

## Coming up next week:

- **Monday - Year 6 Bikeability in the afternoon**
- **Tuesday - NUT strike (unless NUT call it off) School closed to Years 1,2,3,4,5 & 6. Reception open as normal.**

**Year 6 Induction day at Backwell  
Storytime for new Reception children at 2.30pm**

- **Wednesday - Year 6 induction day at Nailsea**
- **Thursday - Year 2 Olympic festival at Hannah More school**
- **Friday - Sports Day at 1.00pm**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I think with three weeks to go and the weather looking grimmer by the minute, we can officially say we are on the countdown towards the holidays.

Reception are starting to show the signs of battle fatigue and are positively exhausted, although holding it together pretty well. Going down into their classroom in the afternoons, one half expects to find them all snuggled up having a wee nap. As I look out over their play area, I can see Rory, Otis and Ben commando crawling across the floor, getting ready to shoot the girls who are play weddings, with their Sticklebrick, Stormtrooper guns. Ethan is unmasking ghosties as if he is in an episode of Scooby Doo and Sienna is pretending to be a cat. While this is going on Bill, Sam and Zachery are riding their trikes while Isabella lays across the track as if she has been kidnapped by a baddie in an old black and white movie. The others? They are trying to calm Mrs H's fraying nerves. Still, if you can't pretend to be marrying Luke Skywalker in Reception, when can you?

In Year 1/2, the words of the week are 'zen' and 'garden', which is not the usual narrative you expect coming out of Wraxall. Over the course of the last ten days, the children have been studying Japanese Zen Gardens, with a view to following the key principals and constructing their own. They are designed to be an oasis of calm, where nature and serenity intertwine to provide a soothing balm for your soul. Hmmm. To be honest, I do not really class myself as a Zen Garden type of guy and was more than a little sceptical of this health and wellbeing art project. Does it raise literacy and maths standards? No? Well it ain't happenin' then. Shows what I know. Shells have been scattered, mini ponds filled with coloured water and pebbles raked into wave-like patterns. They are gorgeous and look extremely professional. If you are feeling at all stressed at the moment, just pop down to Year 1/2 and they will restore your inner equilibrium. Now *that's* a sentence I never expected to be writing.

Just to continue the arty theme, Year 3/4 have been incorporating drawing into their literacy lessons this week. My thoughts on creativity and the expressive arts are well documented and I have no desire to go over old ground. However, when the dulcet tones of Enya or Enigma waft out of Miss Madge's room you know something is afoot. They have been using

their text, *Varjak Paw* (it is a stunner by the way and well worth a read) as a stimulus, literally drawing character descriptions based on the information gleaned from the text. Work marks were given out for excellent pieces of work which reflected an understanding of the unique nature of the different cats, not for the prettiest pictures. I suppose that qualifies as real work (he says begrudgingly).

It is that time of the year where Year 5/6 start to step away from the timetable and get involved with their end of year production. On this occasion, they have gone for the topical Shakespearean theme. So far they are keeping their cards pretty close to their chests but Mr Fossard assures me things are going swimmingly. Songs are being learnt and he is hopeful that scripts will not be necessary next week (ever the optimist). He has even been so bold as to suggest that this may be the best production yet! No pressure then.

This time our Stars of the Week are Rory in Reception, Joe & Oliver in Year 1/2, Billy & Ollie in Year 3/4 and William & Isabelle in Year 5/6. An excellent effort. It was a rollover week, meaning that the House scores were huge. Griffins had the most conduct marks with a staggering 47 and also had the highest number of work marks with an impressive 258. Well done to Joseph & Lucy who received their silver star badges. I hope you are all very proud.

Our book review comes from Bex in Year 6 *A Medal for Leroy* by Michael Morpurgo. Michael doesn't remember his father, an RAF pilot lost in the war. Michael's Aunty gives him a faded photo and the story of his father begins to unravel. I would give this 9/10 because it is an emotional and adventurous book (just my kind).

Have a lovely weekend. Play safely and take care. Hopefully see you all at the fayre in a few minutes. Just as a final thought: please do not feel obliged to spend lots of money at the fete – just having your company will be enough for us. The fact that your child's report is directly correlated to the amount you spend, should not prey upon your mind in any way, shape or form.

Mr Tucker

### **Polite reminder**

Please ensure that children are walking through the Churchyard on the path on their way to and from school and not on the grass.

The grounds maintenance team have reported that there are several wasps nests in the grass at the moment.

### **Church News**

**Sunday 3rd July 10:00 - All Together In Church (ATIC), All Saints' Wraxall Church**

A service of music, words and prayer for all ages.