

# COTON C of E (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Newsletter



### Unlocking a Brighter Future

*You got to accentuate the positive  
Eliminate the negative  
And latch on to the affirmative  
Don't mess with mister in between*  
**Johnny Mercer, Lyricist**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy month! We survived the Beast from the East and stayed open!



At school we always try to “accentuate the positive and latch on to the affirmative” and this month has been no different. Despite having to cancel a few after school events because of the snow, and the Choir’s trip to Milton Keynes as a result of illness, I hope you will enjoy reading about the exciting things your children get up to here at Coton, even if they tell you school was “boring” or they have done “nothing”!

#### **Snow day!**

Everyone, including all members of staff, was outside for an extended play. Snowballers were on the top field, with a few rules (no ice, no stones), but if you ventured up to the top field, you expected to get hit. I did and I was!



**World Book Day**



**World Book Day**  
 We overcame the best efforts of that beast from the east, and celebrated World Book Day in style, with children and teachers rising to the challenge. Thanks to all of you for going that extra mile to send your child to school dressed as Mad Hatters, Hermiones, Gangsta Grannies and Snow Queens, to name but a few.

**Science Week**

Science week was a huge success and much of the praise must go to Mrs Cooke for her brilliant efforts to persuade, cajole and coerce many of you scientists in our community to give up your valuable time to come in to school and bring STEM education to life for the children.

The theme of science week was "Marvellous me!" The children were able to get up close and personal with a (I want to say real live...but maybe not!) human skeleton and get a better understanding of the workings of the brain and the digestive system. It seemed to me that the younger the children, the less squeamish they were! I suspect that tells us something about the risk adverse culture children grow up in today.

Our particular thanks to Rudolf Cardinal, James Ibberson, Hannah Clarke, James Ferguson, Jane Webster, Lisa Ibberson, Zoe Petrides, Clare Fox, Sarah Wheeler, Angela Mortier, Laith Alexander, together with Medimmune, Cambridge Science Centre and the The Whipple Museum. A huge thank you to everyone.

Have a look at the website for more photographs and information about the week's events.



### **Music Concert**

Tuesday saw us all gather in the hall for a most marvellous music on a spring afternoon concert; it was quite magical and the talent on display was a joy to behold. Our thanks must go to Kirsty Body, Pam O'Conner, Adam Dopadlik, Jan Pearson and Juliet Brien for preparing the children so well. I also need to thank Derek Scurll for entertaining us with his mirumba and accompanying the children on the piano. And of course to you, for encouraging your children to practice and persevere to achieve the standards they have. Well done everyone!

### **From Our Own Correspondents...**

#### **Dance Share**

On Monday the 5th March the performance hall at CVC was packed with children, all of whom were loud, excited and ready to perform their dance. Sports Leaders from CVC were on hand helping the children to the stage. As the lights dimmed, children started to scream with excitement. When Ms. Shipley made the announcement, everyone fell silent. Caldecote year 1 performed the first dance: The Pirate and The Mermaids. Other dances were performed by Gamlingay, Jeavons Wood, Haslingfield and Barnabas Oley. At last it was the turn of Coton's Topaz Class! They performed an exhilarating and upbeat dance called "On The Beach." Finally, Comberton Village College's year 7 boys treated us to a wild and funky routine!

#### **Owen, Topaz Class**



On Monday the 5th of March 2018, the whole of Topaz Class went to Comberton Village College to take part in Dance Share! There were lots of schools and the hall was very noisy!

Before Topaz Class did their dance, I asked some people how they were feeling. Some said they were feeling happy, some scared, some excited and some all three!

Topaz Class's dance was called On The Beach and we created motifs to represent us rubbing sun cream on our bodies, sun bathing, surfing, diving and jumping in the waves.

Everyone really enjoyed taking part and watching the other schools dance too!

**James, Topaz Class**

### **Great News!**

You may be aware that we have recently been through a process to recruit a new assistant head teacher. I am thrilled to inform you that Sally Willan, currently year 5/6 teacher and member of the senior leadership team at Meldreth Primary School, has been appointed. Sally's tenure with us will start on 1st September, 2018. She will teach in Sapphire Class and lead maths for the whole school.

Sally in her own words...

