

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This stage of a school term is all about perseverance! Staff and children are tired from working hard and embracing the new learning challenges.

This week we have been thinking about waiting. Perseverance does not happen quickly. In Collective Worship next week, we will be thinking about Abraham, who persevered for decades in believing God's promise that he would father a nation, despite both he and his wife being well past child-bearing years. We have also been celebrating children who have persevered for a long time, including Alfie who completed Doodle Maths every day for an entire year so that he could improve his Maths.

When the new guidance for schools was issued earlier this week, Perseverance was not the first thing on my mind! As restrictions are easing in the nation more generally, I had been hoping for similar changes to be able to take place in school. The broadly 'no change' of the new guidance was therefore both disappointing and frustrating.

As we have further analysed the guidance however, I have been reminded of the need for Perseverance. Keeping processes and procedures tight in school protects education and will ensure that any future Covid-19 cases continue to affect as few children and staff as possible. Opening up society whilst keeping schools largely unchanged is mitigating risk and in the long term for the good of us all. And so we continue to persevere, to wait (though perhaps not always patiently!) and to just keep going.

As I shared with staff this week, the real challenge of perseverance is not just in the keeping going, it is in the keeping going whilst continuing to laugh and have fun, whilst maintaining high standard and being generous to those around us. Perseverance is hard work for everyone. To persevere and to continue to give your all with kindness is doubly hard work.

As always, your children so often demonstrate this for us. Learning, friendships and growing up all require perseverance. Whilst mistakes are made and challenges are frequent, your children pick themselves up and try again...and again. I am challenged to be more like them as I check through the guidance...again!

## Welcome to our students

We are delighted to be able to welcome final year teacher training students back into school. These trainees have done most of their teaching online and so it is a joy to be able to welcome them into classrooms to be able to work with children 'in the flesh'!

Lucy Fletcher is working with Miss Hallowell's class. Lucy's children used to attend The Blake School and she has in the past volunteered with us, so she is already very familiar to many of the children.



Cathy Cumberlidge is working with Mrs Rump's class. Watching teachers with her own children inspired her to train to teach herself.

Sam Rogers is working with Mrs Usher-Wilson's class. Prior to studying for her PGCE Sam completed a degree in Early Years and Special and Inclusive Education.



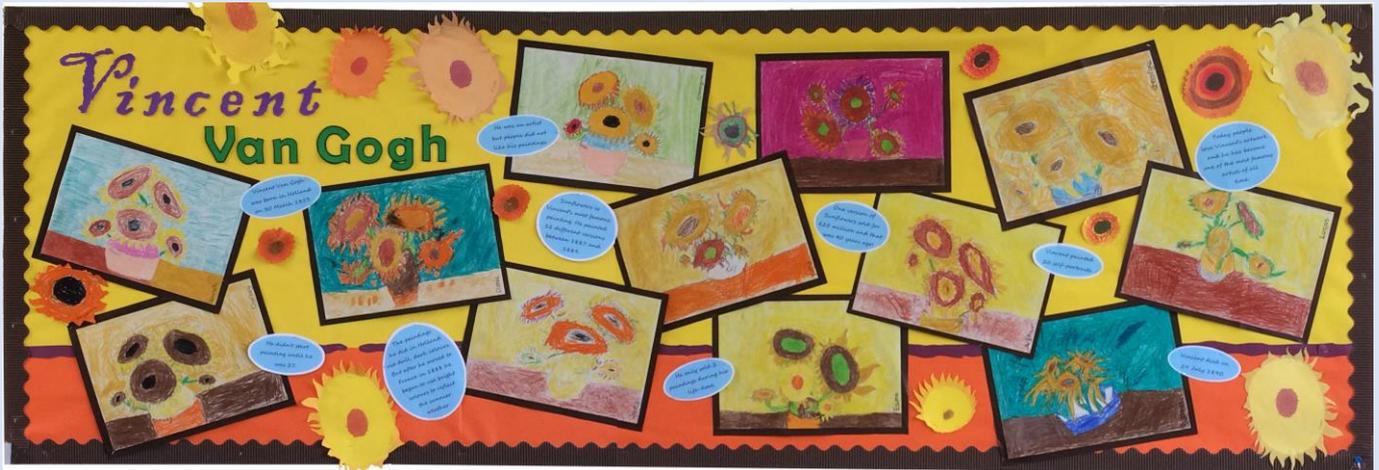
## Around Blake Care

After the May half-term, The Blake School is taking over wrap around provision. The booking form for this provision will be available next week. If you might require before or after school provision and have not yet completed the online form, please can you do so as soon as possible. Thank-you.

