

Welcome to the March edition of our school newsletter.

When we broke up for the Christmas holidays, we had no idea that we wouldn't all be together again until the beginning of March. I think it is safe to say that we have all learnt a lot this past term (I certainly have!) and I believe that we have developed real resilience skills as well. Parents, children and staff embraced the challenges and opportunities of online, live lessons and quickly began to adapt their teaching and learning styles. Children who joined our Keyworker club took it all in their stride and learned how to work with different people and with greater independence. Now we have everyone back at school we are all so pleased to see each other and have enjoyed getting on with our learning in a more familiar way. Everyone has done a truly amazing job. I am so proud to be part of this school community.

Despite being closed to the majority of children for nearly a term, we have all been very busy with many exciting learning opportunities for the children. I hope you enjoy reading about some of these in this newsletter.

We are now in a position to make plans for next term and with any luck, the summer term will start to feel a little bit more normal. Please see the calendar dates below. These will be added to and updated as Covid restrictions are lifted.

Our value this half term is Trust

When we think about 'trust', we think about the importance of being able to trust the people around us; family and friends, neighbours and work colleagues and about the trustworthiness of ourselves. During this pandemic we have all had to put our trust in the leaders of our country and in the medical professionals and scientists who have developed vaccines. This is not an easy thing to do when times are so uncertain.

The Bible reminds us that the most important form of trust we can have is our trust in God. To have a relationship with God, you need to be able to trust that he will provide for you and guide you on your journey through life.

*"The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him."*

Psalm 28:7

Church News

St Mary the Virgin Church in Podington will be re-opening for services at 11am on Palm Sunday, 28th March and at 10am on Easter Sunday, 4th April. Numbers are strictly limited so if you would like to attend please contact Mrs Cameron.

Email: paulinecameron1@gmail.com

Reverend Peter and Reverend Jacqueline have continued to lead fortnightly Collective Worship sessions for us throughout the lockdown. It was lovely to see so many people logging in from home.

Chinese New Year

Our 'screen-free' day of home learning coincided with Chinese New Year. The Keyworker children had lots of fun cooking Chinese dishes and making Chinese drums to play whilst dancing round the playground. We really enjoyed seeing some of the lovely work that was completed at home.



World Book Day 2021

We celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as favourite book characters and sharing lots of lovely stories with our families. We made bookmarks and wrote book reviews. Well done to everyone who took part in the reading challenges. Don't forget to keep reading as much as you can during the Easter holiday.



Comic Relief – Red Nose Day

This year the theme for Red Nose Day was Superheroes. All the children had fun designing, making and then wearing a superhero eye mask. The children were asked to think of a funny joke to share with the class and then the class favourites were performed at our Celebration assembly. The children were so good at delivering their jokes and they really did make us laugh.

Amongst the fun and games we managed to raise a fantastic £134 for Comic Relief! Well done everyone!



Safer Internet Week

During Safer Internet Week the children learned the importance of keeping safe online. Never has this seemed more relevant than over the past year when children and adults have been spending more and more time online.

We used some resources produced by a theatre company called 'Saltmine'. The aim was to explore the dangers online to help students navigate the ever-growing and changing digital world in a safe and secure way.

We also used resources from the NSPCC website. This site is full of useful advice for parents too.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Collective Worship

We are getting very used to joining in Collective Worship by video link, in our own classrooms. Each week we enjoy a variety of different stories, prayers and reflections. This week has been a very exciting week; on Wednesday Acorns class performed a super version of *The Gingerbread Man* story. We heard how the Gingerbread man put his trust in the sly fox who soon turned out to be particularly untrustworthy.



This is a photo of the big screen in Willow class during Wednesday's collective worship. You can see Acorn class performing their story to the rest of the school.



On Thursday we were treated to an outstanding musical performance, by Adam Nowak in Year 5. Adam and his brother Julian, in Year 4, recently passed their first Trinity Performance exams on the violin and both of them did so with

distinction. Congratulations Adam and Julian!

If your child is interested in learning to play an instrument please speak to Mrs Clark or have a look at the Bedford Music Coop website below.

www.uk.coop/directory/bedford-music-co-operative

Email: office@bedsmusic.coop

Phone: 07498 671 153 (1.30pm to 4.30pm weekdays)

Easter Service

On Friday we will be having our Easter service in school. We will listen to the Easter story and join together outside to sing some Easter celebration songs.

Afterwards the children will be able to enjoy our annual Easter egg hunt around the school grounds.

P.T.A

We are very grateful to the P.T.A for the funding they have provided this year.

In December they organised and funded an online pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, which was great fun. They also gave Father Christmas a hand organising all the Christmas presents. They provided every child with a bunch of daffodils to give to their mums on Mothers' Day and this week they are providing Easter treats for every child.

Parking at the cricket club

The cricket club committee are currently preparing the grounds for the eagerly awaited cricket season. When picking up and collecting from school, it is important that children (and dogs) are not allowed to run onto the cricket square. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Dogs

Just a reminder that for health and safety reasons, we do not allow dogs onto the school site.

Parent/ Carer Questionnaire

I would like to thank everyone who responded to the questionnaire regarding the remote learning provided by the school during lockdown.

There was a fantastic response and we are grateful for your comments and suggestions. It was lovely to read so many positive comments and we have taken on board suggestions for improving the offer, if we should need to, in the future.



Dates For Your Diary Summer Term 2021



Monday 12 th April	Summer Term begins: Children return to school
13 th April	Acorns - Hearing screening
19 th April	Forest School - Acorns and Juniper
20 th April	Forest School – Willow and Oak
26 th April	Science Week
30 th April	Bikeability - Juniper
3 rd May	Bank Holiday Monday
4 th May	Forest School – All classes
17 th May	Forest School - Acorns and Juniper
18 th May	Forest School - Willow and Oak
25 th May	Class Photos (morning)
28 th May	Break up
Half Term Holiday	
7 th June	INSET – Staff CPD
8 th June	Children return to school
8 th June	Forest School – All classes
11 th June	Street Dance workshop Y1 – Y6
21 st – 24 th June	Bikeability – Oak
21 st June	Forest School – Acorns and Juniper
22 nd June	Forest School – Willow and Oak
6 th , 7 th July	Year 6 Induction days – Sharnbrook Academy
9 th July	Sports Day
15 th July	Juniper & Oak Sports competition
21 st July	Year 6 – Leavers performance 6pm
22 nd July	Leavers Service at the church. Picnic on the field 12.15pm 1.30pm - End of School Year

Children Celebrated in the Golden Book

Acorns	Willow
May Drury	Samuel Terkemani
Thomas Bolton	Harry Stocking
Bertie Eggleton	Izzie Sidorowska-Jenkinson
Reggie Rand	Tea Handley
Ena Bogust	Patrick Chance
	Toby Gorton
Juniper	Oak
Lottie Strong	Lena Ciesielska
Julian Nowak	George Colson
William Baker	Bailey Hooton
Isla-Mae Coletta	Fabiana Ciampa
Jessica Bennett	Sam Lee-Rowlay
Ben Lee-Rowlay	Adam Nowak
Rex Carr	

Have a lovely
Easter holiday!

