

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

In Collective Worship this week, we continued to think about our Value for the Month, Kindness.

We enjoyed reading a story together about a hermit crab who learns the value of kindness when he is rescued by a boy from being almost buried by a dog.

We have also started thinking about the 40 Acts of Kindness challenge, which has been produced to help people demonstrate kindness throughout Lent. In school the children will be challenging one another to complete the tasks each day, and staff will have their own version of the challenge to complete.

W.B.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27 th Feb.	1. Give somebody a nice compliment today.	2. Tidy up your classroom without being asked.	3. Draw a picture for an adult who is important to you.	4. Be the first to say sorry to somebody.	5. Ask somebody in your class what they enjoyed most that day.	6. Wash up or load the dishwasher.	7. Go the whole day without arguing.
6 th Mar.	8. Say 'thank you' to the lunchtime staff.	9. Be a good team player - don't hog the ball and compliment team mates.	10. Chat with someone outside of your usual group of friends.	11. Tell your friend one thing you like about them.	12. Share your best joke today.	13. Make an extra effort to smile more.	14. Say something nice to someone in your family.
13 th Mar.	15. Offer to help someone at school.	16. Don't interrupt. Listen carefully, you may learn something new.	17. Make a card or write a note saying something nice about a classmate.	18. Introduce yourself to another child who you often see. Remember their name.	19. Find out about Stepping Stones Nigeria. This is a charity that our school supports.	20. Do something kind for someone in your family.	21. Pick up litter and put it in the bin.
20 th Mar.	22. When you're tempted to push in front, let someone else go first.	23. Look out for someone who is sad today and find a way to cheer them up.	24. Hold the door for someone today.	25. Say something kind or encouraging to someone.	26. Eat all of your lunch and say thanks to whoever made or served it.	27. Follow instructions without complaining.	28. Help a family member or friend.
27 th Mar.	29. Be brave today. Do something that you found hard last time you tried.	30. Ask somebody to tell you about themselves and listen closely to what they say.	31. Tell somebody why you think they are special.	32. Surprise somebody today (in a nice way).	33. Invite somebody new to join in with your game.	34. Look after someone else today.	35. Turn off lights, TV and chargers when you leave a room.
Easter Hols	Create your own acts of kindness this week. You could <u>choose</u> a different family member/carer/friend for each day of the week to show kindness to.				40. Good Friday Show someone that you appreciate them.	Happy Easter Everyone!	

We are now in the season of Lent, the time in the church calendar when Christians take additional time to pray and reflect, they try to slow down. In our society, the 40 days between Shrove Tuesday and Easter Day are recognised as a season to give up chocolate or cakes and it is therefore tempting to see Lent simply as a countdown to being free to eat what we like again!

For Christians however Lent is more of build up than a count down, it is often viewed as a time of 'Journeying' or more traditionally pilgrimage.

It is therefore appropriate that as a community we will be engaging in the 40 Acts of Kindness as we journey through Lent together. These daily simple acts will remind us of what it means to think of others before ourselves. It is my hope that as we have a very deliberate focus on acting kindly towards one another, so we will each understand a bit more of what Jesus taught about the importance of loving one another – a love that ultimately led Jesus to the events of the Easter weekend at the end of Lent.

I hope you enjoy the first of the Kindness challenges this weekend and that they bring joy to your homes.

News from Around the School

The children in Years 1 and 2 have this week begun 'Forest School'. Forest School is an inspirational activity that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees. Children aim to develop a close relationship with nature, engage with measured risk, and follow their own interests. Forest School is an opportunity to learn new skills e.g. knot tying, tree climbing, whittling, weaving etc. But the main teaching and learning is how they develop as a person in the forest, developing life-long skills and qualities.



More News from Around the School

The Early Years unit were very lucky to have a visit from 'George the Explorer' this week. He came to tell the children about his expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. They found out about his equipment and clothing needed in the cold regions - balaclava, boots with spikes called crampons and ice pick. He demonstrated how to use a harness, and how to make his rope into a belay. The children found out about the dangers of frostbite and how George had lost his two frozen toes (kept in a jar!) as they had snapped off. Ouch! They really enjoyed hearing tales of George's travels, they learnt lots of new words and facts. What a fantastic afternoon!



More News from Around the School - World Thinking Day

It was a great joy to see children from Rainbows, Brownies and Guides wearing their uniforms to school on Wednesday this week, to celebrate 'World Thinking Day'. Thinking Day is an opportunity for members of the Girl Guiding Organisations to think of each other and remember being part of a wider organisation.



Hellos and goodbyes

Today we said a sad good-bye to Mrs Marie Squire. In the more than a decade that Mrs Squire has been at the school, she has worked in most classrooms, often one to one with children who face additional challenges; she has also worked as part of our ABC team. Children and adults alike will miss Mrs Squire greatly. We are very much hoping that Mrs Squire's new job will allow her to come and visit us in school often.

Mrs Suze Diliberto has been appointed to replace Mrs Squire and has this week been getting to know the children in Year 1. We look forward to getting to know Mrs Diliberto more in the coming weeks.



More news from Around the School

Over the past two weeks, the children in Year 6 have participated in sessions by the IMPS team. The Injury Minimization Programme for Schools (I.M.P.S.) empowers young people to take personal responsibility for managing their own risk and equips them with the skills to cope in an emergency.



Values Awards

As it was the first day of term, Values certificates were not awarded this Monday. However, these children earned certificates during the final week of last term.



100 club

Congratulations to Jen Reynolds who is the winner of The Friends 100 draw for this month with ticket number 36.

We hope Jen enjoys treating herself with her winnings; the school continues to benefit from the income of all the tickets sold.

Reading evenings

Owing to very low levels of parental interest, the KS2 reading evening that was planned for Tuesday 28th February has been cancelled. Written materials to support reading in KS2 (Years 4 – 6) will be circulated in the coming weeks.

Interest in the KS1 reading evening has also been low. It has therefore been decided that the meeting from 5.45 – 6.15pm will be aimed primarily at parents of children in the Early Years and will focus on phonics and early reading. If parents of children in Year 1 or 2 would appreciate a refresher on phonics, they are more than welcome to join the Early Years meeting. Useful information will also be placed on our school website.

Strike Action

As we shared prior to the last day of industrial action, it was teacher's intention to strike together to raise their concerns around the funding of education.

The second day of industrial action is due to take place this Thursday. Although teachers do not have to share their intention to strike, there is currently no expectation that The Blake School will be affected by the action. It is anticipated that all classes will remain open.

Book week and World Book Day

We are planning a lot of activities for Book Week next week.

We are celebrating World Book Day on Friday (not Thursday) and will be welcoming an author and illustrator into school. We will also be enjoying activities in classes throughout the school. On this occasion, children will not be dressing up for World Book Day. We know that this will be a disappointment for some children, but there will be opportunities for these children to dress up later in the year.

We will be running a book swap again this year. On Monday or Tuesday, please send your child into school with an age-appropriate book, that they are happy to give away. Children will then have a chance to choose a book on Friday. Please see the posters around school for more details.

Loving, learning and flourishing in community