

School Newsletter – Friday 11th November

Coming up next week:

Tuesday - Year 3 & 4 Raise the Roof (please collect children from Nailsea school at 2.45pm)

Wednesday - Year 3 & 4 Gemini Gym (don't forget your socks)

Date for your diary:

Wednesday 30th November - Grandparent afternoon

Reception & KS1 Cloakrooms

As you may have noticed, our cloakrooms are small and over-crowded! Please will you help us by not sending in backpacks? Children only need to bring in book bags, sandwich boxes/bags and water bottles. Thank you

Parentpay

There are still many outstanding payments for activities/trips/music lessons that have already taken place in the last two terms. Please can you take a moment over the weekend to check your account. Many thanks.

New Bristol Sifonia

For all those who came to last year's concert of Peter and the Wolf, the New Bristol Sinfonia are performing another programme of family favourites on November 19th at 7.30 at the Victoria Rooms.

To include Star Wars and The Planets by Holst.

Children's tickets are only £2.00 - bargain!

You may spot a Wraxall parent in the flute section!

Church News

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

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

Saturday 26th November 10:30 to 14:00 - Christmas Fair, All Saints' Church, Wraxall

All Welcome! Admission Free. Varied stalls & games. Light lunches & tea

Dear Parents/Carers,

After the unforeseen problems with Diwali Day last week, it was great to finish off the activities on Monday. Diya lamps were painted in beautiful acrylic patterns and actually looked like Diya lamps (surprising, I know) and traditional Indian dance was practised. Possibly the best element about the routine they learnt, was that it was rather complicated and fast-paced so it actually looked like a proper routine, rather than children 'having a little go' at it. This was all good stuff. Obviously, I briefly joined in with Year 5/6, passing on the benefit of my considerable dancing prowess, which they were incredibly grateful for. Of course, another interpretation would be that the teacher forced me to join in, I floundered like a duck on its back and the children were significantly better than me. Quelle surprise. It was a great day and we can safely say a good time was had by all.

While Years 1-6 were at the Hindu Temple in Bristol today, (a great trip where the children showed great maturity towards customs of another religion), Reception stayed at school and looked into Remembrance Day. They watched a video from Cbeebies, which uses an animated tale of animals to convey some of the key emotional messages around the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. As you can imagine, this sparked many questions, which needed to be explored. With this in mind, the focus for their welly walk changed to how lucky we are to live where we do and enjoy the freedom that not everyone can rely upon. It was just as school should be.

Year 1/2 have been looking into the Great Fire of London. They have been preparing the way for their writing next week by thoroughly studying the topic over the last five days. You know that something must have gone in when a poorly child, who is sat

outside your room on the red chairs, is having a conversation with Susanne about how Samuel Peepys buried his cheese and port so it was not destroyed by the fire. (Sounds like my kind of guy – don't worry about the children or animals, secure the grog and expensive dairy products). Part of their research was to think of questions they would like to find answers to. Here are a couple of them:

'How did they get the water from the river?' Max

'How did people save their presus (cute) things? Phoebe T

'How many people put out the fire?' Hannah

In an incredibly brave move on Miss Madge's part, she dared to break one of the most sacred taboos of all within teaching circles: she got the clay out! I know, I know, I warned her that no good could come of trying to broaden her charges' horizons (and that any damage to my carpet was going to come out of her wages) but she insisted. Year 3/4 were going for sphinx and to be fair, that is pretty much what they produced. It takes a lot of skill to manipulate the clay so that it resembles the guardian of the pyramids of Giza, especially fashioning the headdress and attaching the fragile head; skill that many of them clearly possess. (By the by, toys such as Playdough are fantastic at developing fine motor skills). Alright, a couple may bear a striking resemblance to a bemused Chihuahua, but on the whole, a pretty good job. Incidentally, if you are feeling a bit down now the nights are drawing in, pop in and have a look at Miss Madge's demonstration ~~and~~ ~~marks~~ sphinx, it will certainly lighten your mood.

The focus for writing this week has been explanation texts in Mr Fossard's class. The trick here is to imagine you are writing a science textbook, explaining how and why things are happening. If you can hold that in your head and use casual connectives, such as 'because', 'this means that', 'as a result of' etc, you are onto a winner. Most schools rely on the old chestnut of describing the water cycle. Fine, but not the most original. In Year 5/6, we prefer to think that explaining how sky diving and water skiing are possible is a bit more like it. Here is an extract of the first attempt from the whole class:

Skiing in water is a fun yet exhausting sport. In this text, I will be talking about the forces involved in this activity.

Firstly, you are in the water balanced on a board and holding onto a piece of rope; this is attached to the boat which pulls you along when you ready to go. At this point, both forces are balanced (applied force and water resistance) despite the fact that they are not doing anything since you are not moving.

Next, the engine of the boat will start and your skis will come up to the surface. Then you will start to move. You start to accelerate from zero miles per hour to a higher speed and at this point you will be zooming along the water just below top speed. During this time, the applied force will be greater than the water resistance thus you are accelerating.

Our Stars of the Week are Reuben in Reception, Joe & Sienna in Year 1/2, Joshua & Oliver in Year 3/4 and Jess C & Felix in Year 5/6. An excellent effort all around. Well done to Dragons for having the most conduct marks and to Dragons for obtaining the highest number of work marks. Congratulations to Thomas, Yasmin, Scarlet, Eva, Evie, Holly and Finley who received their bronze badges.

Our football team took part in the small schools football tournament at Churchill on Thursday and gave a very good account of themselves. In the end they drew two and lost two but gave every team a real run for their money.

Throughout the week, we have been running our first round of Spelling Buzz tests across Years 1-6. Roughly half the children who sat the tests managed to move up a level, some of them even progressing through two or three stages. This is all about personal best (not what their mate is on) and working hard to move up the levels from whatever stage they are on. If they did not manage to quite do it this time, it is not a problem as we will have another round of tests before the Christmas holidays. Keep persevering guys, this really is worth it.

With the start of the Rugby Autumn Internationals this weekend, I am afraid that I will be insisting on everyone watching England Vs South Africa. Reception parents, you are new to all this so I will simply say that if we lose the rugby, I shall be forced to take my displeasure out on the children. It is traditional. Have a lovely weekend. Play safely and take care.

Mr Tucker