

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

The end of each term is always busy and this term is no exception! In Collective Worship on Monday, Mrs Patchett talked to the children more about the Value of Forgiveness, thinking particularly about the Easter story and why that is an important part of how Christians understand forgiveness.

This week, you may have seen in the local press, or on Social Media, my open letter to Amanda Spielman (Ofsted's Chief Inspector). I wrote the letter primarily in response to the tragic death of Ruth Perry, a head teacher who took her own life following a negative Ofsted outcome.

Such tragic events hit communities hard and the importance of supporting one another and being there for one another is reinforced by our shared sorrow.

Despite our best endeavours, schools do not always get everything right. We are complex organisations, made up of lots of different individuals. Reading the Ofsted report from Ruth Perry's school it is clear that there was much in her school to celebrate, the Quality of Education was rated as Good, as was Personal Development, Early Years Provision and Behaviour and Attitudes; 97% of parents responded to the Ofsted survey that they would recommend the school to others.

In my letter to Amanda Spielman, I reflected that my staff team choose not to make hasty or poorly informed decisions about children, nor define them because of their work on one day and asked that Ofsted might extend to school leaders that same grace and understanding.

As I typed those words, my mind was taken back to the Easter story, which is all about God refusing to let us be defined by our mistakes, or our bad decisions. The Easter story is all about second (third, fourth, fifth...) chances and forgiveness. I am so grateful for God's refusal to make a snap decision about me! The single words that God uses to define us, are words that we do not deserve, but that he freely gives to us – loved, forgiven, valued. As we continue our thoughts about Easter next week, we will be reflecting further on what that story says about how special we are and how much God values each of us, whatever the day of the week!

As you will see from the letter attached to this email, next week we will be welcoming a SIAMS inspector into school. SIAMS inspections usually take place every five years and look at the way in which the school's vision and ethos are reflected in every aspect of school life. On Wednesday you may well see the inspector on the playground, chatting informally to parents – please do feel free to talk to her about your experience of The Blake.

I am really looking forward to walking with the inspector around the school and talking about your children and their learning. I plan on using lots of words to describe the incredible way in which your children work and play together, their fantastic approach to learning and their resilience when things are tough.

As I wrote to staff in my end of week email – 'Next week is all about celebrating everything that The Blake School is and sharing that with visitors and inspectors alike...' It will be a great way to finish off this term.

News from Around the School

Today, the children in Year 4 have had a great time making fractions practical and fun! They have been thinking about how they will cut their pizzas into different fractions such as sixths or quarters, how they can share their pizzas equally and have been looking at equivalent fractions. The children made their pizzas from scratch and loved kneading and rolling the dough and then adding their own toppings! They turned out really well and they got a big thumbs up from the children!



Values Awards

As always – a huge well done to the children who have been given Values Awards certificates over the past two weeks. Their decision to show our Values, even when it is hard, makes our community a very special place.



Our school choir

On 11th March, Mrs Raven took our school choir to sing at the Chipping Norton Music Festival. The children sang enthusiastically and with great skill, their performance was commended by the judges. Everyone had a wonderful time and their singing reflected their hard work and their enjoyment.

In Collective Worship, the children from the choir sang their songs so that the whole school community could enjoy them. It gave a real celebratory air to our time together. Well done to all those who took part in the music festival performance and our thanks to Mrs Raven for all the time and effort that she invests in the choir.



Loving, learning and flourishing in community