

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

You may have heard rumours that this week in Collective Worship I smashed Mrs Henderson's mug... The rumours are true!*

In Collective Worship we were continuing our thoughts on Justice. Smashing Mrs Henderson's mug allowed us all to think about what it is like when something happens that upsets us, or someone does something to hurt us. Children and adults alike could recall times when we have been wronged. Together, remembering those times of hurt, we reflected on what Justice might mean.

Our Bible passage was one that is familiar to many of us, it can be found in the Gospel of Matthew –

'Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother 'Let me take the speck out of your eye' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.'

When thinking about Justice we all agreed that it is much easier to think about the things that other people do wrong than it is to acknowledge where we make mistakes or hurt other people. It only took us a moment of honesty however to recognise that we all have specks of sawdust in our eyes...

I broke Mrs Henderson's mug, deliberately, with a hammer. (All health and safety procedures were followed!) I did something wrong, that hurt someone else. The question to the children of what Justice should look like was a deeply relevant one. Within any community things go wrong, people hurt and upset other people, sometimes they even do it deliberately – what should Justice look like?

Within The Blake School we talk often about forgiveness and restoration, we encourage children (and adults) to accept apologies and to work together to re-build relationships and find a way to move forward. Justice however recognises that there must also sometimes be consequences. As we thought about consequences, important as they are in ensuring Justice, we returned full circle to our Bible passage remembering that it is not just our brother that has something in his eye!

*For any children that were worried, none of Mrs Henderson's favourite mugs were broken in the delivery of Collective Worship! Mrs Henderson played her part very well.

Values Awards

Mr Edwards-Grundy shared this week that giving out Values Certificates is one of his favourite times of the week! Celebrating with children who have worked hard to show our Values, even when that is a hard thing, or a costly decision.

Awards were given to children this week for behaving responsibly, showing kindness, being honest and for being a good friend to children joining our school.



World Book Day – 7th March 2024

This year we will be celebrating World Book Day focussing on the book 'The Traction Man'. In their classes, children will be looking at the book and basing some learning around it. We will also be welcoming authors into the school to meet with the children and to answer questions.

Children will be dressing up for the day, they can base their costume around 'The Traction Man', or they can come dressed as any of their favourite book characters.

Weights and Measures

On Thursday of next week, the children in Early Years and in Year 6 will be weighed and measured by the school health team. Parents will be sent a letter with details of their child's weight and height, along with tips for healthy eating and exercise. No data will be shared with the children, or with the school.

If your child is in Early Years or Year 6 and you do not wish for them to be weighed or measured in school, please contact Jo Mills (school health nurse team) on 07717541696.

On the day, no child will be forced to participate.

PE kit

Thank you for working with us to implement the change to our uniform policy so that children wear their PE kit on their PE days.

Whether it is a PE day or not, all children should be wearing their red sweatshirt/cardigan with the school logo – they should not be wearing jumpers/sweatshirts in any other colour. On PE days (only) children may wear a red school hoodie if they prefer.

Snacks

Children should only be bringing healthy snacks into school, for example cheese, crackers, fruit, breadsticks or dried fruit.

Crisps and chocolate bars are for treats or as part of a packed lunch, not for snack time. Thank you.

Well done to our footballers

In a rather damp and windy match played on our school field against girls from Aston and Cote school, our girls showed great team spirit and enthusiasm.

The team from Aston and Cote won 5 – 1, but for a team who have never played together before, our girls showed great skill and potential. Well done to them all.



Opportunity to train as an ARCh Reading Helper

ARCh volunteers work one to one with selected children in a primary school, close to their home or workplace, providing personalised support to boost confidence, build self-esteem and turn around negative attitudes to reading.

We are looking for more people living or working in the Witney area to join us in making a real difference to children's lives.

All volunteers are vetted (including enhanced DBS) and receive initial and ongoing training and support as well as resources tailored to each child.

If you would like to get involved as a volunteer or supporter, or if you work in a school and are interested in our service, please email info@archoxfordshire.org.uk

Please support us – you can donate via <https://localgiving.org/donation/arch>

Registered Charity number 1146276



Company number 7962217

ARCh is committed to Safeguarding and this role is exempt from ROA 1974 and eligible for enhanced DBS certificate/barred list check

News from Around the School

The children in Year 3 are learning all about Ancient Egypt, this week in Collective Worship the children showed everyone the cartouches that they have been working on in class. They have taken great care over their designs and their work is now displayed in their classrooms.



Loving, learning and flourishing in community