

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have broken the back of the term and only have two short weeks to go before the 'Easter' holidays. Last week, Miranda mentioned that the newsletters seem to be growing again and that she actually fell asleep before reaching the end of the last one. With this in mind, 'brevity' will be my watchword and you should only need to set aside a couple of hours to get through this one.

Reception enjoyed the huge treat of having Ethan's dad come in and talk to them about reptiles and he did not come empty handed. Oh no. He was fully loaded with a Hognose snake, a Jackson's chameleon and a turtle. Each animal was discussed in turn, with the children having the opportunity to ask questions and hold them (if they were brave enough) at the end. It is one thing seeing these animals on film, it is quite another to be cupping them in your hand, feeling the texture of their skin and desperately trying not to let it sit on your head. That really does bring learning to life. A huge, 'Thank you' to Rob who did this for us. It really was very kind. In related news, if Reception parents could please frisk their children, Bristol Zoo would be most appreciative. Before Wraxall visited last week, they had 34 meerkats. They now have 3. No one is blaming Mrs H's class but several bags were heard 'mewing' as the children left the botanical gardens.

After the newsletter went to press last Friday, Chris Sperring, a local bird expert came in to talk to Mrs Brierley's and Mrs Yandall's class about owls and actually brought a barn owl, named Porsche, with him. Interestingly, Chris commented on the impressive knowledge of the children and how insightful their questions were. I know Mrs Yandall felt very proud of them. It's hard to tell which elements of the talk the children enjoyed the most: having this majestic creature in their classroom so they could have a clear visual memory of exactly what this hunter in the dark looked like; perhaps it was learning all about the intricacies of how the shape of their heads heightens their hearing, allowing them to be expert hunters... or it could have been when it pooped? I shall leave it to you to decide. In the afternoon, they even had the opportunity to dissect owl pellets and winkle out shrew skulls and mouse femurs. Not my cup of tea but they really loved it

Incidentally, the Owl Man asked what we call animals that are awake during the night and sleep through the day. Fine, we all know this is nocturnal (no, that's not a made up word Beth). He then asked what we call animals who do the opposite: sleep at night and wake during daylight. This had never occurred to me before and I did not have a clue. A conduct mark to the first parent who provides the correct answer (I fear that I am really showing my ignorance with this).

For KS2 it has been all about the sport over the last couple of weeks. We have had a netball tournament, two football matches and on Wednesday, we took a hockey and two netball teams to the local schools championships. It was a cracking morning, which the children really enjoyed. On the archery front, (by the way, what do you call the strip of land that archery takes place on? The oche? A pitch?) it was raining bullseyes, with the children coming 4th out of 17 schools. In the hockey, it was incredibly exciting. Although we lost more than we won, all the games were extremely competitive, with the whole team showing great tenacity. When they scored their first goal, pupils, parents and teachers went absolutely wild. Great fun and, as ever, played in the spirit you would expect from our children. The only person who was told off was me! Apparently, I was being a little 'enthusiastic' in my cheering. You see, this is why Beth does not let me out very often.

Incidentally, I don't suppose anyone heard Radio Bristol on the way home last night did they? If you did, you will have heard a few of our children talking about our daily mile. The government is keen that schools adopt this initiative and we are one of the few in the area which has already started doing it. They all spoke very eloquently. It is just a shame that the head could not follow suit and was a bit of a let-down.

The children are on from about 49.32 into the show. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03kgy9z>

We also had a brilliant assembly run by the R.N.L.I. all about water safety and the vital role the Lifeboats play in keeping us safe. Puppets, dressing up and giant flags all used to help the children remember the important messages of water safety. It would like to tell you more about it but the newsletter may be getting a touch wordy!

This time our stars of the week are Finley in Reception, Sophia & Tilly in Year 1/2, Zoe & Scarlet in Year 3/4 and Isabella & Luke D in Year 5/6. Well done for working so hard. The house with most conduct marks was Dragons, while Phoenix had the most work marks. A brilliant effort from Jake & Ben who were awarded their ruby star badges.

Our book recommendation comes from James in Year 5 and is *Moone Boy* by Chris O'Dowd. It is about a boy who goes to a secondary school where there are lots of bullies. They try and get him to do something he knows is wrong. His imaginary friend keeps telling him not to do it but the bullies are like the bad voice in his head. In the end he does it and gets into trouble with the headmaster.

Have a lovely weekend. Play safely and take care. At the beginning of the 6 Nations =, I promised that if we won, I would give everyone 2 weeks holiday. Well, after their victory against Wales, they cannot be overtaken in the leader board so please do not come into school between 4th and 24th April. As a bonus, if they manage to complete the Grand Slam, I will also let the children have Friday 25th and Monday 28th April off school. Don't say I don't give you anything.

Mr Tucker

Coming up next week:

Tuesday - Year 3 & 4 swimming

Wednesday - Information evening for parents (Bug club, SATs, Maths Ninjas, Learning without limits)

Thursday - Christingle Service at All Saints Church 2.30pm

Good Friday - School Closed

Easter Monday - School Closed

Tuesday 29th March back to school

School Meals April 1st 2016

To comply with new legislation coming in to place from 1st April this year Edwards & Ward are required to adjust some of their pay rates to meet the new Living Wage commitment. The cost of a primary meal to North Somerset Council has risen to £2.10 and therefore from April 1st 2016 we will be charging £2.10 per school meal.

Please may we remind you that if you think you may qualify for Free School Meals then please enquire at the school office. Even if your child is in receipt of Universal Free School Meals (i.e in Reception or Year 1 & 2) we would still encourage you to apply for Free School Meals as it will entitle your child to other amounts of funding during their time at school.

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday 20th March 10:00 - Palm Sunday All Together In Church (ATIC) with Communion, All Saints' Wraxall Church

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of our Easter activities and celebrations. Join us as we remember Jesus' journey into Jerusalem on a donkey with the crowds waving their palm branches and crying 'Hosanna!'.

Thursday 24th March 14:30 to 15:10 - School Easter Christingle, All Saints' Wraxall Church

The children will assemble their Christingles in school and, in our short time together in church, we will consider what each part of the Christingle represents and why it's good to have our Christingle celebration at Easter! The service will end with all the children holding their lit Christingle for a few short moments...

Saturday 26th March 14.30 to 16:00 - Easter Messy Church, Cross Tree Centre

This is the return of our Messy Church to which all schoolchildren plus Mum, Dad, Grandma & Grandad are invited! Amongst our activities, we will be making hot cross buns, messy world art & traditional painted eggs and creating posies to decorate the Easter cross. We will also hear the story of Easter with a drink and a bun.

Sunday 27th March 10:00 - Easter Sunday Family Celebration Communion, All Saints' Wraxall Church

Come and join us celebrate the fact that Jesus is risen, which is at the heart of the Christian faith and we believe makes all the difference in the world! This is a service lasting about an hour of singing, learning and activities for all the family - from the youngest to the oldest!