

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I mentioned last week, after the excitement of Ofsted, I have been looking forward to a relatively calm few weeks. Imagine my shock when I turned up on Monday morning to find that Miss Madge, aided and abetted by Year 3/4 and Reception, had turned my ENTIRE office into a cave using black sugar paper and decorated with wild wolves, bears ... and what looked like a man-eating badger. They had covered my windows, cupboards and even my desk (please see Exhibit A attached to this newsletter). It looked like the Black Hole of Calcutta in there. Reprisals will be swift and merciless – you should see what I have got planned for her room!

There have been calls in some circles for the pictures attached to last week's newsletter to be enhanced through a caption competition. Excellent idea (especially as I do not feature in any of them). If anyone would like to suggest a sentence or two, please feel free to drop them into the office and I shall pop the best few in the newsletter next week. Just to get the ball rolling, how about for Mr Fossard: 'He wasn't expecting James to use a full stop, let alone in the correct place.'

Reception have blown Mrs Hayward's socks off this week in all sorts of ways. They have been discussing where they would like to go on a magic bed (Ethan wanted to go to London Zoo, not Bristol Zoo), produced beautiful, recurring patterns with shapes and paint, while their balance work in PE has been nothing short of Nadia Comaneci. However, their brightest moment was when they went next door to watch Year 1/2 perform the Enormous Turnip. It clearly lit their fire, with many of the girls writing and performing their own play about scary animals in the jungle. They practiced so hard, were perfectly in time with each other and had some of the best actions I have seen. The running away in terror was a thing of beauty.

For Year 1/2, there is no doubt that the highlight of the week was visiting @Bristol on Wednesday, on what Mrs Yandall describes as, 'One of the best trips I have ever done.' The theme was 'All about me,' which dovetailed with this term's science project. The morning session concentrated on the seven signs of life. Skulls were produced, of which the children had to measure the circumference, longest tooth and the gap between eye socket and nose and then use this information to identify the animals using a Yes/No sorting diagram. In the afternoon the workshop focused on the senses and how we use a combination of them to understand our world. I am reliably informed that without doubt, the highlight was the scientist setting light to sugar and breathing out flames from a funnel! Alright, Josh lost his eyebrows at this point but it was certainly worth it.

There was definitely a spirit of, 'Whatever you can do, we can do better,' coming from Year 3/4 as they had two trips this week. I am not sure what has come over Miss Madge, allowing fun and enjoyment to creep in at the expense of writing and maths. I shall have a word. The first excursion was to Bristol Museum looking at Bronze Age artefacts. The trip was fantastic as they actually got to handle tools and weapons which were from the Palaeolithic period. The idea that a Bronze-Age man or woman held the very things they were examining just amazes me. There was a collective sharp intake of breath when the Neolithic axe head slipped out of Mathew's hands and clattered to the floor. Fortunately, the rare and priceless artefact remained intact but it was a decidedly dicey moment. We thought that we were going to have to auction off Miss Madge in a bid to raise funds for a replacement. £2.50 would have been enough to cover it surely? The second outing was to Tesco, where they learnt about the food that would have been available to them during the Bronze Age. (Although the high point of the trip was stepping into the massive, very non Neolithic freezer).

A very big 'Thank you' to all the helpers who accompanied our children on these trips. We cannot do them without you. Your support and time is very much appreciated.

Year 5/6 have been continuing to concentrate on their writing skills, particularly developing their descriptive language. It is such a pleasure to hear them producing work of real quality and then looking critically at it to see what could be further improved. Here is just one example from the class that I happened to overhear yesterday: 'My heart splintered into a million pieces and drifted off into the wind'. (Jess Year 5) Maybe I should get her to write the newsletter, it would certainly be better than the usual rubbish.

