

Newsletter

News from Miss Main

This week in Collective Worship we read the story of a small group of people who took their friend to Jesus. The friends had Hope that Jesus could help their friend and so they went to extraordinary lengths to get them to him, even cutting a hole through a roof!

Together we thought about the people who express hope in us, who believe in us and who work for our good. We all took time to remember occasions when someone has stuck by us, even when we didn't believe much in ourselves, or lacked confidence. It was powerful to reflect on the difference that a friend can make, someone who has hope in us and wants the best for us. Hope really can make a difference, even when it is someone else that has that hope for us.

The challenge for all of us was to be like the friends in the Bible that we read about, giving hope to others when they need it, because hope changes not only how we feel, but how others feel about their circumstances and about themselves.

This week, Anne Dellar, the CEO of ODST, wrote to all 43 Head Teachers of the Trust's schools. She wrote –

'I am very conscious that this email comes to you on Friday of the third week in November... I have a long held theory that the third week in November is the worst week of the school year. So I hope, however you may be feeling today, that you can take some comfort from the knowledge that having reached the Friday of the worst week, you can at least expect things not to go substantially downhill from now on! Thank-you for everything you are doing, please hang on in there. The hope of Advent is closer than we realise.'

With snow, plummeting temperatures, some on-going staff sickness, the funeral of a former colleague and an internal move to a new MIS system, the third week of November has not been without its challenges in school! We are grateful to the school community, especially to your children, as they give us hope, helping us to celebrate the joy in each day and finding the good in each other.

Next week we will draw together all of our reflections on Hope and as Anne Dellar reminds us, we will begin to turn our thoughts to Advent and the Christmas season....

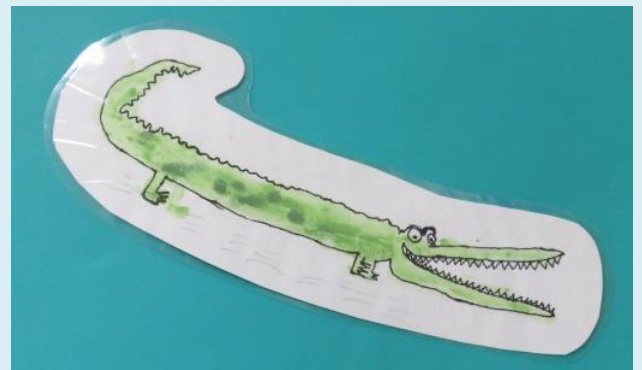
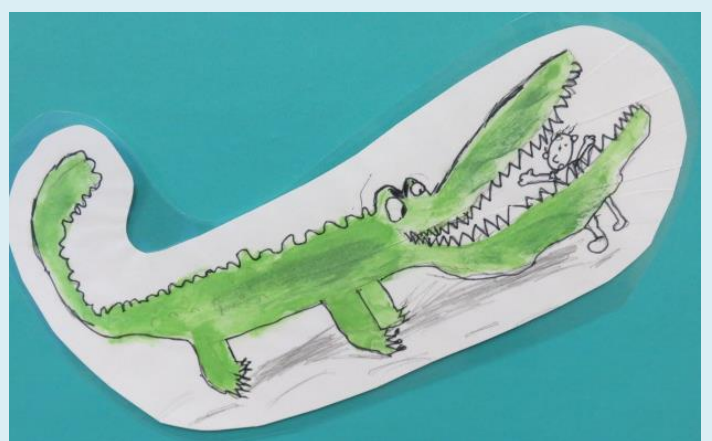
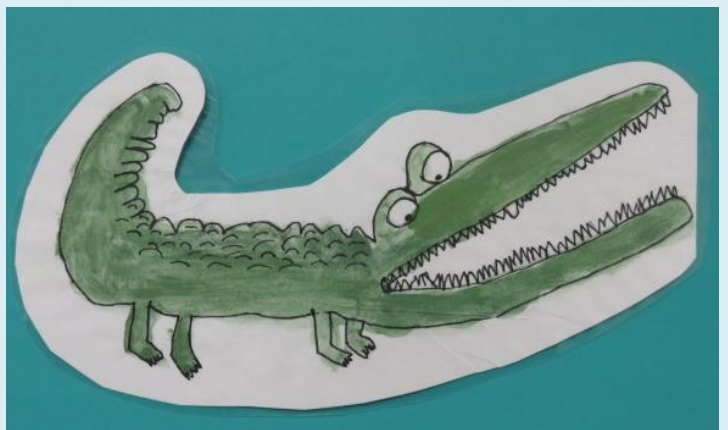
Values Awards

