

Newsletter

News from Mrs Patchett

In Collective Worship on Monday, we launched our September Value of the month; Unity and Co-operation. We talked about what it means to co-operate as well as the potential barriers we face to being able to work together. The children reflected well on their own experiences and times when it has been challenging to work together. Even in the first days of term there were examples of when things hadn't gone quite according to plan! Already classes are using the resources that came with our outdoor classroom, which help children learn how to work together and get the best out of each other – it is great to see them enjoying finding new skills in themselves and in one another.


In Collective Worship we also shared the story 'Pumpkin Soup' by Helen Cooper. In this story, the Cat, the Squirrel and the Duck are three friends, who make delicious soup together. They always do it the same way, every day, until one day the Duck decides he wants to have a go at the stirring! The friends fall out and the soup just isn't tasty. They soon realise they need to all work together and they can adapt and change things to give everyone a turn.

The message of the story may have been a simple one, but it struck a chord with us all. As we left Collective Worship we were all thinking about how we can work more effectively with our friends and classmates to achieve common goals and to ensure that our community remains a safe and happy place.

News from Around the School

This week the children in Year 5 have been learning all about our Solar System – they have been making a model of the Solar System using fruit and toilet roll!

Our Model of the Solar System - Using Fruit and Toilet Roll!



We made a model of the solar system using toilet roll and fruits to try to show the scale of the solar system - the size of the planets and how far away from the Sun they are.

The unrolled toilet roll represented the distance from the sun - to be placed at one end - to the outermost planet.

We divided the total distance between the Sun and Neptune by the number of sheets in our toilet roll. (There were 170 sheets in the roll!)

The average distance from the Sun to Neptune is 4500 million km.

1 sheet = 26.47058.... so let's round it and say 26 million km

We then had to divide each planet's average distance to the Sun by 26 million km.

Planet	Average Distance from the Sun (million km)	Corresponding number of sheets of toilet roll	Fruit Representing each planet
Mercury	58	2	Pepper Corn
Venus	110	4	cherry tomato
Earth	150	6	raspberry
Mars	230	9	blueberry
Jupiter	780	30	Watermelon
Saturn	1430	55	grape fruit
Uranus	2900	112	apple
Neptune	4500	173	Lime



More News from Around the School

As part of their topic work, our Year 5 children also spent some time this week exploring a labyrinth. It was great fun, but required a lot of co-operation.



Learning is hungry work!

We would like to remind all parents about the importance of making sure that your child has a water bottle and a snack with them in school every day.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have a free piece of fruit provided by the government for one of their snacks and so only need one other snack each day.

No snacks are provided for children in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6, so please make sure that your child has something to keep them going through the morning. The Year 3 team has made a special request that their children bring in two snacks as they are finding they get very hungry in the afternoon too!

Snacks should be healthy, no crisps or chocolate please. Please also remember that we are a nut free school, no nuts or nut based products (including Nutella).

Lost!

We are just 8 days in to term and this is the pile of un-named lost property that has already accumulated.



PLEASE name items belonging to your children – we cannot return things that have no name...

Dates for your diary

Feedback that we received from the parent survey at the end of last year was that you would really like diary dates as far in advance as possible. This is something that we are working hard to get better at. It will not always be possible, but we are working on it!

Monday 16th September – Forest and Farm School starts for all children in Year 2.

Monday 23rd/Tuesday 24th September – Bikeability Level 2 for children in Year 6. Learn to Ride for children in Years 2 – 6.

Tuesday 24th September – Greek Day for children in Year 5 (Please make payment on ParentPay)

Monday 30th Sept/Tuesday 1st October - Bikeability Level 2 for children in Year 6. Learn to Ride for children in Years 2 – 6.

Wednesday 2nd October – flu vaccines for the whole school. Please complete the online form, whether or not you want your child to have the vaccine.

Friday 4th October – Harvest! We will be accepting gifts of both fresh and dried produce.

Monday 7th – Friday 11th October – Quinta. Year 6 children off site all week.

Tuesday 8th October – 4LF to the Harvest experience at the Methodist Church.

Thursday 10th October – wear yellow for World Mental Health Day.

Thursday 17th October – individual and family photographs.

Wednesday 16th October – Parents' evening for 3ZLJP.

Thursday 17th October – Parents' evening 1.

Tuesday 22nd October – Parents' evening 2 (All classes).

Friday 25th October – INSET DAY

Monday 27th October to Friday 1st November – Half term week

Monday 4th November – INSET day

Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th November – RE and Art week

Thursday 7th November – Year 3 trip to Roald Dahl Museum. More details to follow soon.

Friday 8th November – non-uniform day to raise money for The Friends.

Friday 15th November – School disco. More details to follow.

Friday 29th November – Wreath making event organised by The Friends.

Thursday 5th December – whole school pantomime.

Friday 20th December – End of Term

School Attendance

Thank you to everyone who calls in and leaves a message or emails to say that your child is unwell. It saves the admin team a huge amount of time if they do not have to ring people individually to ask why their child is not in school. It is really important that children do not come to school when they have a temperature or are really poorly, but we are very happy to see how children with sniffles and a few aches and pains get on once they are in school – we will always ring if we think your child is not well enough to stay in school.

The government has this year made previous attendance guidance statutory. We do ask that you only book holidays during the school holidays and don't plan family trips or events during term time. Days off for holidays and family trips cannot be authorised.

Please also ensure that your child is in school for the start of the school day. The first 10 minutes of the school day are used for morning Maths/English activities that will build your child's confidence and grasp of the foundation blocks of their learning.

Loving, learning and flourishing in community

Life Skills



WHAT WE COVER:
BUDGETING

MONEY SAVING
TIPS

COMMUNICATION

HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS

COOKING ON A
BUDGET AND
MORE!

Tuesdays 9:30–11:30
Taster session 17th
September
At Witney Methodist
Church
Free
brunch/refreshments

FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK A PLACE
PLEASE EMAIL
[KATIEGAMBLE@CAPLIFESKILLS.ORG](mailto:katiegamble@caplifekills.org)