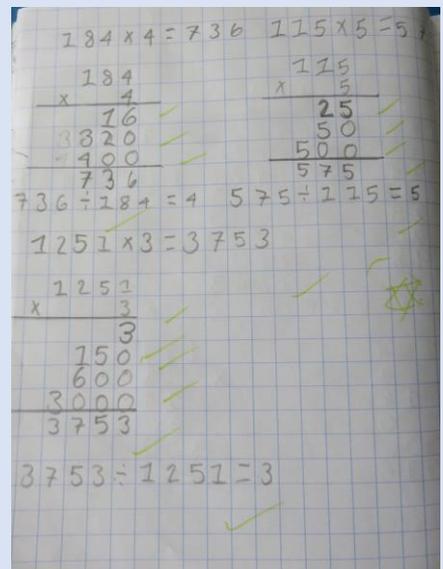
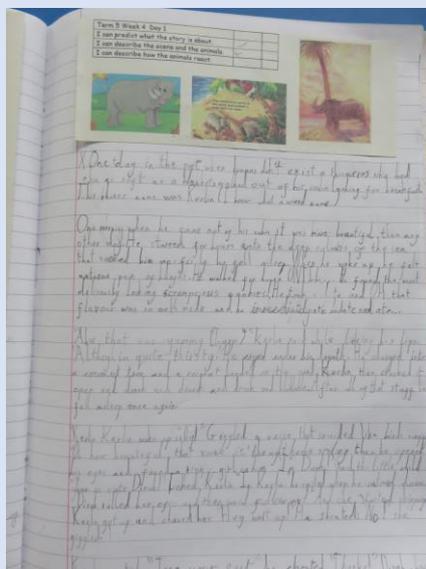
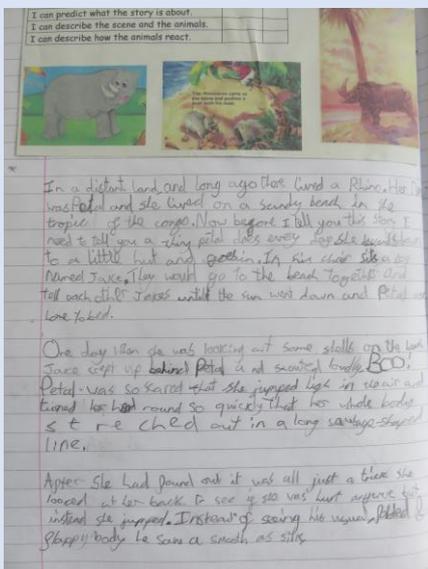
[Click here to complete the form](#)

## News from around the school

Year 3 were so proud of their Vincent Van Gogh artwork this week that they emailed the office to ask if they could be the stars of this week's newsletter.



Year 3 have also been very busy story writing, doing long multiplication in Maths and looking at maps in Geography. We were very impressed by the language children used in their writing; "In a distant land, long ago..." and "He stared for hours into the deep colours of the sea that sucked him up..."



We know the children have so loved their work looking at maps and marking places they know around Witney on their maps, that they are going to carry on with it next week. Mrs Hayes has had to draw the new Windrush Place estate on to the map, so that it is up to date!

## Oh no he didn't...

We are delighted to be welcoming M and M productions into school later in June to bring theatre back into school.

Children in Years 1 and 2 will be watching The Wizard of Oz and children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be watching Treasure Island. There will be multiple performances of each show so that children can watch the pantomime safely in their bubbles.

If you want your children to watch the pantomime, please [complete the online form](#) and pay £5.35 via ParentPay, or by sending cash into school.

## Forest School

Children attending Forest School this week learned the truth of there being no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothing!

We are enormously grateful to the small army of parent and grandparent volunteers who are helping with Forest School. If you are interested in joining them, even if your children are not involved, please do get in touch with the school office.

We continue to be grateful to Henry Fuller of Blue Monkey Trees for all the work that he carried out on the Forest School site free of charge to ensure that it is safe for our children.

## Football after-school club

After more than a year, we are thrilled to be welcoming back Premier Soccer to run their after-school football club.

The club is open to all children in Years 1 – 6 and will start from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

If you want your children to join the club, which will take place outside and in accordance with all guidance currently in place, [complete the form](#).

## Design a banner

Don't forget our brand new competition launched this week, to design a new eco-banner to go outside the front of our school.

The competition winner will see their design printed and displayed at the front of the school.

Designs should be simple, bold and eye catching and should have a strong eco message.

Children should draw their design on a strip of paper 29cm x 5cm, a template was included in the letter with all the competition details sent earlier this week.

Designs should be returned to your child's class teacher.

## Please continue to observe our one-way system around school

Thank you to everyone who continues to walk right around the school building every morning and after school. We know that this adds time to your journey and in the rain means everyone gets even wetter. Please can we ask however that you continue to do this, as part of our keeping processes secure around school and reducing the risk of transmission.

Please can we also ask that you continue to wear a mask when you are on the school site and that you don't linger on site at either drop off or pick up. For the safety of us all, it is essential that you keep moving around the site and that you do not allow your children to play on school equipment.

Ages 5-11

Bonjour!

# AFTER SCHOOL CLUB FRENCH

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lingo  Contact Catherine Garrett westoxford@lingotot.com / 07739543001 or book online at www.lingotot.com/centre/lingotot-west-oxford

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