

# Newsletter

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

What wonderful weather it has been today for the 'Wild Walk' organised by The Friends. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and for helping supervise the course, as well as chopping a mountain of fruit! I will leave them to announce their grand total, which is very grand indeed – thank you to all of you for collecting sponsorship money from friends, family and neighbours.

As your children completed laps of the Wild Walk course today they showed great perseverance. What I noted particularly however was that this perseverance was not just an individual thing, a determination to do another lap, to be faster the next time round etc, but it was a corporate thing too. The children were working together, encouraging one another and in places helping one another too.

It was great to once again have The Friends on site, bringing us together as a community to help raise funds for our school, to achieve goals (in this case iPads) that we cannot achieve on our own.



Perseverance, I think, is best done with a crowd! Today, persevering, though hard work in places and definitely hot, was lots of fun.

Perseverance will not always be fun however, even when we are part of a crowd. There are days for each of us when perseverance is just about the keeping going, focusing on the goal and putting one foot in front of the other.

In Collective Worship on Monday the children enjoyed learning more about Stepping Stones, the charity run in Nigeria by a former teacher from The Blake. The story of Stepping Stones has much to celebrate, it is an amazing project that has transformed many lives. Watching the video about the charity, with its message of hope and pictures of happy and smiling children, it is easy to forget the years of perseverance that have gone into making it so. The charity is not done yet, perseverance will be needed for years yet as there will be obstacles to overcome and difficulties to conquer. The video however is a pause in time, a moment to see how far the charity has come and the lives that have been changed as a result of it.

Every now and again such pauses are important for us too, to realise how far on our journey we have come. It is not that we have arrived, but it is that we are not where we once were.

I hope that over this half-term you might enjoy a moment to pause and look at how far you have come on your own journey. I trust that pause will encourage you to persevere in the days and weeks ahead. I hope too that you all enjoy some time and space over the days of half-term to rest and enjoy family time – dare I say, 'in the sunshine....'?!

## News from Around the School

It was wonderful to welcome the family and friends of children in Year 4 into school this week to watch the children perform 'The Lion's Tale.' The children performed brilliantly, speaking clearly and singing with enthusiasm. Well done to them all and to the Year 4 team who had rehearsed them so well.



## The Big Summer Sing

A huge well done to the members of the choir who earlier this week sang alongside six other Oxfordshire schools at the Centre for Music in Barton. The children performed brilliantly and clearly had a wonderful time. It was lovely that all members of the choir, whether they attend the Big Summer Sing or not, were able to perform the songs in Collective Worship this morning.



## Values Awards

As always, it was a great delight to hand out Values Awards as part of Collective Worship on Monday.

Congratulations to all the children who have shown our Values in an exceptional way over the past week, but well done to all those children who week in and week out persevere at living out our Values.



## Sad farewells

It is the time of year when staff looking to further their careers, gain leadership experience, or simply have a change of setting, are securing new posts for September.

Whilst it is sad for us, I am delighted to share that both Mrs Rump and Mrs Usher-Wilson have been successful in securing new posts and will be leaving at the end of this academic year.

Mrs Rump will be moving to be Early Years Lead at Eynsham Primary and Mrs Usher-Wilson will be moving to teach Year 2 at the new Windrush School.

Mrs Powell will also be taking maternity leave from the end of this academic year, but in September we will be welcoming Mrs Lynch back to school following her maternity leave.

We will share news about class teachers for September, later next term.

## Sporting News

It was a sunny and successful afternoon when the Year 6 boys played Ducklington School earlier this week. They boys played brilliantly together as a team and ultimately were victorious, beating Ducklington 2 – 1. The win placed The Blake School a very creditable third overall, at the end of the competition. Well done to all the children who have played in any of the games.



## The Wild Walk

The whole school got involved in The Wild Walk today and everyone should feel rightly proud of the part they played in raising money for the school and in working together to do that. We will share more photos in due course, we hope the ones below will give you a taster of the day.



Loving, learning and flourishing in community