

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This week feels like we are caught in the 'now' and the 'not yet'. As Simon reflects, the signs of Spring are everywhere, trees are in blossom, birds are building their nests, but there has been a cold wind this week and plenty of rain!

As a country, we are still in lockdown, but Monday sees the next stage in the easing of restrictions and the news of the vaccine rollout continues to give us all hope of better days ahead.

In school, children have now settled back into their learning and are embracing all that school offers them, but we are still restricted by remaining in bubbles and adhering to the practices that have kept us Covid-19 secure for so long.

Without a doubt, the arrival of Spring brings with it a sense of change in the air, the hope of brighter and better days ahead. This year, more than in any previous year, we are ready for change, ready to leave the winter behind and begin a new chapter.

The Christian season of Lent is also one of now and not yet. Traditionally Christians have given things up in order to focus on prayer and their relationship with God. It is a time when Christians, recognising their dissatisfaction with their life and faith, seek to draw nearer to God and start afresh, restored and encouraged by the hope of the Easter story.

In school next week we will be thinking more about the Easter story, reflecting on the hope that we have already, but also on that which we have not yet attained.

As you begin to make your plans for the Easter break, daring to finally hope for the days that have been 'not yet' for so long, my prayer is that you will also give yourselves time to reflect on all that has been precious through this season. Whilst none of us want to remain in lockdown for a moment longer than we have to, for many of us it has provided an opportunity to re-evaluate and re-establish priorities. Let's make sure that in our rush for the 'not yet', we don't lose the blessings of the now.

For a while, we are still in the 'not yet' but change is very definitely coming!

Thoughts from the Priory

Recently, I've been trying to take a photo of a kingfisher that's living in the river very close to Cogges. I kept seeing flashes of blue as it shot past hunting up and down and then a few days ago I saw it on a branch for a few minutes and finally managed to get the photo!



Seeing the kingfisher hunting and other birds collecting moss for nest building are just some of the signs that spring really has arrived. It is a hope filled time of year as we look forward to new life and summer days.

On Sunday the clocks change, which I'm afraid means we lose an hour's sleep, but the good news is the evenings will be even lighter.

Lately I've been thinking about a lyric from a hymn that speaks of God's faithfulness, "Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow".

I am continuing to pray that we would receive strength from God for every day and have bright hope for tomorrow as we look out not just for kingfishers but all the signs of summer and also as we prepare to celebrate the hope filled message of the Easter story.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter.

Rev Simon Kirby

News from around the school

We have been hearing lots about what Year 1 have been up to over the past couple of weeks, they have so much to share.

There was great excitement when a huge bag of sand was delivered and lots of work on capacity, more/less, heavy/light has been done as part of moving the sand from the bag to the sandpit.

The children have also been busy thinking about spring and looking ahead to Easter – we love the designs on their Easter cards.



Easter bunnies – on the loose around Cogges!

The Blake Bunnies have escaped and over the Easter Holidays they will be found all over Cogges!

If you have not yet sent in your £2 contribution in order to take part in this family friendly fundraising activity over the Easter break, there is still time. Please send £2 into school in a named envelope as soon as possible

There will be pictures of bunnies and their names in various locations around Cogges; all you need to do is match the pictures on your trail sheet with the named bunnies you find!

Everyone who purchases a trail sheet will be entered into the Easter Prize Draw. There will be five prizes up for grabs, including wine and chocolate eggs!

Thank you all for your continued support for The Friends and happy hunting!

Thank-you from the Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to

Blake C of E Primary School

For their support of the Royal British Legion's Annual Poppy Appeal. Raising an amazing amount of money over many years.

That has helped to provide lifelong support to service personnel, past and present and their families.

LIVE ON



Chris Stephens
Poppy Appeal Organiser - Witney

We were very touched this week to receive this Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of our ongoing support of the Poppy Appeal, even during this more challenging year. Thank you to everyone who supported the appeal.

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The Friends' 100 club draw

The draw for March took place this week in the presence of an independent witness.

Ticket number 63 was drawn, belonging to Richeldis Castree, one of our Year 1 teachers. Congratulations

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