

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This week in Collective Worship we were joined by lots of pirates!

We spent our time together on Monday morning thinking more about Kindness, which is our Value for this month. We started by reminding ourselves of what we had thought about already, embracing interruptions and kindness being an action, before moving on to read the story of 'The Smartest Giant in Town' by Julia Donaldson.

In the story, the giant is fed up with being scruffy and so he buys himself a whole new outfit. 'Now I'm the smartest giant in town' he says to himself proudly. However, it is not long before he starts meeting animals in need, first it is a giraffe lacking a scarf, then a goat in a boat who needs a sail, a mouse in need of a house, a fox without a bed and a dog who is struggling to cross a bog. To each of the animals in need the giant readily gives an item of his clothing, until he is left with just his old scruffy gown and sandals. The giant was no longer the smartest giant in town.

The book ends with the animals the giant has helped presenting him with a crown and a letter that says 'here is a very fine crown to go with the sandals and gown of the KINDEST giant in town.'

The story was familiar to most of our children. If it is a story you don't know, please do visit the library in Witney town centre and borrow a copy, it's a lovely read.

The familiarity of the story helped us to focus on the key messages. The giant was initially only interested in himself and his appearance, he wanted to look smart and he felt proud when he was. However, it did not take long for the giant to realise that the animals were facing a challenge that he could do something about. Meeting the needs of the animals cost the giant something, he no longer looked smart, he could not boast about his appearance anymore.

Together we reflected that being kind to others can be a costly thing. It can cost us something that is important to us, as being smart was important to the giant. The giant gave up being the smartest giant in town, but was recognised instead for something far greater, for being the kindest giant in town.

With the children I wondered what might being kind to others cost us and when we are faced with the choice, will we choose what is important to us, or will we choose to be kind?

Values Awards

Well done to all the children who this week received a Values Award from Mr Edwards-Grundy in Collective Worship. This week, awards were given for kindness and teamwork, for showing courage in learning and for perseverance in reading, for being patient and kind and for being an amazing 'all-rounder'.

Well done to the children and adults who continue to try and live by our Values.



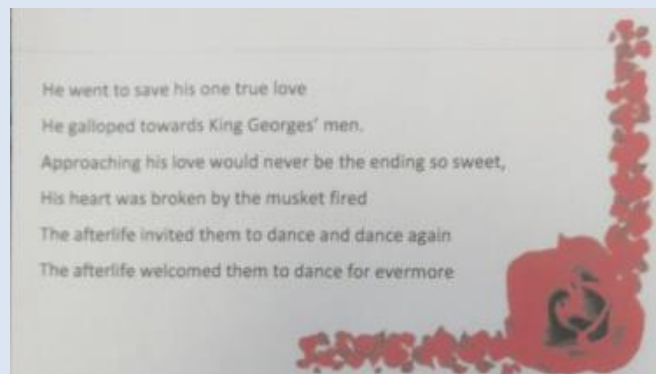
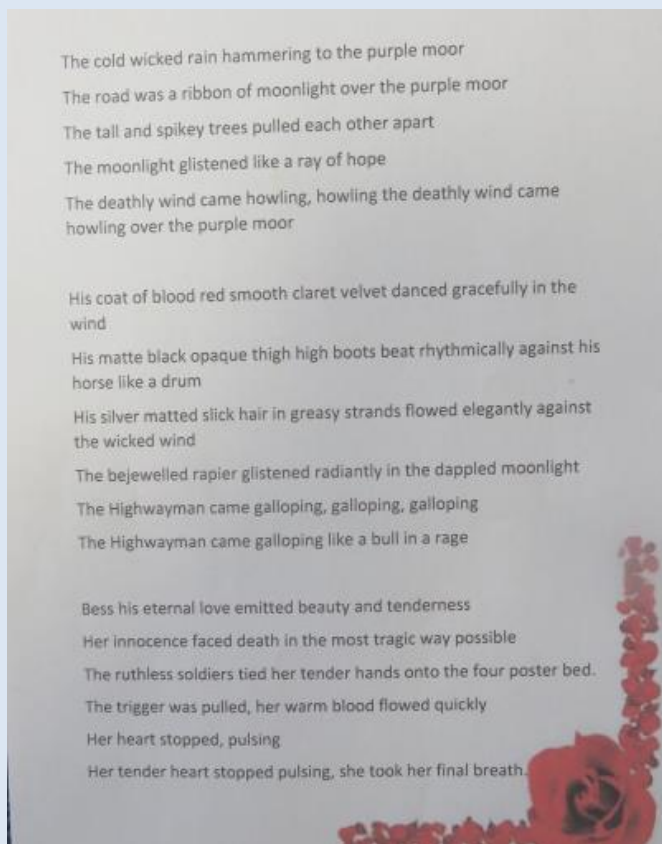
News from Around the School

To celebrate the end of their topic on pirates, our children in Year 1 this week spent a whole day being pirates! It was a day full of buried treasure, treasure maps and the shivering of timbers! The highlight of the day was a visit from Pirate Pete – there was something familiar about him...



More News from Around the School

The children in Year 6 have been working very hard on their writing. This piece of writing by James and Grayson, using the Highwayman as inspiration, was so impressive that Mrs Henderson thought it deserved a wider audience.



ODST is this year involving all of its schools in a writing project. Across the school, the children are benefitting from additional resource and staff are spending time with other Trust schools being inspired by professionals who have a passion for developing children's writing. After half-term, teachers will be meeting with teachers from the wider hub of ODST schools to make sure that writing is being moderated consistently.

Congratulations to our footballers

It was a cold and muddy football match that our Year 6 boys this week played away against Ducklington Primary School.

During the first half, the teams proved to be very evenly matched and it looked likely to be a draw, but the team from The Blake dug deep and in an exciting conclusion to the match finally pulled ahead to win 3-2. Well done!



Housekeeping

Please don't forget to order school lunches for the week after half-term. There is a new menu, so do ask your children what they would like to eat!

Please use half-term to make sure that all school uniform is clearly labelled. Please also label snack pots and water bottles.

If your child has got into the habit of bringing special things into school, please take the opportunity to have a conversation about keeping home things at home, where they are safe.

And finally, please do review your parental controls on your children's phones and devices to make sure they are protected when online.

**Loving, learning and
flourishing in community**