



# Great Kingshill CE Combined School

Cryers Hill Road, Great Kingshill,  
Bucks, HP15 6JP

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

## Headteacher News

Welcome back and I hope that you all had an enjoyable and restful half term. I would like to thank everyone for their patience this week with the roadworks going on around the school and well done to everyone who has managed to get themselves to school on time.

The week before half term, we were lucky enough to have members of our church community at St Michael's support our Key Stage 2 Prayer Space.

Having experimented with two different locations during last year, they returned to the 'nurture room' that was used last November.

The Prayer Space was set up and run by parents of the school and volunteers from local churches. It was very encouraging to welcome 16 members of St. Michael's congregation, many of whom volunteered for the first time. Hosts enabled the children to think and talk about the activities and to pray in response as they wished. The room provided a comfortable and safe environment for the activities and discussions.

The four activities chosen were used for the first time, with a tentative theme of 'look to the skies'.

**Autumn Leaves:** This activity considered the changing of seasons, with a bag of autumn leaves to aid discussion. The children were invited to consider aspects of their own lives that were changing. This was pertinent for all in year 5 & 6 as they considered the next few years, with changing schools. They also considered things they would like to see changed. The Bible tells us that God does not change. God knows all the changes we face and stands alongside us in them. The children were invited to respond by writing a prayer about any aspect of change. Here is a small sample:

'I want the war in Iraq to stop.'  
'Dear God, please help me to be happy all through my life and help the whole world to be loving and kind.'  
'Dear God, thank you for my healthy life, and I pray that you try to help people whose lives aren't as healthy as mine.'

**Doves of Peace:** This activity enabled the children to consider parts of the world where there were struggles (war, violence, famine, fire, earthquakes etc.). Each child made an origami dove, as a prayer for peace in those places. Some children chose to write place names or situations on the doves. The children took these away with them.

**Hopes and Dreams:** The children were encouraged to consider their own hopes and dreams for the future – whether small or big. They were reminded that God is the God of hope and is interested in our dreams and aspirations. Children were invited to respond by writing or drawing on 'post it notes' that were attached to clouds on a blue back ground.

'I want to be a teacher'  
'I want to make a difference in the world'  
'I hope to be clever enough to be a vet'

**New World:** This activity encouraged the children to consider what was GOOD about the world, but also what they would like to see changed. They were encouraged to imagine what rules they would put in place to make the world a better place – and what they could do personally to make the world a better place. The children were invited to respond by writing their ideas on a large white board on the wall.



## Attendance

Our overall school attendance to the end of last half term was 96.39%

Well done to our attendance champions this week: 1SD with attendance of 99.2%!

## House Points

Many congratulations to Windsor house for earning the highest amount of house point this week.

| Tudor | York | Windsor | Stuart |
|-------|------|---------|--------|
| 326   | 269  | 423     | 341    |

## Charitable Giving

On Friday 17th November York House will be raising money for Children in Need.

We will be having a talent show at school in the afternoon of that day. All pupils are invited to come to school in yellow or spotty clothes in exchange for a £1 donation.

Auditions for the show will be as follows:

Reception and Year 1 Tuesday 7th November

Years 2 and 3 Wednesday 8th November

Years 3 and 4 Thursday 9th November

Years 5 and 6 Friday 10th November

Auditions will be held in Mrs Elder's classroom and one act from each class will be chosen.

We will also be having a cake sale after school on 17. 11 .17, donations from children in York house would be greatly appreciated.



## Make a Big Noise

Before half term a small group of pupils attended Make a Big Noise at the Royal Grammar School.

They had not seen a single note, before they arrived! The music they were to play was completely new to them and totally unrehearsed. And yet, the noise they made was not just Big, but played with all the confidence of the young, and the boundless enthusiasm of musicians all captured by a single desire... the aspiration to play music.

It was a complete joy, both to listen and watch 260 kids, from 16 schools, play a myriad of collective instruments...well, to my untrained eye, there were; **Wind**, of all types imaginable; **Percussion**, big drums, small drums and things which dangled on string; Recorder; **Guitar**; **Strings**, of more types than could be strung together; **Brass**, of a greater variety than the combined Brighthouse & Rastick, that would require the Brasso factory to run double shifts for at least a fortnight to polish, all played by kids from Year 3 to Year 7 with huge accomplishment.

Make a Big Noise! Was an event brought to fruition by the Chiltern Music Academy (CMA), offering children from across the local area the opportunity to make and enjoy music with other young, budding musicians, held at the RGS.

