# Newsletter

### News from Mrs Patchett

It was wonderful to welcome all the children back to school on Tuesday morning. It has been a busy first week of term, with children settling back into familiar school routines and enjoying the sunshine.

In Collective Worship this week we reflected on the Easter story. Together we read 'The Easter Story' by Brian Wildsmith, which travels through the events of the Easter weekend as told by the donkey. It was a reminder to all of us of this story that is central to the Christian faith.

The Easter story is God's demonstration of love to his world. Jesus sacrificed himself so that we can live in relationship with God – he went through it all because of the love that he has for each of us. At The Blake School we endeavour to mirror the love that God has for us in the way that we treat one another – it is a tall order!

Even though it is nearly the end of the month, we thought for the first time about Courage, our Value for April. The children could all identify occasions when they have needed courage, for some of them it was a very fresh memory as it was coming back to school after the Easter break.

It was wonderful to hear the children talking about the link between courage and encouragement. The children could identify how the encouragement of a friend, an adult in school, or their parents had made all the difference to them when they have felt disheartened or afraid. It was a reminder to all of us of the impact that our words and actions can have on one another – a few words of genuine encouragement may take only a moment for us to say, but can really make the difference to someone who is facing a challenge.

#### Attendance

Our visit this week from our ODST School Improvement Advisor focussed on attendance. Our Advisor spoke to some children about how they can help their parents in the morning so that they get to school on time and why being in school is important. Over the remaining weeks of term we will be looking at different ways to encourage children to be in school and ready to learn for 8:50am each day. We will also be sending out letters to families where it would be wonderful to see improvements in attendance.



We know that getting to school in the morning can be a fraught business, but the learning that takes place in the first 10 minutes of the school day is crucial to helping your child practice the key skills they need to support all their other learning.

If your child arrives at the office 5 minutes late every day, over a week they will have lost half an hour of key learning. Ask your children how they can help you to get them to school on time.

#### News from Around the School

Children in Years 1, 3 and 5 are all learning about flowers, the different parts of a flower, their life cycles and they have been enjoying how beautiful they look! During sharing time in Collective Worship this morning, it was exciting to share the different stages in learning that are taking place across the school. The dissection work that the children in Year 5 have undertaken is particularly impressive, it took real care and attention to detail.











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## Loving, learning and flourishing in Community