

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

The first term of the new school year is always an especially busy one, as children settle into their new classes and new routines are established. I would like to say a big well done to all your children for having such a successful first term. It has been a joy, throughout the term, to see your children engaging in their learning, taking on new challenges and enjoying all that school has to offer them.

This week in Collective Worship, as we continued to reflect on our Value of Honesty, we thought about the story of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector; in Jesus' day they were the lowest of the low, they often cheated their community and left people financially impoverished. On the day that Jesus passed by however Zacchaeus recognised something in himself, meeting Jesus allowed him to be honest with himself, to see how his behaviour needed to change. Having been honest with himself, Zacchaeus went on to be honest with those around him, recognising where he had done wrong, which in turn led him to make significant changes to his actions and lifestyle. Zacchaeus' honesty led to a better and more just life for him, and for his community.

For us, as for Zacchaeus, being honest can however be costly. Zacchaeus ended up giving away not just everything that he had earned dishonestly, but four times more than that! Being honest with ourselves, and then with others, may not have such a financial impact for us as it did for Zacchaeus, but it may need difficult conversations and the admission that we have been wrong.

I believe however, that as for Zacchaeus, despite the challenges and the cost, being honest with ourselves and with others is liberating. Zacchaeus found the courage to be honest as a result of meeting with Jesus. In Jesus he found someone who loved him, despite all that he had been. For me as a Christian, knowing that Jesus loves me, also gives me the courage I need to be honest about my myself and my mistakes and to put them right.

I hope you have a restful and restorative half-term break.

Values Awards

As the children from Year 6 returned from Quinta, it was no surprise that the whole Year Group was awarded a Values Award for the way in which they had shown our Values whilst away on residential. Well done to each and every one of them – they had a hugely successful time away.

Congratulations to all our other Values Awards winners this week – you have lived our Values well, showing patience and perseverance, as well as being honest with one another.



Christmas cards

Please look out for your child's personalised order form. You can choose to order packs of cards, gift tags, mugs, wrapping paper, tea towels and eco bags with your child's design. For every item sold, a proportion of the money goes to fundraising for our school.

This year, all ordering is done online. There are full instructions on the order forms. If for any reason, you have not received your child's order form, you will receive it after half term. The deadline for ordering will be **Thursday 3rd November** (this is a different date to what is on the form – we have been given an extension due to the delay in forms being delivered).

Please hold on to your order form (with your child's number) until you have received your items as we do not have a record of everyone's assigned code now that ordering is done directly online.

Many thanks for your continued support.

News from Around the School

This week, our children in Year 3 enjoyed a 'Roald Dahl day'. Children and adults spent the day enjoying all things Roald Dahl. The day was a lot of fun, and everyone really looked the part.



Characters from lots of the books by Roald Dahl were represented by the children – can you work out how many books the children have taken their inspiration from?!

Well done to everyone for your work on your costumes, you all looked great! It certainly added interest to our playground and lunch hall with crocodiles in our midst!

More News from Around the School

It was a gorgeous autumnal day and the children in Year 2, having studied Andy Goldsworthy in Year 1, were inspired to create some leaf art. If you are visiting school, do look out for the artwork they created when they were in Year 1, which we have displayed in some of our shared spaces.



John Hugo's grandad has been an architect in Witney for many years. Many of us may live in houses that he has planned/created. As part of the Year 2 history topic of houses and homes and their science work on materials, John came in to share with the children his knowledge of houses. He brought in lots of plans that the children could explore; the children have been inspired by those plans to design their own houses.



Well done Year 2, you have had a very busy start to your school year. We also love your self-portraits displayed outside your classroom – you have taken great care over your work and the results are great!

Our new School Councillors

We were delighted this week to be introduced to our new team of School Councillors. Mrs Patchett is looking forward to working with them over the coming year.



Our new Eco Councillors also met for the first time this week, we look forward to introducing them to you soon.

Lost property

Our lost property boxes are bulging. Most of the items are unnamed, which means that we cannot return them to their owners.

Over the half-term break, please do take a moment to name all items of your child's uniform, including shoes, hats and coats. Thank-you.

Parents' evenings

Don't forget to book your appointment to see your child's class teacher. Most staff are holding their parents' evenings on Tuesday 1st and Thursday 3rd November. If your child is taught by Mrs Castree or Mr Hope arrangements are slightly different.

All appointments on Tuesday 1st will be face to face in school. If you would prefer an online appointment, please book a slot on the Thursday (Wednesday for Mr Hope) and then email the office to let us know that you want to meet online – a link for the online meeting will be sent out during the first week of term.

Around Blake Care

If you are picking your child up from one of our after-school clubs, you will often see our children who attend ABC playing outside.

To improve our safeguarding processes and to better ensure children's safety, children attending ABC will in future be wearing Hi-Viz vests.



Our ABC staff will also have new Hi-Viz jackets to make them easier for the children to spot on a busy playground.

If your child attends ABC, please make sure to hand the vest back to a member of staff when you pick up your child, so that they can complete the handover process.

Loving, learning and flourishing in community