

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

It has been a great joy to accompany the Year 6 children on their residential this week. When we had to cancel our usual autumn trip, we could only hope that a summer trip would be possible. I am very grateful to Miss Main for her tenacity in continuing to pursue all possibilities with Adventure +. As the photos show, the children had a great time!

Whilst Year 6 were enjoying their time away, it has been a more challenging time in school with five members of staff having to isolate as a result of notifications from the Track and Trace App and another one owing to a family member being symptomatic. Thank you to everyone for their understanding this week as we have had to move staff around and especially to all those who have had to keep children at home.

Most of the isolating staff will be back prior to the end of term, though some we will not see until September.

I filmed Collective Worship from Clanfield, sharing with the children the beauty of God's creation. I also encouraged them to reflect on some more of the wonderful images from Ian Mackesy's book.

As we continue to think about thoughtfulness, there have been many examples in school this week. Your children have been thoughtful as they have helped the adults in their team prepare for the end of term and been kind to one another in the business and heat. Staff have been thoughtful as they have seen where the gaps are because of isolating staff and simply covered for one another.

Thoughtfulness does not have to be a big thing, it is often the little things, done repeatedly and quietly that make the real difference. The individual who consistently does the little extras, who offers a helping hand, makes a coffee or speaks a word of encouragement is the individual who is changing the world, for one person at a time.

As we head into the last week of term, when everyone is tired and temperatures remain high, I will be doing my best to remember to be thoughtful of others and to remember that I do not always know the challenges that others face. Please join me in changing the world, for one person at a time.

Year 6 on residential

We are delighted that our Year 6 children finally made it away on residential this week.

The Year 6 staff team, plus Mr Morris and Miss Knipe have spent three days at the Adventure + base at Clanfield doing canoeing, archery, slacklining, climbing, cycling and having fun together.

We particularly enjoyed the photos of the children who were in Miss Main's canoeing group – it looked like great fun.



End of term

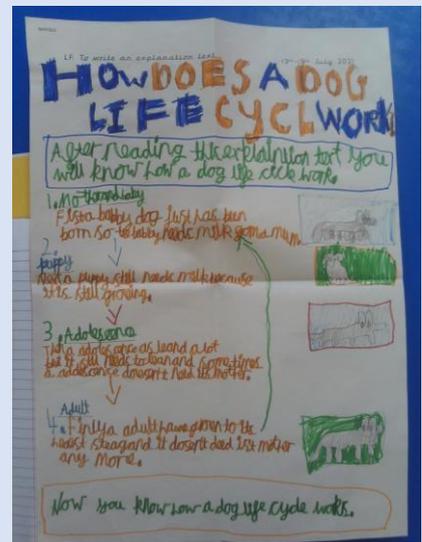
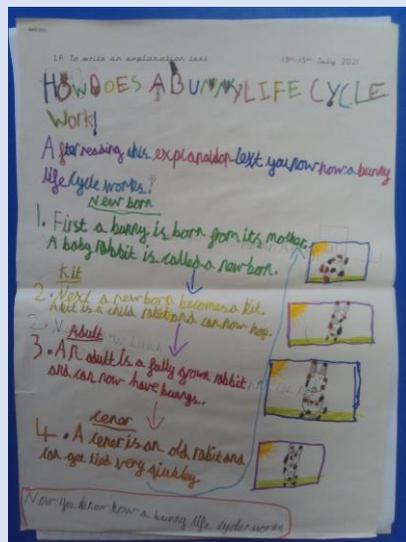
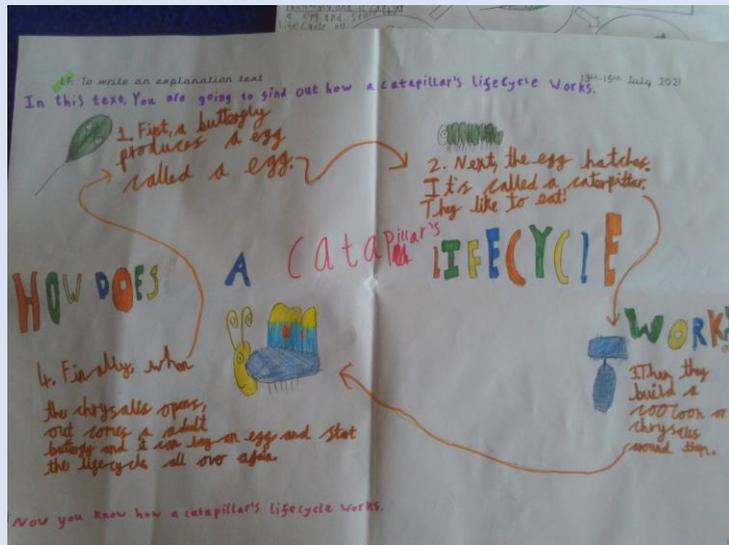
The academic year ends at 1.30pm on Wednesday 21st July 2021.

