

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This week in Collective Worship we started to explore our new Value of Forgiveness.

Forgiveness is one of my favourite Values to explore – perhaps because I am so grateful for it!

Your children were amazing! Some of our younger children explained confidently why forgiveness is needed and could give examples of when things had gone wrong, and forgiveness had been needed. Our older children were able to explain how forgiveness feels and the difference that it makes when you know you are forgiven, 'like a weight being lifted'.

Forgiveness offers each of us the chance to start again – it is the opportunity to move on from our mistakes.

None of us is immune from making a mistake, from getting it wrong – the children readily understood that sometimes their classmates just didn't think something through, but on other occasions they were deliberately unkind or hurtful. The possibility of forgiveness offers a way forward, whether our actions were premeditated, or spur of the moment. Forgiveness stops us being defined by something that happened on one day.

We thought about a line from the Lord's Prayer, in which we pray 'forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us'. Together we reflected on the power of forgiveness, for us when we are forgiven and on others when we forgive them.

In their day to day life in school, children often have reason to think about forgiveness. This week we began to think about the difference between when someone has done something deliberate and when it was an accident. We all agreed that it is much easier to forgive an accident! However, we all realised that holding on to hurt is damaging for us, like holding on to a burning coal – you may want to throw the coal at someone else, but in reality we are the ones who end up getting burned.

Values Awards

Congratulations to all our children who have shown our Values this week. We are aware of children in school who are fasting for Ramadan and recognise the patience and perseverance that they are showing during this important time in their faith.



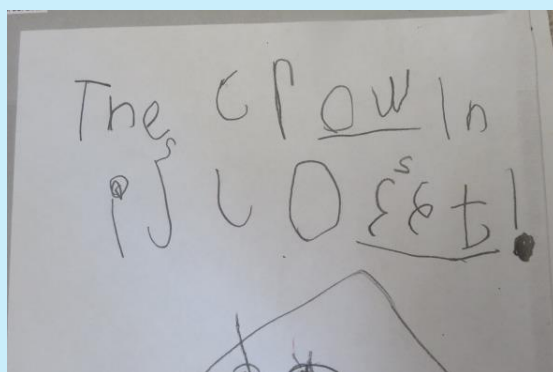
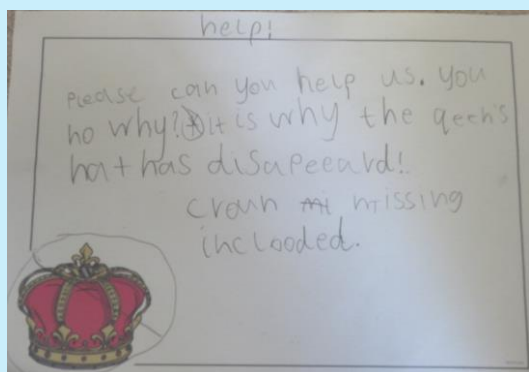
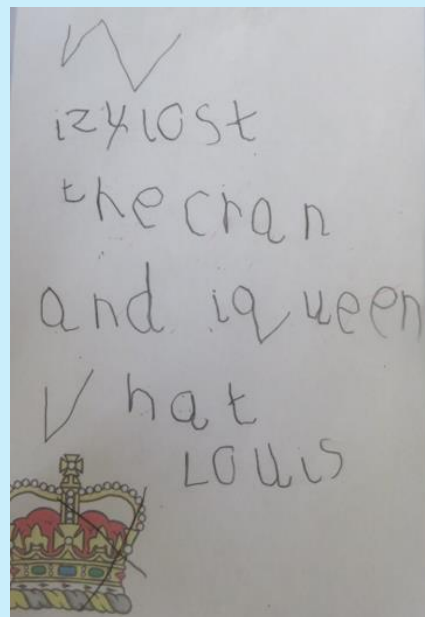
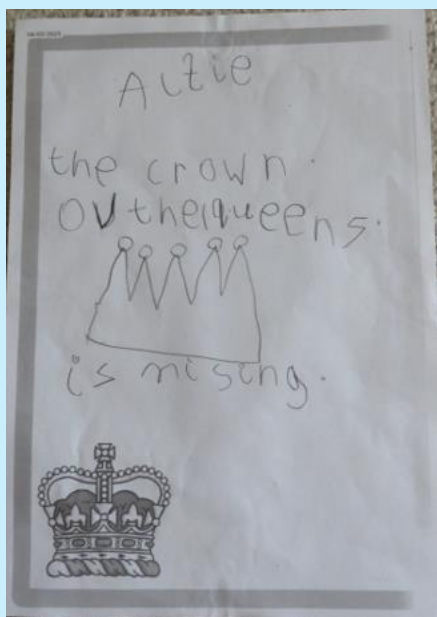
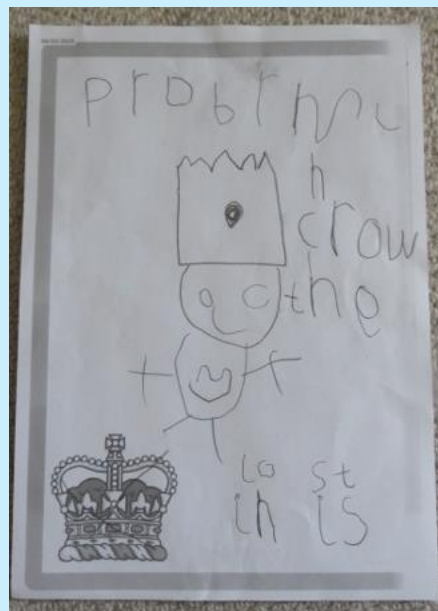
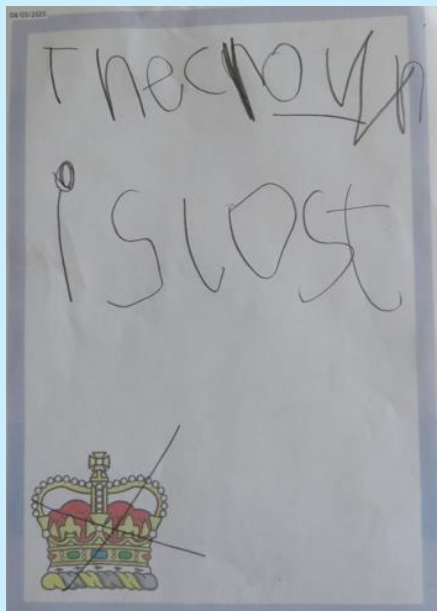
Congratulations