Our Stars of the Week this time are Rosie in Reception, Holly & Alvy in Year 1/2, Duncan & Nelly in Year 3/4 and Jess L & Izzy V in Year 5/6. Well done chaps, a really good effort. In our House Assembly we found out that Griffins had

the most conduct marks and Griffins had the highest number of work marks. Next week we find out which house has accumulated the most conduct marks for the term and therefore gets to wear their own clothes on the last day of term. Huge congratulations to Isabella H, Woody H & Issy V for winning their Silver badges and Aleks, Ollie B & Mathew for winning their gold star badges. I am also delighted to say that Jake, Scarlett and Nelly have received our first ever Platinum Badges! Wear them with pride.

Our book recommendation comes from James Bratley in Year 6 this week and is entitled Horrible Science by Nick Arnold. 'It tells you about your body and what ancient people did with their bodies'. 'I recommend this book to read as it is interesting, good for education and lets you learn a lot'.

It was lovely to see everyone who was able to make the FWSA AGM last night. Through all the hard work and generosity, we have been able to fund many projects last year, from replacing toilets to restocking the library. It is truly appreciated.

The rugby seasons starts in earnest this weekend, with the atmosphere of the school being directly linked the fortunes of Bath in the premiership. If they start off badly and they lose to Exeter on Saturday...well, I'll let you draw your own conclusions on how that might effect next week.

If anyone has waded to end of this lengthy newsletter you deserve a gold star. Have a lovely weekend. Play safely and take care,

Mr Tucker

Coming up next week:

Friday - 'The Enormous Turnip' performance in Year 1 & 32 classroom at 2.15pm

Friday - Whole school Poetry recital arrive from 2.30pm for a 2.40pm start

School clubs:

Please find attached a timetable for the school clubs for next term. Clubs will run for six weeks from W/C 9th November (Breakfast club and after school club will be available from the first day of term). Please make your applications no later than Thursday 5th November as decisions will be made about the financial viability of running lunchtime football clubs and lego etc based on the number of applications made. Applications and payment must be made before children attend so that in the interests of safeguarding the club leaders have an accurate register and know exactly who should or should not be attending. Thank you.

We have entered the free clubs on to parentpay this time, just to keep a record of applications so please feel free to apply for Mrs Grittens clubs on on parentpay as well.

Payment for School meals, clubs etc.: Just a reminder that any negative balances should be checked and cleared on a weekly basis. A large amount of time is spent sending reminders, printing letters and resolving queries and it would be great if you could help me to reduce this work load.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Wraxall school Debt Recovery policy which can be found on the website. This states:

Payments for school lunches should be paid for in advance via ParentPay.com. If payment has not been received by Friday of the current week debt recovery procedures will be initiated.

The school reserves the right to insist on advance funding of meals in the event of non-payment.

Thank you for your continued support. Beth

Parent Teacher Conferences

Bookings can now be made via eSchools for your Parent/Teacher conference appointment. Log in by clicking on the 'Log on' button at the top right hand corner of the website home page and use your eSchool username and password.

If you have forgotten/lost/locked out your username or password then give me a ring, email or pop in and I will reset it for you. Thanks, Beth

Football with Rob

Due to popular demand, Rob Jones is launching a new series of Saturday football sessions to start on Saturday 17th October.

It will run from 09.30 - 10.30 each Saturday.

cost: £3.50 per session.

Venue: Bristol and North Somerset Sports Club, Longwood, Clevedon Rd, Failand, Bristol, Avon BS8 3TL

NB this is on the same side as the BGS football pitches, opposite the Long Ashton Golf course and QEH playing fields... on the LHS of the road if you are driving from Wraxall.

There will be a "meeting party" in the car park to direct you to the right place on arrival!!

Miranda

Church News

Sunday 18th October 10:00 - All Together In Church (ATIC) with Communion, All Saints' Wraxall Church

A service of music, words and prayer for all ages

Saturday 24th October 14:00 - Half-Term Treasure Hunt

Meet in Wraxall Church car park for a 2.5 mile walk on public footpaths in the Tyntesfield Estate to hunt for some of the "Geocaches" hidden there. The terrain is varied and there are stiles to climb over. Prizes for children plus refreshments with "Bring & Share" Cake in the Cross Tree Centre afterwards! Any queries, please contact Ruth: 07814671369