

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

We really enjoyed welcoming members of the St Mary's Cogges team to lead Collective Worship on Monday this week.

The team began with a game to help us all think about what is fair and what is not. When asked to give him a hi-5, Cameron realised just how tall Chris is!

We all then enjoyed listening to a story of two brothers, both of whom farm the land and have corn. One brother has a family, the other does not. The brother with a family thinks of his sibling and worries that he has no-one to care for him and to look after him in his old age and so he secretly leaves more corn for him. The other brother thinks of his sibling and thinks he must struggle to care for his family, so he secretly leaves more corn for him. One night they meet each other, leaving corn for one another and realise how they have been looking after each other.

The story is a beautiful one, reminding all of us that justice doesn't always look quite how we imagine it might. For the brothers, justice would have looked like them both having half of the corn each. The brothers however were not interested simply in justice, they cared for one another and wanted the other to have what they needed. Each of the brothers was willing to give up something that was theirs in order to give the person they loved something they believed the other needed more than they needed it.

Children and adults alike were challenged in their thinking. What does it mean in our friendships and our community not simply to give one another justice, but to make sure that everyone has what they need? We all live in different circumstances and each of us needs different things. As we seek to live and work together, we need to look more widely than simply ensuring there is justice. In our classrooms and workplaces, we were each challenged to think about where we can give to others, not simply to ensure justice, important though that is, but to meet each other's needs.

In our Collective Worship times, and our reflective times in classes, we are now using a resource called Fischy Music, a library of songs for children and adults. The songs are easy to learn (especially when Mrs Raven is teaching you) and are written to help children celebrate the good times and build resilience for the hard times. Do ask your children to share some of the songs with you; I hope you enjoy them as much as we are enjoying them in school.

