

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This week we continued to look at Mercy, building on our reflections over the past couple of weeks.

Last week we thought about showing Mercy to one another. We had a lot of fun in Collective Worship re-enacting an event from the Old Testament when David showed mercy to King Saul. Do ask your children what happened in the cave!

Together we thought about occasions where we have shown mercy and where we have been grateful for mercy being shown to us. We all like mercy when we need it, but we find it much harder to show it to others. As we read the news, or maybe just look around our community, we make quick decisions about people getting what we perceive they deserve. Mercy is not our first thought, or at least it is not always mine!

As I reflected with staff later in the week, I think that we are sometimes even offended by Mercy. This is perhaps because we don't know the full picture, we have half a story and so we assume the rest and pass judgement accordingly. When we need mercy however, we are very quick to list all the reasons why it should be shown to us.

Building on these thoughts, this week we thought about how God shows mercy on us. Together we thought about this Christian season of Lent and how it leads into the Easter story. Christians believe that the Easter story tells of how God has shown us Mercy, even when we don't deserve it. We read a verse from 1 John chapter 4 that summed it up well –

'This is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son as a sacrifice for the things we have done wrong.'

The Easter story demonstrates that we are all loved and valued by God, we have all been shown Mercy that we have not deserved. Christians therefore draw strength to show Mercy to others from having first been shown Mercy by God.

The challenge for us all is to keep our eyes open for opportunities to show Mercy to those around us. For us as adults, perhaps the bigger challenge is to resist the urge to pass judgement on half the information, or to assume that the bit that we do know is all that there is to know. Whenever I am tempted to fall into the trap of withholding Mercy from another, I remember that it will not be long until I will find myself needing Mercy from others...

Values Awards

Well done to everyone who received a Values Award in Collective Worship this week, or last week.



It is wonderful to hear the multitude of different reasons for which children receive awards. Your children are showing our Values in every area of school life.

News from Out and About

Earlier this month, the choir sang at The Chipping Norton Music Festival. Thank you to all who came and supported them.

Their performance was classed as 'exceptional' and they were commended on their strong part singing, beautiful solos and great actions and props.

As a result, the choir have been invited back to sing at the festival's final concert on 21st March, which is a great honour. Well done choir and thank you to Mrs Raven who works so hard week by week and gives up a lot of time to enable the choir to perform.



Parents' evenings

Parents' evenings have now gone live. You can book a ten-minute appointment with your child's class teacher.

Most teachers are seeing parents after school on Thursday 16th April and Tuesday 21st April, but do check the booking dates as some teachers have different appointments available.

Appointments can be booked via e-schools, if you have any problems booking an appointment, please do ask a member of the office team for help.

Sporting News

Our Year 6 boys have been playing a series of football matches against other partnership schools.



Despite experiencing a mix of victories and defeats, the boys have played every game with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship. It is wonderful to see them working as a team and encouraging one another. Well done to them all for playing every game with determination and enthusiasm.

Governor Vacancy

We will shortly be advertising a governor vacancy.

The governors of The Blake School meet in the evening, once every month to look at strategic matters.

The governing body works collectively and bring a wide range of skills and knowledge to their duties.

If you would like to find out more about the role of a governor, please do email the clerk to the governors to find out more – governors@blake.oxon.sch.uk

We are sorry to everyone who was inconvenienced or upset at the end of the day yesterday by the behaviour of one of our external sports coaches.

We would like to assure you that we have taken this up with the provider and action has been taken to ensure that there will be no repeat of the event.

We are very sorry for the upset that this caused to any individuals who were impacted.

News from Around the School – Panathlon

Children from across the school had a wonderful time on Monday accessing a broad range of accessible sporting activities. Children in Year 5 supported all the year groups.

Although Panathlon exists primarily to support children with disabilities or SEND, we opened the event up to children across the school who teachers felt would particularly enjoy and benefit from the event. It gave all children a chance to experience success and to enjoy sport with their classmates.



More News from Around the School

Our Year 3 children had a wonderful day learning all about Ancient Egypt. The costumes were fantastic and the children learned such a lot.



Loving, learning and flourishing in Community