

# KEEVIL CoFE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

## Up-coming Dates:

18<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Jumper Day

18<sup>th</sup> Dec – End of Term 2

4<sup>th</sup> Jan – TD Day (School Closed)

5<sup>th</sup> Jan – Start of Term 3

### In our Good Learning Book this week:

**Winter:** Amelia for being Star of the Week.

**Spring:** Well done to all of Spring Class for making fantastic canopic jars.

**Summer:** Well done to Archie, Ela, Maddie & Harry R for great reading.

Also to Farrell & Daphne for working hard in French.

**Autumn:** Well done to all of Autumn class for working really hard during assessment week.

## Message from the Head

Whilst the world on the outside remains strange to say the least, we are trying to retain as much 'normal' as we can in school. We are in the midst of part of our usual round of regular assessments, during which some children within the school will be, or have already, sat tests. At this point the test results will give us valuable information about gaps that remain in the children's learning following the closure of school during the last academic year, and how well they are catching up. Over the following few weeks we will be conducting Pupil Progress Meetings in school where we will discuss the attainment and progress of every child in the school, and make plans for how we can support their learning and accelerate their progress more effectively moving forwards.

This week saw us having our first Spirituality Afternoon. Our key improvement target from our last SIAMS (Church of England) Inspection was for us to develop a common language and understanding about spirituality across the school, and plan for how we can support the children on a journey of spiritual development during their time with us. We had started this work last year, but it got interrupted by the lockdown. Working as a whole staff team we have defined spirituality in Keevil as:

*"Spirituality is reflecting and asking questions of ourselves, others, the world and beyond; this leads us on a journey of understanding and growth of who we are on the inside and how we behave on the outside."*

On the following page you will see a beautiful picture that Mrs Draper has created to represent these words for us in a visual way.

So this week we have all embarked on a process of self-reflection and discovery, through which we will learn to understand ourselves better, consider how we interact with others and the world around us, and ponder on some of the bigger questions that life throws up. As ever, the children impressed us with their thoughtful and insightful opinions and ideas, and we look forward to exploring with them how we can all grow on the inside.

So far this term we have been incredibly lucky in Keevil, as we have not been impacted by any positive Covid cases to date, which means that we have not had to ask any children or staff to isolate or close school in any way. This is certainly not the case for many schools, children and families in the local area. My own daughter is just coming to the end of a 2 week bubble closure. We found out at 6pm on a Sunday evening that she would be learning from home for the following 14 days. I of course, understand and support the actions that her school had to take, but I feel as a parent the disruption to all our lives that this caused. Although the school has worked tirelessly to provide a structure of remote learning that impacts as little as possible on the sequence of learning and the progress the students were making in school, it has only served to remind me that nothing can adequately replace being in school for children and young people. Within the space of what is a short and defined period of time, I can see the impact on emotional and physical health and wellbeing, and on the level of mental stimulation and quality of learning that being out of school brings. I am keeping everything crossed that we manage to keep all of our children in school for the rest of this term and beyond. Many thanks to you all for your support in following our new procedures and timetables which are all about that – keeping children in school, happy and safe.

## Inter-House Reading Challenge

Please remember to encourage your child to take part in this term's competition - [https://www.keevil.wilts.sch.uk/website/term\\_2\\_inter-house\\_competition\\_202021/518620](https://www.keevil.wilts.sch.uk/website/term_2_inter-house_competition_202021/518620) So far we have received entries from: 8 children in Kestrels, 2 children in Harriers, 1 child in Ospreys and 4 children in Buzzards. There is still plenty of time to take part and earn housepoints!

### House points

Kestrels	Ospreys	Buzzards	Harriers
950	982	1015	854

## Christmas Celebrations

We wanted to remind you about our festive celebrations that are coming up:

- **Reverse Advent Calendar** – your child's teacher will be in touch with you regarding when you can send a donation in for the Trowbridge foodbank. Please remember they specifically want toiletries and festive food treats this year.
- **Christmas Cards** – children are allowed to bring in Christmas cards to be shared with others in their class from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We are not able to facilitate the sharing of cards between bubbles at this time.
- **Christmas Jumper Day** – Children are welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper instead of their school jumper with the rest of their school uniform on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We will be making this a celebratory Christmas lunch in school as well.
- **Christmas Sharing Worship** – as we have had to cancel all our usual Christmas performances this year, we wanted to find a way to let the children feel the 'buzz' of putting on a show and for you to be able to share and celebrate this with them. Therefore each class is working on a Christmas Sharing Worship. We will video these and share them electronically with you, so you can enjoy them at home. Within school we will also be watching each other's performances to help the children feel connected with everyone across the school.
- **Keevil Village Christmas Tree** – all the children have made decorations for the Keevil village Christmas tree. This will be standing outside the village hall for the festive period.
- **Messages for Care Homes** – we are going to be working in school to make Christmas cards, messages and decorations to share with the residents of the care homes that Mrs Petrie (mother of Toby in Y3 and Ollie in Y6) works with, as a way of living our mission which is to reach out to others.

## Cold Weather

As the weather has turned colder this week we have all noticed the impact of the increased ventilation which we are required to maintain in classrooms at this time. We are doing our best to keep the temperature at a comfortable level but we are very happy for children to wear base layers underneath their uniform if they are finding it a little chillier than usual. We also remind you to make sure that your child brings a warm coat with a hood to school everyday. This is more than enough to keep children warm at break times when they are active outdoors, and therefore we would appreciate children NOT bringing in hats, gloves or scarves. These are very difficult for us to manage in school within the current Covid restrictions. Many thanks for your support with this.



**Spirituality at Keevil School**

*What does the picture say to you?*