**The Big Noise** aims to...

- Aid transition for Primary School musicians following the publication of the 11 plus results, strengthening musical ties between Primary and Secondary Schools to ensure musicians do not 'fall through the net' as they move school.
- Enable Secondary School Heads Of music to draw Year 7 musicians together for a day of music, to inspire them to continue playing together when they return to school, and to engage with Year 6 pupils who will join their school in September 2018.
- Encourage Senior Management and Governors from the Independent sector, the State sector, the Primary phase and Secondary phase to come together to celebrate the musical talent in their schools

Report by Peter Ede – Vice Chair of Governors

## **Rotary Boxes**

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the confusion over the Rotary Boxes, all families should receive a box home today and we would be delighted if you could return them to school on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – they will be collected by the Rotary club at 10 am, so we cannot accept any more after this time. The boxes should not be returned to school before then because we have no way of storing them.

Gift suggestions for your Shoebox

### **Toys ~ For Boys & Girls**

Cars, trucks, etc., balls, complete jigsaws, action figures, colouring books, pens, crayons, Lego blocks, yo-yo, bubble blowers, wooden and plastic toys, building blocks, pencil case, pencil sharpener, dominoes, playdough / plastercine & cutters, fluffy toys, dolls, stickers, writing pads, skipping rope, scarf, mittens / gloves, hat, harmonica, games, cards...

### **Teenagers ~ For young people up to 18 years age**

Sportswear, scarf, gloves, socks, hat, football memorabilia, writing materials, games, playing cards, tennis ball, tooth brush & paste, deodorants, comb, mirror, costume jewellery, make-up, hair brush, toiletries, school stationery, clothing repair kits, sketch pad, coloured pens / pencils...

### **Household Goods ~ For older folk & families**

Scarfs, gloves, hats, wrapped soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, disposable razors, shampoo, soap flakes, pan scourers, antiseptic cream, bandages, face or body creams, cosmetics, pens, writing pad & envelopes, T lights, candles, sewing kit, scissors...

### **Baby ~ Age up to 12 months**

This is given to new mothers and can include baby wipes, cotton wool buds, baby shampoo, baby oil, talc powder, bonnet, booties and mitts, baby grow, knitted matinee coat, small soft toy or plastic rattle...

### **What NOT to include in boxes**

Food, sweets, chocolate & drinks, battery operated toys, conflict related items, matches, inflammable liquids, inflammable aerosols (e.g.: deodorants & hair spray), seeds or any other living material, automatic washing machine powders, & washing-up liquid (these tend to leak when laid flat)

For safety –

Please securely sellotape tops of liquid containers.

Protect anything sharp and do not put anything sharp into a Toys box.

The types of contents are indicated on the box top. In the case of toys & teenagers, additional information as to the suitability for boy or girl, along with age group is also indicated.

A card with the sender's name and a photograph is also a nice thing to include.

Above all, the contents should be of good quality, remembering that the recipient will be opening the box in eager anticipation, and especially with the toys for the children, quite possibly the first real gifts they have received for a very long time.

Finally, kindly ensure you place £2.00 (2 X £1.00 coins) on each box to help cover the cost of the box and the transportation to Eastern Europe.

With Thanks

## **Safeguarding Reminder**

This week I have attended my annual safeguarding update training and the purpose of the training is to ensure that we stay up to date with the latest training. As I have mentioned in previous newsletters it not possible for parents to be in school unsupervised unless they have undertaken our parent helper safeguarding training.

When visiting the school, you should make the purpose of your visit known to the school office – parents are not able to just 'pop' in. Visits should be pre-planned or booked in the school diary.

### **Homework update**

On Tuesday your child will bring home their homework book for the first time. This week in school the class teachers have been creating models in the homework as to how the work should be laid out.

Each year group will have 3 pieces of homework:

Big Talk Year 1

Reading Comprehension Years 2 – 6

Spellings Years 1 – 6

Number bonds Year 1

Timetables Year 2 -6

We also expect all pupils to keep their reading up to date and later this term will look at rewarding pupils who read regularly at home.

The homework book also provides clear instructions for each of the activities.

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding homework forums with parents at 9:00 and 2:30, to address any questions you might have after having the homework for the first week.

### **Website**

Mrs Garner and a small group of teachers are now working to develop a new school website. She would really appreciate some input from Parents about what is useful for them and how they use the website. If you are interested in joining this team, then please let her know via the office and she will arrange dates and times to suit people.

