

# Newsletter

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

As we drew together our thoughts on our Value of Responsibility in Collective Worship this week we reflected on two things. Firstly, on Spiderman, who famously said 'with great power comes great responsibility' and the following Bible verse from Micah chapter 6 verse 8.

*'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'*

Together we thought about the responsibilities that we each have. Some of those responsibilities feel quite small, looking after our possessions in school for example, but when we act responsibly, that has a positive impact on our friends, our teachers and our parents. Some responsibilities however are much bigger, and the impact that we can have is far greater.



Week by week in school we recognise children who have shown our Values. Very often in showing our Values these children have taken responsibility in some way; for their learning, for their behaviour or for the choices they have made.

These decisions, the daily responsible choices, are what helps to make our community a safe and happy place; they also help everyone in our community to flourish.

As we thought about our Bible verse, we were each challenged to think about what it might mean for us to act justly and love mercy. It would be a good conversation to have with your children over the half-term break, sharing ideas of how they can do this as individuals but also how you can do this as a family. If your children have any ideas of action that we can take as a community, do encourage them to feed their ideas back to their class teacher, or to their school council representative.

As I have reflected on the past term, I have been struck by how far your children have travelled. Our youngest children who stepped tentatively into their classrooms for the first time just seven weeks ago have been on a school trip, move confidently around the school, have made friends and built relationships with the staff team. Across the school, children have got stuck into their learning, learned new routines and met new expectations. It has been a real joy to see everyone so settled and enjoying all the opportunities that school has to offer them. Well done to them all – we are hugely privileged to work with your children.

As you are aware, we are currently working on our new school website. As parents, and members of our community, we would like to get your feedback on what you do and don't like about our current website, and what you would like to see on our new website. If you have five minutes to [complete our short form](#) and give us some feedback, we would really appreciate that.

Wishing you and your children a safe, restorative and peaceful half-term break. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

## News from Around the School

Earlier this week, seven boys from Year 6 played the first in the season of Witney Partnership football matches; the match was away, against Tower Hill. The boys made a fantastic start, even having to have a player taken off to give the other team a chance, but they ultimately lost the match 7-6.

The boys played brilliantly, supporting and encouraging one another and representing the school well. There are two more first round matches to play before the children find out if they will make it through to the semi-finals.



## School Council

This week, our new school council met for the first time. The council members spent time getting to know one another and thinking about their new role and the kind of tasks they would like to undertake.

One of their first tasks is to go back and talk to their classmates about lunches in the hall and the importance of everyone tidying up after themselves. The councillors recognised that this is part of showing our Value of Responsibility, with everyone needing to take responsibility for their lunch box/water bottle as well as their plates, cups and cutlery.

## Give love in a box this year – fill a shoebox

This year, we are again supporting Teams4u in their endeavour to 'change lives, one box at a time'. Each filled shoe box is given out to children and families in poor communities in Eastern Europe, bringing much needed joy and excitement.

The half-term holiday is a great time to go shopping for items that can go into a shoe box. If you are not able to fill a whole shoe box, your child can bring in something that they would like to go in a shoe box and place it in the box we have ready for this in school. Their item will then be added to other items to fill shoe boxes.

We still have some pre-wrapped boxes in school, but you can also find and wrap your own shoe box if you would prefer.

Information about what you can and cannot put into a shoe box was sent home with your child, but you can find out more by visiting the Teams4u website on [www.teams4u.com](http://www.teams4u.com) or you can watch their promotional video on You Tube @teams4Utube.

Please send the filled boxes, or separate items, into school by 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The boxes will then be taken to High Street Methodist Church, which is our local collection point.

## Thank you to the Friends

We want to say a big thank you to The Friends who organised the Scavenger Hunt that many of you will be enjoying over the half-term break, and also our non-uniform day on Wednesday. It was great to hear the children talking about why their choice of clothes makes them smile. We will share the totals raised in a future newsletter.

This week we have also done the next draw for the '100 club'. The October winner was ticket holder number 18, Sarah Hegerty. Congratulations to Sarah, we hope you enjoy spending your winnings on a half-term treat!

The next school disco is taking place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Children in Reception and Years 1, 2 and 3 will have their disco from 4:30-5:30pm and the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will have their disco from 6-7pm. Entry will be £2.50.

### School photos

The children all looked very smart for their school photos on Thursday. We really enjoyed seeing our sibling groups coming together for their group photos.

At the end of the day yesterday, your child should have brought home with them a card with the details that you need to be able to look at images that were taken and to place your order. (Photos will not be available online for a few days.)

If you have lost the card, or you are a parent who may not have access to the card, please contact the office after the half-term break and we will provide you with the details that you need to place an order. ([office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk))

### Head lice

Sadly head lice are an inescapable part of primary school life. They are however miserable for children who have them and easily treated.

We would be very grateful if over the half-term you could check your child's hair for lice and eggs and if you find them, treat them.

To help us reduce the spread of head lice amongst our children, we would encourage you to make conditioning your child's hair and combing it with a nit comb, part of your regular practice.

Tying back long hair will also help reduce the spread of head lice.

## Admissions and Applications

It has been a real joy to welcome families of children who are hoping to join our school in September 2024 for the school tours that we have been holding. We still have a few spaces on tours left, so if you know anyone who is looking for a place for their child in Reception in September next year, do encourage them to contact the school office to arrange a tour. If you have a child who you would like to join our Reception class, applications for places open on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

This year we are required to consult on our Admissions Policy, this process has to take place every 7 years. You can look at our proposed 2025/26 Admissions Policy on our [school website](#). If you want to make a comment on our draft policy you can find details of how to do this with the policy on our website.

ST MARY'S COGGES

# LIGHT PARTY

Bouncy castle, crafts,  
games and hotdogs

Tuesday

**31st October**

St. Mary's Cogges,  
Church Lane, Witney

**4.30-6pm**

Please sign up at  
[coggesparish.com/events](http://coggesparish.com/events)

ST MARY'S  
**COGGES**  
WITNEY

Loving, learning and flourishing in community