

# NEWSLETTER

Term 2 2011  
Newsletter  
Issue 2

## From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and carers,

This term started very well with our Spooky Stories evening outside on the Forest School sight. Key Stage 2 children dressed up in scary costumes, very appropriate for Halloween and hot dogs and toasted marshmallows were merrily munched as stories were told and songs sung. Thank you to the staff who organised the evening and the families who supported us.

### Reading

As you may all be aware there is nationally a big focus on improving reading standards in schools and it will be a feature of school inspections over the next 12 months. Many children in KS 1 are now logging on to the Oxford Owl web site to read the 'e' books and this is a great way to increase reading opportunities and practise reading skills. In school we have purchased additional reading books for both Key Stage 1 and 2 and of course our school libraries have a fantastic range of fiction and non fiction that can be borrowed on a weekly basis. Please continue to encourage your child to continue reading on a daily basis, because as with other skills it will only improve with regular practise.

### Residential to Wales in 2012

We have had a very good response to this offer for Year 4 and some Y6 children. Mrs. Tomalin and Mrs. Nicholson have visited the site and talked with organisers about the facilities and opportunities they will offer our school, which seem very good value for money. Through additional funding from the government we have been able to support some families with costs if they met the criteria. This is an illustration of one of the benefits of registering with the school office if your child may be entitled to Free school meals. If you require more details please speak to Mrs. Kipping in the office.

### Banbury Folk Festival Singing Breakfast

A very big thank you to those parents, pupils, staff and friends of the school who came along one Sunday morning to help cook and serve nearly 100 breakfasts to the campers who had used our school. The money raised this year (around £400) has gone to support the resources needed to set up a new after school club 'War hammers'. The pupils setting up the club have been very busy on 'e' bay buying models and paints at reduced cost.

### New baby

Congratulations to Kate Nester and her husband Danny on the safe arrival of their daughter Florence on 10th November.

*Jane Haggitt*

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## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

In October we welcomed teachers from Germany, Sweden, Poland, the Czech Republic and Denmark to Hanwell Fields on a four day visit to observe the teaching and learning in our school. They found the pupils very polite and helpful and were very interested in our Forest Schools and Enrichment curriculum.

Over the October half term Mrs. Gilani, Ms Jones and Mrs. Fletcher flew out to Kerala in Southern India to meet up with our partner school in Trivandrum. They have brought back resources for our school and many ideas to share with the children. There is a display in school of the highlights of their visit and the children have asked them many questions about the resources.

Our staff brought back a quilt made by the pupils in Trivandrum for us and we in turn sent them a quilt from each key stage that our pupils had made for them.

The next exchange of work will be a children's art competition later this month.

## Healthy School

As you are aware we try very much to be a Healthy School. Our lunches are prepared and cooked by our own kitchen staff and the meals are low in fat, low in sugar and low in salt. Our cook, Mrs. Wendy Craig makes sure the meals are appealing to the children but are also within the recommended nutrition requirements for lunches for young children. We also provide fruit and raw vegetables for the children to eat for snacks at break times. The government funds milk for under fives and fruit and vegetables for under sevens. We as a school buy extra so that all pupils through out the school can these healthy snacks. Contributions to the funding of this comes from the 'Fruit cards' purchased by the key stage 2 pupils from the office (£1 for 10 snacks).

Many of our pupils have packed lunches and most of these also contain good foods such as cheese, salad, cold meats, bread, fruit, yogurts etc and we see the children enjoying these. Recently we noticed children bringing in sweets in their lunch boxes. We would ask you to not put sweets into lunch boxes but to save them for after school.

If you would like ideas on what you can put into lunch boxes to add variety please ask for a copy of our Healthy Packed Lunch Information Booklet at the school office.

## **'Pupil Premium'**

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get vouchers to reduce the cost of school uniform and help with costs of school trips etc.