### **Contributions for educational trips and activities**

The pupils at GKCS are very fortunate to have a rich and varied educational programme of study and in order to support this we want to be able to take pupils on trips and have visitors in. All of these additional activities cost a considerable amount of money and we would like to remind parents that we really do need your voluntary contributions in order to continue with these opportunities

## Remembrance Service

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding our annual Remembrance Service. This year we are asking parents and families to provide the names and information of any service men or women that you would like us to acknowledge and remember during our service. If you would like to provide us with a short statement or just a name of someone you would like mentioned during the service, please can you email the school office with the details.

## Buying a poppy

Our Royal British Legion Poppy collection tin and poppies have arrived in school this week and we will begin selling poppies on Monday. All children can purchase a poppy. Our student leaders will be bringing the collection tins around to classes throughout next week. We have a suggested donation of 50p. However, the British Legion have also agreed to accept old £1 coins, so if you have any hiding down the back of the sofa please send them in. As they can make a difference.



## School Photographs

We are aware that many parents were unhappy with the Tempest Photographs this year. As a result of this we have decided to book a different photographer to come and retake the photos – date to be confirmed. You are still welcome to order from Tempest in the usual way (orders in on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> at the latest) and if you have already placed an order and wish to retract it, please let us know by Monday.

## Attachments to this week's newsletter:

Whole School – Rotary Boxes

Year 2 – Science /Materials

Year 5 & 6 – Holmer Green Senior School – admissions

Year 4 – Headlice

Year 1 – Multi Skills

Reception/Nursery – Tapestry Permission

Whole School – PTA Newsletter

## 3LH Parents Evening

The Parents Evening for 3LH will be taking place on 6.11.17 and 8.11.17. We have sent a reminder slip with the booked appointment times home today and these are being delivered by your children. The meetings will take place in our small office in the Reception area and the children books will be available for you to see. Miss Hepworth is looking forward to seeing you all.

## Dates for 2017 -2018 All new dates are shown in Red

**November**  
6<sup>th</sup> 3LH Parents Evening  
8<sup>th</sup> 3LH Parents Evening  
9<sup>th</sup> Reception intake 2018 Open Morning 9:30  
10<sup>th</sup> Reception & KS1 trip to the cinema  
13<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service  
13<sup>th</sup> Homework Parent Forum 9:00 / 2:30  
14<sup>th</sup> Year 1 Multi-Skill Interschool festival  
17<sup>th</sup> Children in Need  
17<sup>th</sup> School Disco  
20-22<sup>nd</sup> – Yr2 Science/Materials  
21<sup>st</sup> Reception intake 2018 Open Morning 1:30  
23<sup>rd</sup> Rotary Boxes returned

## **December**

2<sup>nd</sup> PTA Christmas Fayre  
3<sup>rd</sup> Participate in the All age service at St Michaels  
12<sup>th</sup> KS1 Nativity (Afternoon)  
13<sup>th</sup> KS2 Music Concert  
14<sup>th</sup> Early Years Nativity (Morning)  
14<sup>th</sup> KS1 Nativity 6:30pm  
15<sup>th</sup> Early Years Nativity (Afternoon)  
18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Church Service  
18<sup>th</sup> Key Stage 1 and Early Years Christingle  
19<sup>th</sup> End of Term 1:30pm

## **January**

3<sup>rd</sup> Inset Day  
30<sup>th</sup> Year R Interschool – Winter Olympics

## **February**

12<sup>th</sup> HALF TERM  
21<sup>st</sup> Year 3-6 Interschool Cross Country

## **March**

2<sup>nd</sup> World Book Day Dress Up  
6<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Interschool Football  
12<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening 3:30- 5:30  
14<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening 5:00 – 8:00  
16<sup>th</sup> School Disco  
19<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Isle of Wight  
28<sup>th</sup> Easter Church Service KS2  
29<sup>th</sup> End of term 1:30pm

## **April**

6<sup>th</sup> Inset Day  
25<sup>th</sup> Year 3 Interschool – Tennis  
30<sup>th</sup> Class Photos

## **May**

23<sup>rd</sup> Year 2 Interschool – Games  
28<sup>th</sup> – HALF TERM

## **June**

27<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Interschool – Games  
29<sup>th</sup> School Disco

## **July**

3<sup>rd</sup> Secondary Transfer Day / Move up day  
5<sup>th</sup> Bucks School Games  
6<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY  
9<sup>th</sup> Sports Day KS2 AM / KS1 PM Picnic Lunch for all 11th  
Reserve Sports Day  
13<sup>th</sup> Reports out to parents  
24<sup>th</sup> July End of Term 1:30pm

