

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – Friday 12th October 2018

Coming up next week:

Monday: Year trip to Farmer Nick's

Tuesday: 2.45pm - 3.30pm Fair Trade Cafe for Guide Dogs (volunteers needed)

Wednesday: Year 5 & 6 at Gemini Gym

Friday: MUFTI DAY for a bottle and sweets.

Bring and Share picnic, immediately after school (on the field unless we tell you otherwise on Thursday due to weather) more details to follow next week.

Message from Mr Tucker

Dear Parents/Carers,

Right, Ok. You know how I may occasionally mention that it has been a 'funny little week'? Well, never has that been more the case.

As many of you will know, Thursday and today have largely been taken up with interviewing candidates for the headship of our school. They have really been put through their paces, tackling tasks from leading Collective Worship and being grilled by the School Council, to taking part in a number of formal interviews and sitting several written tasks. It has been an intense couple of days. I have to say that the children have been excellent, taking the process as seriously as the situation demands. I could not be prouder. Although, the school bus breaking down in the morning added a certain 'je ne sais quoi' to proceedings, I can tell you.

Reception have been concentrating on geometry in maths this week, investigating a mixture of 2D and 3D shapes and especially the properties which define them. This has subsequently bled into other areas of the curriculum where they have been drawing around rectangles, triangles and circles in order to create pictures of themselves. Bearing in mind they all had exactly the same shapes, instructions and examples to work from, the variety of pictures they have created has been remarkable. While some are well defined and even display such features as triangular skirts, others have taken a more... postmodernist interpretation, clearly wrestling with the metaphysical question of, 'What does it mean to be human?' Whichever way you cut it though, they have worked their socks off and done a cracking job.

On Tuesday, Year 1/2 had the excitement of taking part in one of our favourite trips: visiting Caldicot Castle. For those who have not been before, it looks exactly like a castle should: fortified entrance, Keep and upsy-downsy, steppy tops to the walls (I cannot, for the life of me, think what they are called). Greeted by Sir Thomas in full armour, they learnt about what life was like in a castle and the training required if a young lad wanted to become a knight. They even got to handle some of the swords and morning stars (although one does have to question the wisdom of arming Year 1/2 - they can make a daffodil into an offensive weapon). After this, they walked the ramparts a castle grounds. As you would expect, the children were exemplary and were described as being a real pleasure to take. Alright, Wilf lowered the portcullis trapping everyone for 5 hours until they could be released by the emergency services of five counties and Emme and Eloise thought it would be funny to handcuff Reuben and Lawson to the shackles into dungeon, but apart from that: perfection. Many thanks to all the adults that accompanied the class on this trip; we could not have managed without you. The only slight downside was when I told Otis's mum that her little darling was on this trip and would need a packed lunch, etc. The colour drained from her face and did not return until we worked out that Otis was no longer in this class. Oops.

As Miss Madge pointed out, Mrs Gritten is also with her class every week, teaching the children that most noble and subtle of sports - rugby. Naturally, with the weather like it has been today, when I came to observe them for the newsletter they were not playing rugby at all. (Of course they weren't. My life is never that simple). What they were participating in, however, was equally interesting. Throughout the course of the afternoon, they have been developing their team building skills and flexibility by attempting such challenges as transferring a hoop around a small group who were stood in a circle with their arms linked. The only way for this to work successfully is to help one another, easing the passage of the hoop by tipping it over your friend with your foot. For something so simple it was extremely powerful at showing the benefit of coming together as a collective to achieve a common goal.

Continuing the trip theme, last Friday, Year 5/6 visited the Mosque in Easton as part of their RE topic: Islam. For the vast majority of them, this was their first experience in a mosque and, although they had studied the religion in lessons, they did not really know what to expect. Interestingly, an important piece of learning occurred even before they set off as they had to ensure that their bodies were appropriately covered. This meant trousers, tights and long sleeved tops had to be worn and headscarves for the ladies. The children noticed a number of differences between our church and the Mosque, from the colour green being far more prominent (this represents paradise and nature) to the faithful being called to prayer over the radio as opposed to being

summoned by bells. The difference which intrigued many of them the most, however, was the way that beautiful stylised writing was used to decorate the mosque and that pictures and statues, unlike in Christian Churches were not present at all. With the lack of diversity in our immediate area and yet with Bristol just on our doorstep, this is an extremely important trip where reality and tolerance can be promoted, allowing our children to grow up with a balanced and informed opinion of others who may have a different faith and culture to their own. We are very grateful to the parents who accompanied us on this trip and especially to the Easton Mosque for opening its doors to us and making the children feel so welcome. Thank you.

Our Stars of the Week are Beau & Max in Reception, Ellie & the rest of the class in Year 1/2, Ben F & Sam in Year 3/4 and Scarlet & Eve in Year 5/6. Really good work everyone. The house with the most conduct marks was jointly Griffins and Dragons, while Phoenix had the highest number of work marks.

Have a lovely evening. Play safely and take care. Just a final thought to leave you with: as you can probably imagine, on Wednesday evening, the night before the interviews, everyone was busy making the school all sparkly, ensuring it looked its best. Mrs H took one look at my now tidy desk (yes, yes, I know) and after making a number of unnecessarily clever comments said, 'How long have you had that desk mat for?' 'Four years, Mrs Hayward, four years. You just haven't been able to see it before.' Not impressed.

Mr Tucker

COMMUNITY NEWS

On Saturday 13th October (yes this weekend) Christopher Rogers is Stomping for Penny Brohn (with his Mum & Dad in the pouring rain too!!).

He's Stomping for charity 6 miles from Bristol to Pill in the pouring rain! Please be generous and support Christopher's desire to help people by donating - even £1 would be great but of course any larger amounts would be gratefully received ;-)

Think of us as we trudge along in the rain and mud supporting Christopher in wanting to be part of a bigger effort to help others. Thank you for helping him by clicking on the link below.

You can help Christopher Rogers raise money for this great cause by donating directly to their fundraising page - <https://www.justgiving.com/ChristopherAndFamily>



[Read Catherine's story](#)

www.justgiving.com

Catherine is raising money to help Penny Brohn UK

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday 28th October 11:00 - Horse Service, St Bartholomew's Failand Church
Everyone welcome with or without a horse. There will be mulled wine and flapjacks by popular demand! All donations will go to the local Horseworld charity

Sunday 28th October 16:30 - Food@4:30, Cross Tree Centre

We will be "Getting Ready for Remembrance", hot food will be served suitable for all diets. Please contact Jules Harris jules.curate@gmail.com if you would like to join us.