Over the past two weeks, we have celebrated a lot of children who have been consistently living by the Values that we as a school try to hold at the heart of all our actions and decision making. Well done to them all for seeking to live differently.



News from Around the School

The children in Year 3 spend this term enjoying all the books that Roald Dahl wrote. Later this term they will spend a day dressing up as Roald Dahl characters; they are also planning a trip to the Roald Dahl Museum. This week they have been enjoying 'The Enormous Crocodile', which has involved drawing their own crocodiles. We love their art work, which looks great on the wall of their classroom.



More News from Around the School

This week the children in Year 2 reached one of the most dramatic points in their learning about the Great Fire of London, the re-enactment of the fire! Children had made Tudor houses, which they then set up on the playground, all pushed together as they would have been in 1666. The children couldn't believe how quickly the fire spread and destroyed their houses.



Enjoying the snow!

A blanket of snow across the school grounds brought great excitement to everyone on Tuesday morning! The children really enjoyed the opportunity to play in the snow – though it was lovely to come back into the warm! In these winter months, please do make sure that your children come to school with suitable clothing so that they can stay warm and dry come rain, sunshine or snow.



A new Vicar for Cogges

On Thursday this week, the Church family at St Mary's Cogges welcomed their new Vicar, Rev Matt Beer. In a service with much symbolism and celebration, representatives from the local community, including our school, offered a very warm welcome to Matt, his wife and young son.

We are looking forward to introducing Matt to the children and getting to know him better, do look out for more news about him in future newsletters.

Thank-you

Our collection last week for Children in Need raised a wonderful £389.21. Thank you to everyone who donated. If you missed the opportunity on the day, it is not too late to donate on line, you can make your donation [here](#).

Oh yes we are!

On Thursday 5th December, children in Years 1 – 6 will be enjoying the pantomime! Saltmine, who have come to us over the past few years, are coming to present 'A Christmas Carol'.

Please do make payment for the event on ParentPay. It is always a wonderful day of laughter and is only possible if parents contribute.

Whilst you are on ParentPay, please do check any other outstanding balances that you have. If you can't make the whole payment in one go, we are very happy for you to pay what you can, when you can.

Please do take note of the term dates for 2025/26 that are circulated with this newsletter. Holidays should be planned during the holiday dates, not during term-time. Thank-you!

**Loving, learning and
flourishing in community**

Important reminders

We are so grateful to the majority of our school community who work with us to ensure the smooth running of our school and keep our streets and site safe. However, we would like to remind you all of ways in which we can all help each other.

Please label your children's clothing and their lunchboxes, snack pots and water bottles.



Our lost property boxes are bulging with un-named items that we cannot return to their owners. These huge piles of items represent hundreds of pounds.



We have received a number of complaints about parking, from Cogges Farm, from local residents and from our own community. We are the most fortunate school in Witney in that we have access to a very large car park, right next to our school. Please use the car park. Please do not park (or even wait) on the nearby residents' roads, or the doctors' car park, or on the yellow zig-zags at the front of the school. Every day the office team watch people pulling into the entrance to the staff car park, or turning by the gates, almost every week there is a near miss as staff, or children who are coming into school late, cross the car park and a parent swings into this area. For the safety of all of us, please take the extra two minutes it takes to use the car park.