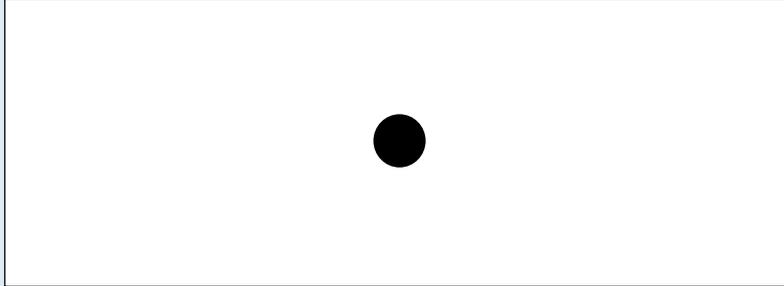


Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

In Collective Worship this week, we continued to think about our Value for this month, Hope.

I showed everyone the image below and asked them what they could see –



Unsurprisingly, everyone agreed on the same answer, they could see a black dot. And they were of course right, there was a black dot, that is what we could all see. And yet the point is that, given the size of the image, there is much more white paper than there is black spot.

In life, it is too often our tendency to look at the black spots, the challenges, the pain and the things that go wrong. Given the difficulties we each face, and with our finite resources, it is not surprising that sometimes all we see is the black dot and the black dot looks much bigger than anything else. As we reach the end of the day it is so tempting to simply give in and think only of the black dots that have challenged and tired us.

Hope is about choosing to look at the light, to think more about the white paper than the black dot. Hope is to focus on all the other good things around us, the people and blessings that we each enjoy. Hope is not to deny the existence of the black dot, rather to not allow the black dot to be all that we see, and the sole focus of our time and energy.

This week I would like to challenge you, as I challenged our community, to look beyond the all too obvious black dot and instead think about the light that is all around. It is my great privilege to work with an amazing bunch of people who spend their days in school doing just that. Each of them chooses not to focus on the things that are hard or complex, but instead to invest in bringing light and hope. It is not an easy thing for any of us, because the black dot can be much easier to see but being a people of hope really is transformational.

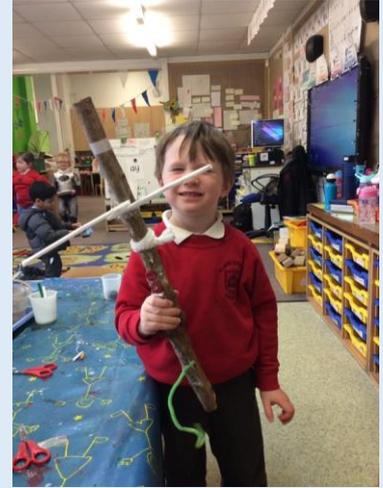
We are currently involved in a project with OxEd, an Oxford University spinout company founded by Professor Hulme, who is an expert on reading, language and memory processes, to trial a new Reading Screen 'app' in Primary schools so that it can be standardised.

ReadingScreen only takes 5-10 minutes to administer and assesses children's ability to read aloud a series of words and nonwords of increasing difficulty and will provide a standard that can be used to track pupils' development as they move through Primary school. It can also be used to assess the effects of any reading schemes and interventions that we have invested in.

We are very excited to be part of this stage of the trials as it will allow us access to the assessment tool in the future to track pupils' progress effectively.

News from Around the School

Since we have returned from the holidays we have been looking at 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson. We have been making our own Stickmen out of a range of materials (playdough, sticks, bricks). We think they look great!



After reading the story, and hearing it read in German by Eloisha's mum, many of the children were inspired to create their own Stickman books using the sounds that they have already learned in Phonics.

It has been a very busy start to 2023 in our Early Years classes.

More News from around the school

Our Year 1 children really enjoyed a winter walk this week – in places it was quite a wet walk!



Loving, learning and flourishing in community

Even More News from Around the School

The children in Year 4 have been very excited to start their Topic on The Romans! They have been researching lots of fascinating facts and creating posters for our Topic board. In Art we are beginning to design our own Roman mosaics and will be creating them in the next few weeks, so watch this space...