*I have lived in Cambridge for past the 22 years having studied law at university and taken a job with a large commercial law firm with offices across East Anglia. I am married with three children aged 19, 18 and 16, the youngest of whom has played football for Coton Cosmos since he was 6 years old - I have spent my Saturdays and Sundays (and Tuesday nights) getting to know the village and families.*

*During my time at home looking after my children, I was Vice Chair of Governors at a local school which gave me an insight into the workings of a primary school and prompted me to undertake a PGCE at The Faculty of Education in 2008. Upon completion, I took a job at Meldreth Primary School, where I have been for the last nine years, eight of them as the Year 5/6 teacher.*

*I am very excited at the prospect of taking on the role of Assistant Head teacher at Coton and having the opportunity to work alongside Mrs Coleman and the rest of the dedicated staff. I hope to be able to draw on my leadership experience in a school of a similar size to positively build on the fabulous things going on at Coton.*

I am immensely grateful to Mrs Baker, who stepped up to take on the role of acting assistant head teacher and will continue in that post until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2018. Mrs Baker has been very supportive to me as the new head and is integral to the continued success of the school. I am pleased to confirm that she will join the senior management team and continue to lead PR, RE and Collective Worship.



This week, a team of children headed off after school to Impington Village College to represent Coton Cof E (VC) Primary School in the year 5 / 6 netball tournament.

Daisy, Ellen (kindly stepping in at the last minute for the injured Hannah), Sophie, Jake, Joshua J, Joshua G W and Frankie had earlier been treated to Coton's instrumentalists and chorists (see above) to prepare them spiritually for the event!

Mrs Harvey and I had prepared them physically but their mental preparation was, well...perhaps less evident! But these 7 children did an amazing job, representing our school with passion, pride, technical excellence and big smiles on their faces.

Having scored relatively few goals in their first tournament a couple of weeks before, this team surpassed themselves, netting goals in double figures over the 7 matches in which they took part. Mrs Harvey and I, along with the parents and supporters that came along to watch, all commented on how much progress the children had made over the course of the last few weeks.

There were matches won, lost and drawn. More importantly each and every player showed huge improvements individually. Their teamwork and team spirit was a pleasure to watch. Despite the team's height disadvantage (Coton's netballers are a relatively short bunch), determination, energy and commitment saw them challenge some very strong opposing teams. We witnessed adventurous attacking, dogged defending, merciless mid court play and, every now and then, a little 'toing and froing' for the occasional contested ball!

All in all, a fantastic performance from a group of relatively inexperienced netballers who should be incredibly proud of themselves. We certainly are!

A special thank you to those parents who volunteered to transport children to and from the event; to those of you who endured the changeable weather and to the supporters, parents and siblings, who were able to celebrate the children's achievements and offer encouragement, laughter and much needed refreshment!



### **Easter Service**

Wednesday morning saw the whole school walk to the village church for the Easter Service, led by the Vicar, Rebecca Gilbert. With four parishes to look after, our vicar is a very busy woman and we were honoured that she was able to lead such a beautiful service. The singing was lovely and the children's thoughtful prayers and poetry showed that they understood that Easter is a time for so much more than just chocolate.

### **Safety on line**

Keeping our children safe on line is something for which we all need to take responsibility. Please do make sure that you have appropriate parental controls set on all the devices to which your children have access.

The NSPCC has support and a helpline specific to online safety:

**0808 800 5002**

[www.netaware.org.uk](http://www.netaware.org.uk)

**Snapchat** is increasingly being used by primary school children despite it having a 13+ age restriction rating and therefore not appropriate for primary aged children. A recent **Snapchat** update puts users and their snaps onto a map so friends and other Snapchatters can see where they are and what they are doing. This has raised a lot of concerns amongst child safety experts and the NSPCC advise that young people should set **Snapchat** to '**ghost mode**' which means that no one can see their location. Other sites which children may use are **Music.ly** and **Live.ly** (both are on Net Aware mentioned above) and feature as part of the NSPCC's online safety campaign. These sites are not appropriate for primary school age children; they are live streaming sites with no age verification and insufficient moderation. This can lead to primary school age children being exploited by unscrupulous users of these sites.

### **Attendance**

Please look at the website with the latest information regarding attendance. The Local Authority has updated its attendance policy and fines are now being issued for three days or more of absence. We believe that holidays should be taken in the school holidays; there are 13 weeks (and 5 inset days) which can be used for this purpose. It is highly unlikely that any term time request for holiday will be authorised unless accompanied by highly unusual circumstances. Please be aware that you may well be fined if your child has three or more days of unauthorised absence.

### **And finally...**

In Holy week, we must do all we can to "accentuate the positive" particularly when we are surrounded by so much negativity through various media outlets every day. I wish you all a peaceful and happy Easter holiday and, if your children ask you, as we ask of them, "Why do we call it Good Friday when Jesus died that day?" remind them:

**John 3:16**

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*



Happy Easter

Ishbel Coleman

Head teacher.