Values Awards

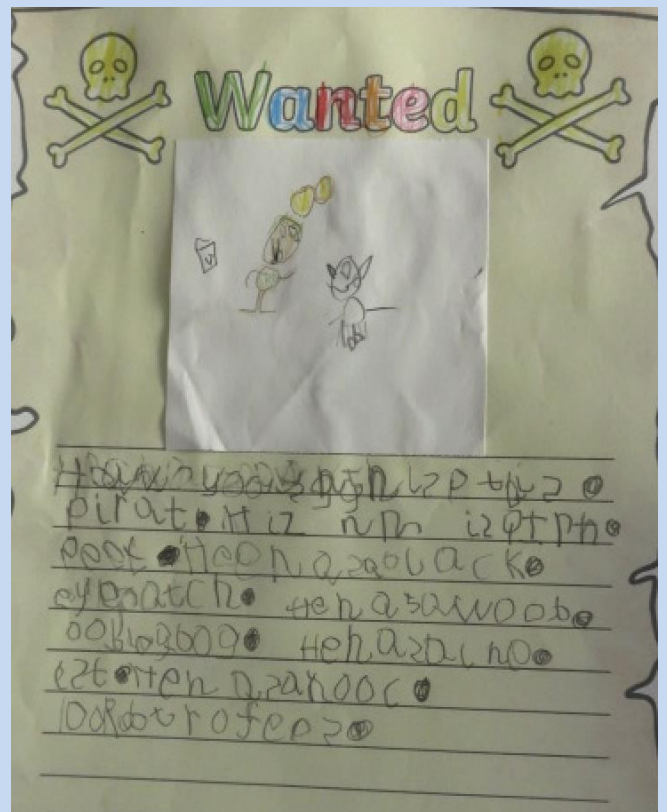
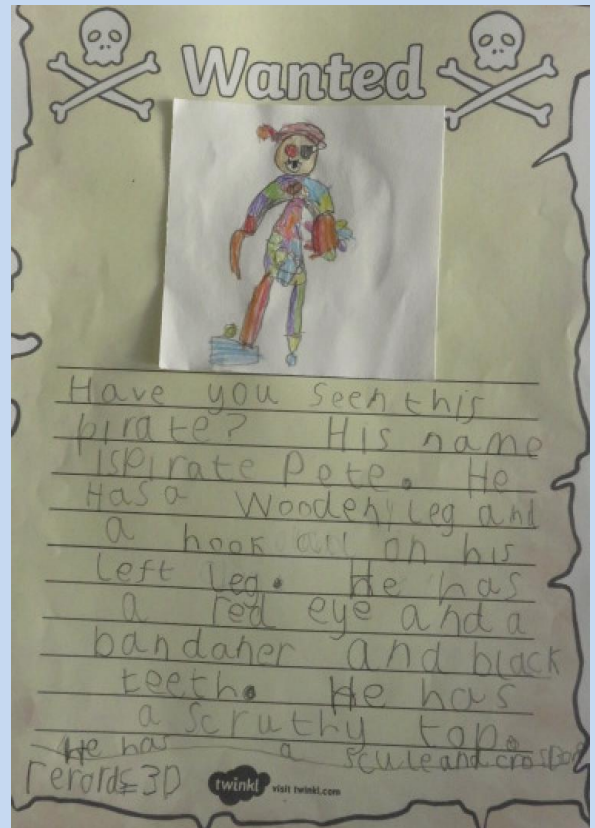
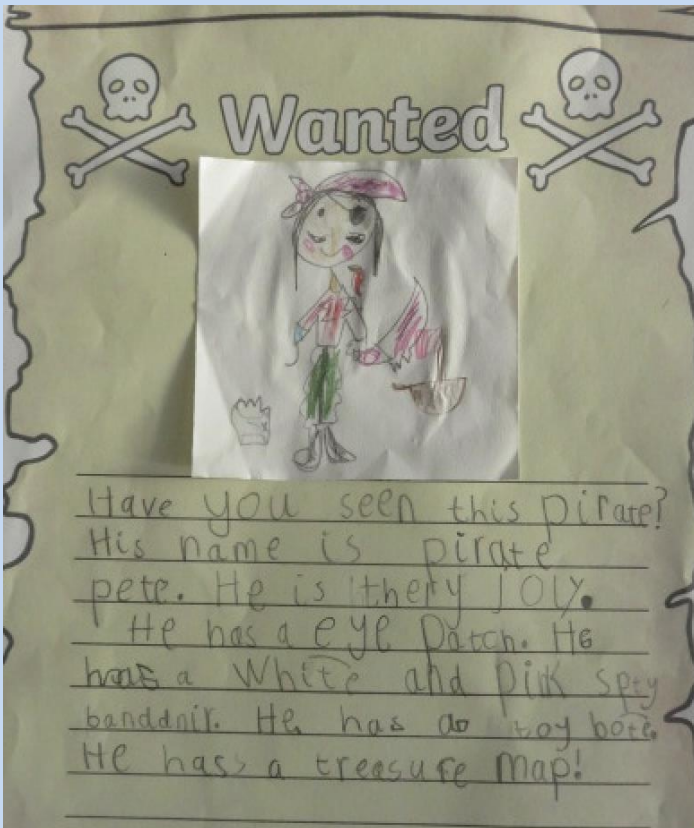
It was, as always, a great pleasure to congratulate children on achieving a Values Award.

Children continue to impact positively on our community by living out our Values and making deliberate choices to bring a little bit of heaven on earth.

