

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER –FRIDAY 28th September

Coming up next week:

Monday: Bikeability Year 4 & 6 - please bring your bikes to school on Monday morning and leave them in the gazebo.

Tuesday: Bikeability Year 6 - please meet at Blackthorn way in Nailsea at 9.00am with your bike, helmet, waterproofs, packed lunch and water bottle.

Wednesday: Year 5 & 6 at Gemini gym.

Thursday: School census - change to menu: Burger in a bun. Please could we encourage Reception, Year 1 and 2 children to have a school meal on this day as uptake will affect future funding. **Deadline for return of school photograph orders.**

Friday: Year 5 & 6 trip to Easton Mosque, leaving school at 8.30am **No Guitar Lessons today.**

Thank you to those of you who have completed your permission forms and data collection sheets.

This weekend:

It's the Bath Children's Literature Festival this weekend and next. It's an amazing opportunity to hear some of your favourite authors, from David Walliams to Lauren Child, reading from their books and talking about them. Mr Khanna loves going and would highly recommend it! Full details at bathfestivals.org.uk/childrens-literature

Message from the Chair of Governors

I thought it best to write to you to update you on what the governing body has been doing to support the recruitment of our new Head Teacher.

A number of the governors and the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) have been working over the summer months, writing job descriptions, adverts and interview packs. We needed to coordinate our thoughts and requirements for the role and what direction the school needs to take over the next few years. Fortunately we have had great support from LSP and the Diocese of Bath and Wells as well as some of the teaching staff who have all given us the benefit of their experiences.

The recruitment process needs to follow a formal format and an advert was placed in early September and applications received this week.

The next stage in the process is to invite shortlisted candidates to interview at the school which will be held over two days on Thursday and Friday 11th and 12th October. The interviews cover a range of topics including teaching, learning, management, faith and community as well as group worship, school walk arounds and a discussion with the School Council.

The reason for giving you all this detail is that some of your children (with the exception of Reception) will be involved at some stage during these days whether it's part of the Group Worship to be led by the candidates or questions from the School Council. Ben Tucker and the staff will coordinate matters in the background (as clearly there will be some class disruption) and many of the Governors will be there to ensure that both days run smoothly.

Ben O'Connor

MESSAGE FROM MR TUCKER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy little week, with all sorts of comings and goings. With this in mind I was 2 minutes, 2 MINUTES tardy in picking up the bus children with Beth this morning. Naturally she had everything covered but I was a little disappointed with Rory's observation, 'You are late, Mr Tucker, L-A-T-E late!' Yes, thank you Rory; shame your report is not going to be quite as spiffing as last year's.

As has become tradition, our new Reception class had their, 'Welcome to Wraxall' service in our church on Monday. This is one of the highlights of my year as it is the first time we are all formally together, as a school, with the express purpose of saying, 'You are all part of our community now.' Although ensuring fifteen little people are primed and ready (registered, toileted, lunch choices sorted, in partners and looking vaguely smart – you get the idea) for 9:15 is a little challenging, I have to say, the troops rose to the occasion and were extremely well behaved and attentive throughout the service. Mrs H was so proud of them all. Personally, my favourite bit was seeing their faces when we all pretended to play a trumpet; it was very much along the lines of, 'You want me to do what now? You're alright. I'm four and far too old for this silliness.'

My feelings about a broad and rich curriculum, that allows the children to flourish through stimulating and varied experiences, is well documented. I do not like it. Unless a page of writing or two sides of sums is the outcome of a lesson, I am not interested. Therefore, you can imagine my dismay when I discovered Year 1/2 making apple crumble! When delving into the whys and wherefores of the situation, it turns out that stewed apples were a staple part of the Stone Age diet. It seems that this was also a conscious effort to help the class further bond through a group activity which required sharing, taking turns and helping one another. It also had the undeniable benefit of developing fine motor skills as well as delivering the science learning behind the heating and breaking down of materials. I suppose I can let this go just this once (although, a spoonful of crumble coming my way would not have gone amiss).

