



October 2024 Newsletter –

Message from the Head Teacher

The weather has taken a turn for the colder and wetter over the past few days, but this is to be expected as we limp our way to the end of the first half term. We are lucky to have been so warm since the start of the new academic year. With this colder snap, please make sure that you send your child to school each day with a coat; not just a fleece but an outer layer that is waterproof.

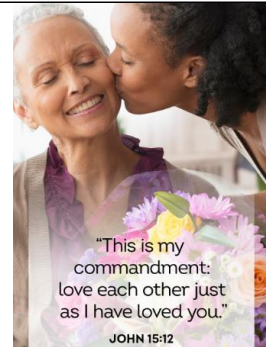


Sorry for the delay but thank you all so very much for the harvest festival food contributions. The children took a huge amount of food to the church for the service, and we also kept some back for our own food bank. At school we are still learning about harvest from a Christian and Jewish perspective. Helping the community is an important part of our school ethos and letting our light shine further out, to others. We have heard the story of Boaz and Ruth helping us to learn about kindness and sharing. Perhaps you can use the clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96sf-tCqNRg> to help you discuss this at home. We try, as a school to help the children to understand the school's Christian values and to allow all the school community to 'Let their light shine.' Sharing the extra in life, and giving to those in need, is a way to do that.

From Mrs Deacon, Headteacher

Exciting news

We are very excited to inform you that Mr Tull is about to become a father to his first child. We wish him and his partner good luck with the birth and hope that all goes smoothly. Year 4 may have a week of different teachers, but the normal routine will be restored after the half term holiday.



Diary Dates

This week (18.10.24) is the first-class assembly that will be shared in the hall at 2.45pm. The Year 1 class will show their parents and the rest of the school, some of their learning tasks. Year 6 will do the same on Friday 25th October.

Other dates:

21.10.24 Year 6 to Duxford
22-24th Oct, Parent Consultations (will be available for booking from Tue 15.10.24)
Fri 25.10.24 Final Day of the half term

Holiday Mon 28-Fri 1st November

Children return to school on Monday 4th November 2024.



End of day waiting

We have noticed that there are several children using the play equipment at the end of the day, while waiting for siblings or when they have been released by their teacher. Please can we remind you that the climbing equipment is **not to be used** at this time. We usually have a member of staff supervising the frame to ensure safe use but not at this time of the day. If there was an injury while using the equipment, it would be classed as a school fault and yet we had not been present at the time. To ensure safety, please keep your child (ren) close to you at the end of school.

Also, for safety reasons, the children are asked NOT to cycle or scooter across the playground at going home time.

Courageous Advocacy

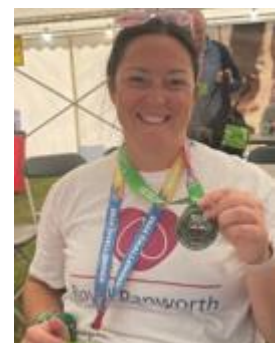
Over the past few collective sessions, we have been looking at being a Courageous Advocate, helping those in need and sharing the award. At our Christian school we welcome staff and children to bring a problem to our attention, share how they are going to help and then let us know when they have actioned their plan. This way the school community are being agents of change and making a difference.

We have seen staff complete several courageous acts. Miss Simmons, Miss Barnes-Weston and Mrs Dray went skydiving a few weekends ago. They wanted to continue to raise funds for the 'Just George' charity and raised over £2000 between them. This money goes towards research into ways to cure and prevent the cancer that George Radcliffe had. I think that you will agree, how very brave they were!

Then, the following weekend, Miss Carter walked 26 miles, to raise money for the Royal Papworth hospital, that had helper her family member.

Charities rely heavily on funding from the general public, so all of these fundraising activities ensure that they can continue.

Well done to the staff team, for being so courageous!





Courageous Advocacy Continued.

Then we had two children tell me about their sponsorship of donkeys from a local sanctuary. They both said that the money they paid was going to help keep both donkeys. They had a pack and details all about their sponsored donkey.



Finally, a class teacher shared the details that a child had discussed in her class. Indi, in Year 2, told the class about 'Operation Christmas Child' and how the Samaritans were asking for shoe boxes filled with gift items and general provisions that will go to children who would otherwise not receive any presents at Christmas. Indi sent me a clip about how to help and we agreed that in school we could have a box in each classroom to fill with items. She will let the children know more in collective worship, but we all wondered if you would be able to contribute to the boxes. We will have one in each classroom to place the items. At the end, we will organise the age and gender for each box, so all we ask is for items. The full list can be found at:



<https://samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox#gift-suggestions>

Gifts are very welcome, as are toiletries, soap, toothbrush, comb, pencils, pens, paper, craft kits, glue sticks, hat, gloves, wind up torch, stickers, socks, flip flops, and a whole lot more.

Help please

On the 7th of November, on the return to school, the children will take part in a spiritual/reflection/prayer day. This is so that we meet our Church of England duty of teaching 5%, increasing to 10% of our teaching of Christianity learning. This enrichment day will be practical and engaging, and one task is to decorate some stones and place them around school. Therefore, we ask is each pupil could bring to school one or two smooth stones that can be written on or have a picture. They need to be around 10cm+, plain and smooth, without rough edges.

