moment.

The Foundation children are the proud owners of a new playhouse - a big thank you to CADS for generously donating money to purchase it.

Finally, I would like to add what a privilege it was for me to be able to accompany the year 3 & 4 children on the trip to London to see The Lion King. The show was fantastic but my lasting memory, apart from the dreadful traffic, will be how superbly behaved the children were at all times. They negotiated the crowds in London with ease and maturity. They are an absolute credit to all of you.

Mrs K Price

School Values

This half term we will be looking at Resilience. A parent has suggested the following bible passage which we will be sharing with the children:

John 16:33

'In this World you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the World.'

At first it doesn't sound very reassuring to have God telling us that we WILL come across trouble, but when trouble happens it is reassuring to know that God knew all about it beforehand. He has my back and he will see me through. After all he has a plan for me, a plan to prosper me and not to harm me and so I take heart and find resilience with God. After all he has overcome the World, he has conquered sin and death, he is more than able to strengthen and help me when I am in need.

The Lion King

On Wednesday we all felt incredibly excited on account of our visit to the Lyceum theatre in London, even though it was pouring with rain. Just after we arrived we heard that it was 1 minute to get to our seats!

In the darkness the beautiful sun rose upon the stage followed by spectacular bright colourful costumes, brilliant African drumming as well as amazing acting with a fantastic plot. When it was over we all wanted more. Feeling tired but cheerful we returned very slowly to school. It was phenomenal!

Hendon

Our year 5&6 trip to RAF Hendon included an interesting but different point of view on how the first and second world wars were fought. For example the Hurricane and Spitfire were crucial to our victory against the Luftwather, in the Battle of Britain. Some of the most amazing displays on our trip included a breath taking Lancaster Bomber, a German Fighter Bomber used in the Battle of

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Britain. We also participated in a Blitz style workshop and learnt how to survive an air raid thanks to Mr Keen, the air raid warden.

We had an amazing time and have learnt crucial information that will aid us in our topic.

By Josh and William yr 6

Dance Festival

A group of Junior and Infant children are taking part in a dance Festival at Haddenham St Marys Infant School. If your child is involved they will be bringing home a letter with details of the event and how to purchase tickets.

Junior Site Homework – Use of Learning Logs

We recently discussed in the Parent Forum, the use of learning logs as a couple of parents have queried their effectiveness. As a school we believe in creating a balance between the academic and creative content in our curriculum, subsequently developing rounded pupils who see the value and have strengths in both.

Homework is set to either reinforce learning which has happened or preparing for lessons which are coming up. It is an opportunity for the children to demonstrate what they have learnt, found out and hopefully take their knowledge and ideas further independently. The learning log frees them up to do this in a manner of their choosing, one they will hopefully enjoy and through which, over time, should show a variety of skills, subject areas and practises.

We appreciate there is sometimes a feeling that a task is not structured enough or that the children are not given enough information, however the focus provided, even though sometimes quite brief, is always discussed with the class with an opportunity to ask questions. No focus is set 'cold' leaving the children completely unaware of a direction to take. We should also note that the homework given is intended for the children, not their parents, and it is the child's responsibility to follow the expectations established in school. We encourage parents to be involved and support their children homework tasks but the onus remains with the children to manage their time and demonstrate their best.

The Learning Log, along with weekly vocabulary tasks and an expectation that times table skills will be practised, creates a broad homework provision which continues to support the good progress and attainment our pupils achieve and OFSTED credited the school for. Latest school data analysis for Key stage 2, compared with national average show:

- 93% of our pupils make 2 or more levels progress in reading (national 88%.)
- 100% of our pupils make 2 or more levels progress in writing (national 91%.)
- 98% of our pupils make 2 or more levels progress in maths (national 88%.)

Our overall curriculum, lesson and homework provision enables this progress to take place and will we continue to monitor our strategies to ensure these standards are maintained.

Head lice

We have had some incidents of head lice on the Junior site. Please can you make sure that you regularly check your child's hair and only treat when necessary.

Collection arrangements at the end of the day

Please can you phone through any changes to collection arrangements as early as possible. Now that we have full time office cover phone messages are dealt with efficiently.

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School Uniform

Boots: We have noticed that a number of girls are wearing boots to school. These are not school uniform. The only instances that children would be allowed to wear boots would be in very wet or snowy conditions and we would expect them to change into shoes for school.

Hair bands, clips and elastic bands: Please can you ensure that if your child is wearing any hair accessories, they need to be in school colours (navy, black, white or yellow).

Tights and socks: Please make sure your daughter has socks in their PE bag as they cannot wear tights for PE.

Polite reminder.

Please can you send any payments to school in a marked envelope. A number of payments are being made without the envelopes and information has become separated.

Diary Dates (items in **bold** are new to the calendar)

February

- 13.2.14 Foundation visit to Woodstock to see Dinosaurs
- 14.2.14 Sponsored Skip for British Heart Foundation (information to follow)
Break up for Half Term
- 24.2.14 Back to School
- 25.2.14 Parents Evening (Junior early, Infant late)
- 27.2.14 Parents Evening (Infant early, Junior late)

March

- 5.3.14 Dance Festival Haddenham St Marys 6.30
Hearing Dogs to yr 1 & 2
- 6.3.14 Dance Festival Haddenham St Marys 6.30
F4CADS meeting 7.30 Junior site
- 7.3.14 World Book Day**
- 11.3.14 Junior Family Service
Junior Quiz at Long Crendon
- 12.3.14 Full Governing Body Meeting
- 15.3.14 Race Night at School
- 17.3.14 Wheel Power Assembly at Junior site**
- 18.3.14 Infant Family Service
- 19.3.14 Cross Country at Haddenham Junior School
- 25.3.14 IMPS yr 6
Dinton pre school visit
- 28 3.14 Wear a Hat Day for Brain Tumour Research
Last Hockey

29.3.14 Governors training morning

April

- 1.4.14 Whole School collective Worship at Cuddington Church
Last Gym
- 4.4.14 Break Up Infants 1.15, Juniors 1.30
- 23.4.14 Back to School

May

- 10.5.14 School Ball**
- 12.5.14 Year 6 SAT's week**
- 19.5.14 Bags to school collection**
- 22.5.14 Mufti day for school charities**

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Break up for ½ term

Friends 4 CADS February Update

Race Night

Dear all

Louise Kirkwood and her team are working hard putting this fantastic evening together, but they need your help!

You can help in lots of different ways: You can sponsor a race; Or why not buy a horse for just £5, give it a name, especially as the owner of the winning horse will get £20! You can also come on the night and join in the fun (more details to follow shortly). All the money raised will go towards improving the building on the Infant site (see the school website for further details), these improvements will help to greatly enhance the children's learning.

The horses are at the starting line waiting for you to give them a name and be their proud owner!

To secure your horse without any further delay race to Louise Kirkwood (Oliver year 2)

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