Earlier this week, the Year 6 boys continued their first round matches against local schools. The boys played brilliantly against children from Aston and Cote School and were rewarded with a 5-1 win. They play their last first round match against The Batt, at home, next week.



News from Around the School

It has been a dramatic week for our children in Early Years. The children are learning all about different countries; this week they have been about the home nations. Strange visitors came to school delivering Queen Camilla's crown, they asked the children to keep it safe until they came back. The children were very careful and took their responsibility very seriously, but somehow the crown went missing! Their posters were displayed around the school. Happily the crown was soon returned by Mr Hope, who had not understood how precious the crown was...!



Young Writers

All of our children are being given the opportunity to participate in Young Writers. Any child who chooses to take part will have their work published. Copies of the book will be purchased by the school and children will have the opportunity to see their work in print! We look forward to seeing the writing the children produce.

Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust

On Thursday this week, we were privileged to host an event at The Blake for a dozen aspiring leaders from across ODST.

The event was designed to give leaders a chance to think about their future career and the principles that may govern how they lead, as well as providing opportunities to look at curriculum and network together.

It was a great joy to tour the school and to show the visitors everything that happens at The Blake. Bob Pattenden from ODST, who organised the day sent an email after the event to say 'You don't need me to tell you that The Blake is a rather special place. What a joy to spend time in a school where the vision and values are not just words on a wall, but really lived out in every aspect of the school's life. The school looks, sounds and feels great from the moment you walk in, built on wonderful warm relationships.'

Your children were polite and welcoming to our visitors and were able to share with them their learning and what they enjoy about school.

Comic Relief

This year we will once again be collecting donations for Red Nose Day using ParentPay.

If you would like to make a donation to this wonderful cause, please use this link –

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=17373>

Red Nose Day this year is on 25th March.

Wrap Around

We continue to have some ad hoc sessions available, please do contact Claire to find out more – abc@blake.oxon.sch.uk.

If your child wants breakfast at breakfast club, please make sure they arrive by 8:20am. After this time, now the weather is better, children are having a run around and so breakfast cannot be provided.

For the safety of your children, unless your child is in Year 5 or 6, please make sure that you hand your child over to a member of the ABC team in the morning. Until your child has been handed to a member of the team, we cannot have any responsibility for them.

Attendance

We are grateful to all parents who support their children in ensuring good levels of school attendance. Children who are in school are able to access learning that week by week builds on previous learning. Children who miss school can miss vital building blocks in their learning.

Our teachers are skilled in helping children cover learning they have missed as a result of unavoidable illnesses or hospital appointments.

However, if your child just has a bit of a sniffle, or just feels a bit below par, please do send them into school, our admin team will always ring you if we think they are not well enough to be in school.

Please make routine appointments outside of the school day if at all possible.

More News from Around the School

Our children in Year 2 have been reading the book, 'The Owl who was afraid of the dark'. In the Art work they have been drawing Barn Owls, we think it is clear how hard they have worked and how they have used their observational skills to produce some excellent artwork.