Hark, what gentle sound doth fill my ears? Are those seraphims and cherubims serenading me from yonder classroom? Those were the words, the exact words, that crossed my mind when Year 3/4 had their music lesson, with Sophie's mum, on Wednesday afternoon. To be fair, anyone who has ever heard me sing in church will recognise that my musical ability is roughly on a par with protozoa and I really should not tease the class. Although Miss Madge is known for almost unparalleled musical ability, it is amazing what a difference a specialist can make to an activity like singing: notations on the board, symbols in blocks of four allowing them to follow the music and preparing them for when to clap. It was superb.

The current Science Topic of Year 5/6 is materials, starting with looking at the differences between solids, liquids and gases. On the face of it, this seems like both a sensible and 'easy' place to begin. Everything was going tickety boo until 'salt' was mentioned and the fact that the substance can be poured was discussed. However, after a bit of head scratching, we got passed that. Then Mr Khanna dropped the bombshell of shaving foam. Solid, liquid or gas? Hmmm, OK, good point. How about toothpaste? Well, that is easy, it is a ... right, hang on a minute. Mr Khanna has subsequently explained what is what and even given me the posh names for classifying these substances. If any parent would like to earn themselves a bonus work mark for their child's house, I will be accepting answers to the, 'What is shaving foam?' question, on Monday morning. (Just don't ask me to spell it!)

This time, our Stars of the Week are Madison & Daniel in Reception, Henry & Leila in Year 1/2, Rosie & Otis in Year 3/4 and Christopher & Sophia in Year 5/6. That is a great start to the weekend. The House with the most conduct marks was Phoenix, while Griffin had the highest number of work marks.

One very exciting piece of news, is that through the unbelievably hard work of the FWSA, your fantastic support and two massively generous donations (one from the Fisher family), we have twenty, brand new I-pads coming to school for the children to use, any day now. I cannot tell you how grateful we are for this financial support as buying such a quantity of new technology is totally beyond the budget of a small school like ours. These twenty, with the fifteen we already have, means that we have enough for one each in a class, rather than sharing between partners, which is an absolute game changer. Sincerely, 'Thank you' for this, it will make a huge difference.

Have a lovely weekend. Play safely and take care. A particularly joyous weekend is instore for myself. It is Sam's birthday so we have a party for 45 screaming four/five year olds and it is also Mrs T's the following day. Once again, if anyone has some super amazing suggestions for a couple of extra, last minute gifts for my dear, dear wife (when I say 'extra' I mean I don't have any yet and when I say, 'dear, dear wife' I mean quite possibly the angriest woman in the world unless I sort this) then I would really, really like to hear from you on the school gate this afternoon. Please.

Mr Tucker

CHURCH NEWS

Friday 5th October 19:00 to 22:00 - Parish Harvest Barn Dance, Failand Village Hall

Come and celebrate the Harvest!

Tickets include a ploughman's supper

Adults £6

Children £3

Family (2 Adults + Children) £15

Please contact Parish Office for tickets.

Auction of Promises

We are raising for money for the CTINAD youth worker, Neil Wylie, at Nailsea School. We having an Auction of Promises which can be found at

<https://www.wraxallwithfailand.org.uk/991726100444.htm>

There are a number of interesting items including Dinner at the Rectory and BABYSITTING. If you are interested in placing a bid please contact Fran franbinding@gmail.com. The winning bids will be announced at the Harvest Barn Dance.

Sunday 7th October 10:00 - Harvest All Together in Church, All Saints' Church, Wraxall

A service for all ages celebrating Harvest. Donations of non-perishable food will be gratefully received for the Foodbank (please see the list of food on the website

<https://www.wraxallwithfailand.org.uk/991726100444.htm>). All Saints' porch will be open from Wednesday 3rd October for donations, if you are unable to attend the service.