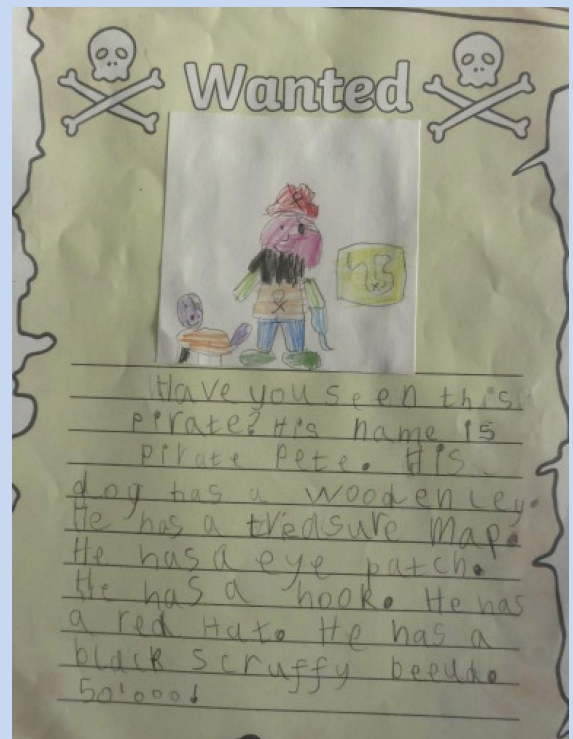
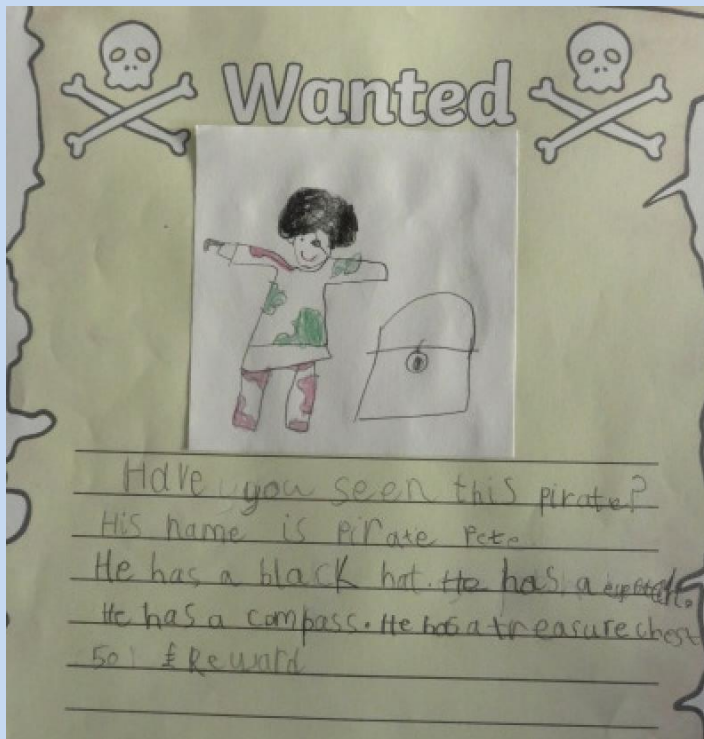


News from Around the School

Our children in Year 1 are learning all about pirates! This week they have done some great work creating 'Wanted!' posters – we think their art work and their writing is terrific.



There are posters all around the school...



More News from Around the School

On Thursday, we welcomed schools from across the Witney Partnership to be part of a Boccia tournament. Boccia is a paralympic sport, accessible to children and adults who may have difficulty accessing other sports.

The morning was great fun, with children from all the schools showing great sportsmanship and also trying their best. Children recognised the achievements of their fellow competitors, even if they were from another school.

The event was organised by the Partnership Sports Co-ordinator, Sam Hook – a familiar face at The Blake School.

Children are looking forward to taking part in future partnership sport's events.



Wearing PE kit on PE days

Thank you to everyone for working with us to ensure that your children came to school in their PE kits on their PE days.

Already this week we have increased the amount of time that children are accessing physical exercise and reduced the amount of time that children are waiting whilst others change.

A reminder of your children's PE days is below.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 1					
Year 2					
Year 3					
Year 4					
Year 5	Both classes		Mrs Krull	Mr Hope	
Year 6					

On PE days children need black joggers/leggings/shorts, a white t-shirt and their red school jumper/cardigan (or red school hoodie). Children should not come into school wearing any other sweatshirts or tops.

100 Club

Congratulations to Ilona Tanner who, with ticket number 14, was the winner of the 100 club draw for January.

We hope Ilona enjoys spending her winnings on a winter treat!

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers who are willing to come into school and hear readers, or play games with children.

Even if you can only come in from time to time, please do speak to your child's class teacher or email the office.

Learn to ride

We have the opportunity to offer some learn to ride sessions to children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 who cannot yet ride a bike, but would like to. If your child would like to be a part of these sessions, please contact the school office to find out more. Owning their own bike is not essential.

Rules for everyone!

It is with real sadness that we are writing yet again to remind parents/grandparents regarding driving and parking safely around our school site. This morning we received the following complaints –

- a parent driving their car whilst using their mobile phone
- parents using the gates to the school as a turning circle
- parents driving into the staff car park

Please park and turn in the large car park, unless you have a disabled badge. Thank-you.

Loving, learning and flourishing in community