### **How does it work?**

1. First check if you qualify—it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the list below.
2. Registering is really quick and easy—if you think you qualify, contact Mrs Kipping in the school office who will help you to register.
3. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great but if you don't want your child to have the school meals—as long as you qualify and are registered you are still entitled to the benefits.
4. Registering for Free School Meals is confidential and your peers and child's peers will not know you have applied and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

### **Do you qualify?**

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:-

- \* Income support
- \* Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- \* Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- \* The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- \* Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- \* Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

## **School Choir**

We would like to say a huge **thank you** to all of those children who took place in the 'Children Singing for Children' concert at St. Mary's Church on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011. With great confidence the children took to the stage and performed 'Rockin' All Over the World' and 'Ain't no Mountain', followed by a finale with the other participants to sing a trio of songs including a beautiful version of 'The World in Union' which gave us goosebumps! The concert was organised by the Rotary Club of Banbury to support both the 'End Polio Now' campaign and a number of children's charities in and around Banbury. Finally we would like to thank the parent's of those children in the choir, many of whom came out to support the school at the concert.

Ms Haywood, Mrs Rowett and Miss Hearle

### **The Choir**

Alex Huskisson, Chloe Cleaver, Connor Huckin, Belinda Wilkins, Jasmine Tumilty, Aimee Wilkins, Alisha Bentley, Megan Luke, Claudia Plaice, Alisha Zadziorska-Brown, Freya Alexander, Saskia Morris, Tilly Canning, Georgia Cletheroe, Elise Milner, Lauren Gowing, Hannah Pollock, Alice Buist.

### Chitter Chatter

The next course of Chitter Chatter will be starting on Thursday 5th January at 9.15am. for 6 weeks.

An hour of fun for two, three, four year olds and their parents/carers.

There are story bags to borrow each week and has fun ways to help develop your child's speaking and listening skills in preparation for starting school.

To book a place for you and your child please enrol at the school office. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

All sessions run on a Thursday morning from 9.15—10.15am in the school.

### **Puffin Book Club**

A huge thank you to all of you who have ordered from the Puffin Book Club over the past 2 terms. School has received over £200 worth of books as a result!

### **Email**

We will soon be able to use an email service where letters, newsletters, menus etc can be emailed out to parents. BUT for this to work we need your current email address.

Please write your email address clearly stating your name, your child's name and class. Please place in box provided in reception.

Thank you

### Book Fair Time Machine is coming soon

The book fair will be taking place on:

- Thursday 1st Dec for KS1 in the Beech Room at 3.00pm
- Thursday 1st Dec for Bridges in the Beech Room till 6pm
- Friday 2nd Dec for FS outside Butterflies at 12.00pm
- Friday 2nd Dec for KS2 in the Beech Room at 2.00pm
- Monday 5th Dec for everyone in the Beech Room at 3.00pm

If you can't make any of the dates you will still be able to place an order. Please ask for an order form from reception.

This is a 100% commission book fair, so every pound spent will enable each Key Stage to spend the equivalent on books from their wish list.

### Dates for your diary

#### Term 2

14th—18th November: Parents meetings for Year R—Y6

17th November: Dental Survey for randomly pre-selected pupils.

24th November: INSPIRE Science workshop KS2 1.15—3.15PM

5th December: KS1 and FS Christmas lunch (please book in advance)

6th December : KS2 Christmas lunch (please book in advance)

8th December: KS1 visit to Warwick Arts Centre

9th December: Visiting theatre for Foundation Stage

12th December: Y3 and Y4 Christmas Assembly 2pm

13th December: Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly 2pm

14th December: Glasswing Butterflies and afternoon Nursery Christmas Assembly. 2pm

15th December: Palmfly Butterflies and morning Nursery Christmas Assembly 9am

15th December: Y5 and Y6 Christmas performance/assembly 2pm

16th December: Christmas parties—all classes. Non-uniform day. (School lunches as usual)

16th December: End of Term 2