

4th October 2019



KEEVIL CoFE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Up-coming Dates:

7th – 11th Oct – Autumn Class Residential Trip to Pencelli
14th Oct – Acorn Football Competition (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)
17th Oct – Mrs Hermon at Newleaze Bus Stop
18th Oct – Coffee Morning – Key Stage 1
21st Oct – School Photographs (Portraits)
21st & 22nd Oct – Parent's Evening
23rd Oct – TD Day (School Closed)
24th Oct – 3rd Nov – Half Term Holiday
4th Nov – Children return to school

In our Good Learning Book this week:

Winter: Charlotte, Hugo & Farleigh for great story maps. Barney for working hard in all subjects.

Spring: Martha, Lucy, Seren, Oskar & Gabriel for gaining their Yellow handwriting award.

Summer: Thomas W for great improvement in his handwriting. Ela for working well in all subjects, especially with her reading.

Autumn: Chloe, Oscar, Jessica and Ivie for excellent writing.

Message from the Head

This September has brought a new Ofsted Framework, which is the specification under which they now inspect schools. This represents in theory (hard to know yet in reality until the reports from new inspections start to be published) a significant departure from previous regimes. I have to admit that I was very skeptical when Amanda Spielman took over as Chief Inspector. She comes from a Civil Service background, and I was suspicious that someone with no hands on experience of working in education would be able to show any understanding of the sector. However, she recognises the power and influence of the organisation that she now leads – Ofsted ratings have a much greater impact on house prices around schools, than exam results. She felt that Ofsted therefore have a moral responsibility to add to the information in the public domain regarding schools. Given that attainment data at all levels is published by the Government, she did not just want to re-package this in a different format. Therefore, a school will no longer be graded on their 'Outcomes', instead there is a new judgement area 'Quality of Education' which looks far more broadly at the whole curriculum offer of a school. She has supported this by commissioning much high quality research into how children learn, and therefore how schools should design their curriculum in order to maximise this. There are also new judgement areas of 'Behaviour and Attitudes' and 'Personal Development'. These show that Ofsted is planning to look far more broadly at everything that a school provides. The judgement on 'Leadership and Management' remains, and schools will continue to get an overall rating. Given that as a school we take the development of all our children as whole people very seriously, we are cautiously pleased with this turn that Ofsted has taken. It has also provided us with impetus and ideas to develop the breadth of our curriculum, which we will embark on this year, looking at all the subjects beyond English and maths, which have been a key focus for us over the past few years. If you are keen, you can find out more information at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework>

As an 'outstanding' school we are in theory exempt from inspection. However, you may have seen in the media both Ofsted and the Government are keen to stop this historic exemption. It is worth remembering that we received our judgement in 2012, when we were judged under a different framework and very different criteria. Perversely if you ask anyone who knew the school back then compared to now, they would tell you that we are now significantly better and offer far more of quality to our children. But if we were inspected under this new regime we would be aiming for a 'Good' outcome. The task remains for us to now build on all we have started in the past few years, and take the opportunities to extend what we do to reach beyond this.

If you have any questions regarding any of this or you are interested to find out more, my door is always open.

Toys

The children were reminded this week that they come to school to learn. If and when they have opportunities to play, we have toys and equipment in school to support and enable this. Therefore we would ask children to not bring toys from home into school. If there is a specific reason that you feel that this is necessary for your child, please have a conversation with your child's class teacher about this and together you can find the appropriate solution. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Pencelli Thank Yous

Next week sees Autumn Class undertaking their residential trip to the Brecon Beacons. They will be leaving us on Monday morning and returning on Friday afternoon, having experienced many adventures and grown greatly as a result. These trips are hugely beneficial for the children, which is why we offer so many opportunities in this way, but they do require an awful lot of work from the school staff, so I would just like to take the opportunity to say thank you to a few people: Mr McCaldon, Mrs Stainer, Miss D and Ms Ritchens for giving up their time to accompany the children on the trip; every other member of staff who stays behind at school and has to cover all manner of things to ensure that school carries on as normal for all of our other children; and FOKS who have kindly supported the trip financially this year. Many thanks to you all.



Year 3 enjoy their big day out at Brokerswood