As it is the last day, rather than having an extended pick up time, we will have a ten minute slot, from 1:30 – 1:40pm. Please pick your children up within that ten minute window.

There will be breakfast club on the last day of term, but no after school provision.

News from around the school

This week, Year 2 have been look at 'Until I Met Dudley', which shows how important it is being able to explain a process, otherwise you can give the wrong ideas to the reader. They spent time being illustrators and worked with partners trying to explain and also researching their chosen animal to find out about its lifecycle. The children then produced their own explanation texts, trying to use all of the features which they think are important in an explanation text.



News from The Friends

It has been a busy week for The Friends! We would particularly like to express our thanks to everyone who has worked quietly behind the scenes to organise the raffle. We are delighted to share that the grand total raised from the raffle will be in excess of £1000! Many thanks to all of you who sold and bought tickets – the monies raised will make a huge difference to the school. All winners have been notified – congratulations!

The Friends would like to thank all those companies and individuals who contributed raffle prizes – Go Racing Development, Blenheim Palace, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Cogges Farm, Eynsham Cellars, Nemo's gymnastics, Golf at the Coffee Shed, OSTMA Karate, The Shake Shop, Zumba/STRONG fitness with Katie Amiri, Wychwood Brewery, Karolina's Treatment Room, The Pottery Place, Elizabeth Knowles, Delice café, 5 children and a book, Jason's Flowers, Laser gifts from ZH, Thompson Heating and Plumbing, Joanna Partlett and Lea's cakes and bakes.

Knobs, knockers, switches, screws, pipes and tubes

Over the summer, the staff in our early years team are looking to create a 'sensory wall' as part of the provision in the outside area.

Young children really benefit from opportunities to develop their fine motor skills as well as enjoying a whole raft of different sensory stimuli.

Please contact the school office, or a member of the Early Years team if -

- you are a plumber, and you have access to pieces of tubing, or pipe.
- you are a builder and have access to bricks, plasterboard, or any other building materials.
- you are a carpenter, and you have access to different textures of wood, shavings or sawdust.
- you work anywhere that gives you access to switches, pulleys, or knobs.
- you have at home, or can get hold of, anything that our children would enjoy twisting, flicking, pressing, turning or pulling.
- you have at home, or have access to, any natural materials that our children would enjoy feeling.
- you have access to small items that will ring, ting, ding, dong, or make any other sound.

It would be great to hear from you before the end of term so that the team can start to plan their wall, even if you cannot get the materials to them until after the summer break. All donations will need to be clean and suitable for little fingers.

Thank-you!

Covid-19

Just a reminder that although the national restrictions in relation to Covid-19 are lifting on Monday, following strong advice from both OCC and ODST, as a school we will be keeping all our processes in place until the end of term.

We will be keeping in touch with national developments over the summer months and will write to parents at the end of the holidays to let you know arrangements for the start of the autumn term.

Learn an instrument

At The Blake School we are keen for children to have opportunities for children to flourish whatever their interest, skill or talent. We are always delighted on the days when our peripatetic music teachers are in school as then the school is filled with music.

Mrs Hayes and the music teachers are busy filming children so that we can all enjoy an end of term music concert put on by our children, from the comfort of our own classrooms.

If your child is interested in starting music lessons next year, please do look at the information that is being sent out with this newsletter. Some of the lessons are only viable if we have enough children express an interest, so please do think about whether your child might like to learn an instrument.

There's an instrument out there for everyone, we would love to see your child perform in our end of year concert next year.

Return library books

Please can we ask you to check your shelves, cupboards and piles of books for any of our school books, especially library books.

Please return them to your child's class teacher as soon as you can so that we can ensure that our library is ready for use in September.

We are very grateful to Nick Reynolds who has been working very hard behind the scenes cataloguing new books and generally tidying up our library.

If, when you are looking for our library books, you come across any other quality books that you no longer need and you think would be a good addition to our library, please do bring them into school.

Thank you!