

# Newsletter

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

It has been a joy to welcome your children back into school after the Christmas break.

This week in Collective Worship we began to explore our new Value for this month, Hope. At this time, our new Value feels especially relevant. The weekly news broadcasts, the economic situation, the injustice we see in the news and in our own community potentially combine and rob us all of hope.

During Collective Worship we thought about some of the things in which we may place our hope. Together we thought about both the positive that hope can be, but also the danger of hoping in the wrong things.

As adults, we are all too aware that if we put our hope in sensible government decisions, or Putin having a change of heart, or our team winning the Premiership... our hopes may well be dashed and we will be left disappointed and frustrated.

Your children too know the dangers of placing their hope in people or things that will let them down. However, they are also able to share the Values that we seek to live by as being a source of hope that will not let them down and that will gradually bring about more of heaven on the earth.

It was great fun to listen to children from Year 6 reading the story of the Wise and Foolish Builder from the Bible. One man builds his house on the sand and one on the rock. Both houses look great, until the storm comes... Under the pressures of the wind and rain, the house built on the sand falls victim to its poor foundations and collapses to the ground, whereas the house built on solid rock, cannot be shaken, whatever storms come. The children hugely enjoyed the game of Jenga, won expertly by Anais, which we used to illustrate the importance of solid foundations!

The Bible story (and playing Jenga) reminded us all, at the start of this New Year, of the importance of the foundations that we have in our lives and of the things in which we place our Hope. For Christians, their Hope is placed in Jesus Christ and the Values that he lived by and shared. Whatever your faith however, these Values provide a secure foundation on which to build your life, which will ensure that whatever challenges you face you are equipped to face them. As we each build on these Values we have the skills that we need for our own lives, but also to look after one another well.

In my weekly email to staff today I included a quote from C.S. Lewis –

‘Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you will get neither.’

As we together journey through 2023, it is my prayer that each of us will have the courage to aim for heaven. For your children this may be in their learning, their relationships, or in the challenges that they face. For us as adults it may include a myriad of different things, there is no doubt that the year ahead will include plenty of challenges. To aim at heaven, we have to have Hope. Do join us as a school community in placing your Hope in Values that cannot be shaken and that will see us through whatever challenges the year ahead will bring.

## Being Healthy and Staying Healthy

As you may be aware from the news, there remain concerns about the levels of flu and Strep A infections that are circulating in the community.

We have been asked to share the following advice with our community.

It is important to try and minimise the spread of infection in schools as much as possible. If your child is unwell with a fever, they should stay home from school until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

In school we are continuing to teach children the importance of good hand hygiene. Please do help us with this by teaching your child at home how to wash their hands well with soap and warm water.

It would also help reduce the spread of illness if children learn to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue. If your child has a sniffle, please do make sure your child has a tissue in their pocket. Learning to blow their nose is a tricky skill to master, please do practise at home!

If your child did not have their flu vaccination in school, please do contact the school health nurse to arrange for them to have the vaccination in a catch up clinic. Vaccination not only protects your child, but also reduces the spread of the virus in the wider community. You can contact the school health nurse on 01865 901295 or via email [witney.schoolnurses@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:witney.schoolnurses@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

## School Meals

We are delighted that the roll over to our new school meals ordering system has gone so smoothly. Thank-you for working with us to help the changeover.

We are aware that a small number of you have had an unexpected payment reminder that does not reflect any apparent outstanding payment. This is something that has been auto-generated. We are looking into why this may have happened and hope to resolve the problem next week, thank you for bearing with us.

We know that a small number of you have still not managed to access ParentPay. If you have made us aware of your difficulty we will ensure that this is dealt with at the start of next week. If you have not made us aware that you are experiencing challenges with the site, please do email or drop into the office and we can talk you through log in and ordering.

You are now able to order lunches right through to half-term, as long as you pay for any meals that you have ordered (assuming you pay for your child's meals). If however you prefer to order week by week, please note that the deadline for ordering is midnight on the Thursday of the preceding week. If you do not order before midnight on the Thursday, your child will need to bring a packed lunch each day of the following week.

You are able to log in to ParentPay at any time in order to check whether or not you have ordered a meal for your child on a given day.

*Loving, learning and flourishing in community*