

Our value this half term is Peace



"Peace is the first thing the angels sang" John Keble

'Shalom' is the Hebrew term for peace, but also has wider and deeper meanings that link to many other Christian values. This is a paragraph from our guidance text, ChristianValues4Schools, which I love because it seems to speak about many things we hold dear here at Christopher Reeves Primary:

"Shalom includes ideas of healing and health, wholeness and well-being. It means harmony, stability and security within a community. It refers to relationships based on truth and righteousness, where people flourish because they are nurtured."

I do believe that, in addition our core purpose as a school, of providing exciting and challenging learning, this describes the attention we give to the 'whole child' and underpins the way we seek to achieve our vision of Happiness Through Wisdom.

It feels like the perfect way for me to sign-off. Thank you to the whole school community for all your love and support during my time at this school. A grateful goodbye and...Shalom.

Mrs Fraser



Countdown to Christmas

Thursday 12th December 3.30 – 5.30pm
PTA Christmas Bazaar

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the parents who put a massive amount of work and generosity into the Christmas Fundraising Bazaar, from choir to hog roast to raffle prizes. Congratulations to the sweet signing choir and thanks to the Brass Band. Thank you to all the families who bought raffle tickets and who stayed to enjoy an AMAZING event. Most of all, thank you Mrs Goodliffe and her incredible PTA team.



Friday 13th December
School Council Christmas Jumper and Bobble Hat Day

School Council are raising funds for Save the Children – pupils are 'charged' £1 for each Christmas item and teachers will collect the money in class.

Wednesday 18th December
Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 18th December
Early Years & KS1 Nativity

2.30pm Matinee performance of Hey Ewe!

6pm Evening performance of Hey Ewe!

Please bring children (ready changed for the performance) to the Front Entrance at 5.45pm.

Thursday 19th December
Christmas Party Day

Pupils can come dressed in smart, casual party clothes – not their party best please as we want them to be able to play out at break and lunch, without worrying that clothes and shoes will be spoiled.

There will be no Caterlink school lunches on this day as class teachers are organising for donations of party food. Sign-up sheets are on the classroom doors.

The PTA have written to a Certain Someone to let him know we are having a party day so let's keep our fingers crossed we get a visit.



Friday 20th December
Christmas Carol Service – 10.30am at St Mary's Podington

All are welcome to join the whole school and Rev Peter Turnbull for our Christmas Carol Service. We are delighted that Juniper Class will be taking a lead supported by Oak Class who will add their singing voices.

Friday 20th December End of Term



Monday 6th January 2020 – 8.50am
Start of Spring Term

Thursday 9th January
Entry Deadline for Charity Champion 'Design a Helicopter' Competition

See the article below for details of Frankie's event and how to enter this super competition, in aid of the Air Ambulance.

Thursday 16th January
Willow Class trip to The Higgins

Monday 20th January – 3.15pm

Christingle Service in the Edward Reeves Hall

Parents are invited to join us, and if they would like to help pupils make the Christingles, can join us at 2.45pm in the classrooms.

Please supply your child/ren with an orange each!

Church News



Nine Lessons and Carols Service (at which pupils are invited to be part of the choir) is Mon 23rd December 2019 at 6.30pm.

(Please note the change of rehearsal time – it is now 9am on Saturday 21st December)

EVERYONE WELCOME even if your child does not want to be in the choir – we would love to see you there.

Federation News

Thank you to those of you who joined us at the 'Meet Mrs Bush' event on Tuesday.



We were delighted to be able to announce that Mrs Nic Clark has been appointed as Deputy Headteacher of Christopher Reeves Primary School. Mrs Clark remains as the Willow Class teacher, and continues to be supported in that role by Mrs Harris and Miss Shiner. The new role of Deputy Headteacher reflects and recognises the responsibilities Mrs Clark already has as senior teacher, and provides the school with a Deputy senior leader on site at all times.

One of the other things we discussed was providing clear lines of communication for parents:

Who Can I Speak to?

Safeguarding: DSL – Mrs Bush
Deputy DSL – Mrs Clark

SENDCo: Mrs Aellen

Attendance / Absence: Mrs Mustoe

Behaviour: 1. Class Teacher
2. Behaviour Lead – Miss Bilson

Bullying: 1. Class Teacher
2. Anti-Bullying Champion – Miss Fairey

As always, teachers are happy to speak to parents for quick messages outside the classroom door at 8.45am. However, from January 2020, if the message is about school pick-up arrangements, please let Mrs Mustoe know instead, and she will pass the message on to the class team. Once the bell goes at 8.50am, teachers become responsible for the pupils and their

learning. If your conversation requires more time, please pop in to the school office and arrange to speak to the class teacher during and after school slot.

Finally, we explained to parents how Mrs Bush will be at Christopher Reeves and St Lawrence in a sequence of 5 consecutive days, with the change over being on a Wednesday, ie she will be in school from Wednesday of one week to the Tuesday of the following week. Mrs Bush reminded us all that she will only be in the next village if needed at other times!

Creative Curriculum in this newsletter we hear from Willow Class

We have been finding out what it means to be hero! We discovered that there are super heroes like Spiderman and Elastigirl, who have amazing super powers, and there are people in our community who are considered to be real-life heroes. We were lucky enough to have two such real-life heroes to visit us.



Mrs Carr is a hospital nurse and she came in to talk about her job and tell us all about germs. We did some practical activities and learned that by keeping our hands clean we could go

some way to preventing germs spreading to each other.

Mr Bogust is a paramedic. He brought an ambulance car into school and told us all about his role as a paramedic. We looked inside the car at the equipment. We had to put our hands over our ears when he put the emergency siren on. Back in the classroom, we all had a chance to check our heart rate using the heart rate monitor. Harry had to be treated for a pretend neck injury and Abigail a broken leg. Mr Bogust used special neck and leg braces to show us how he would treat these kind of injuries at the scene of an accident.



As if by magic, we took a step back in time to the late 1800s and met a real life hero from the past. Florence Nightingale came into our class with her famous lamp. We were able to ask her all sorts of questions about what life was like in hospitals in Victorian times and also what it was like for her and the other nurses who went to help the injured soldiers in the Crimean war. It was very exciting!

SIAMS Inspection

Last week we welcomed Caroline Clarke, the SIAMS inspector, for the statutory inspection of our school as a Church School. Just as with Ofsted, this is a rigorous process and the final grading and report remains confidential until the decision has been moderated and ratified, but we look forward to sharing the news with you in the New Year. Thank you to all parents who took time to speak to Caroline on the playground.



Design a Helicopter Competition



One of our Charity Champions, Frankie, is organising his first fundraiser in aid of the regional Air Ambulance charity.

Children are invited to design your own air ambulance helicopter (younger pupils can colour in a template picture). It costs just 50p to enter, but as this is a fundraiser, you are welcome to donate more. You will soon receive an email poster and entry form, or you can pick up an entry form from Frankie in Y6. There are prizes for different age groups, so remember to write on your name and year group, and return to school by Thursday 9th January. The competition will be judged on Friday 10th January.

Please also put the date of **Thursday 23rd January** in your diaries for the Air Ambulance Bingo Evening!

Name Your Uniform!

This is a plea from all the teaching team. Please ensure all items of school uniform are securely labelled with pupils' names. We have had an unprecedented number of unnamed school uniform items left or lost in school, and we therefore cannot return items easily. Children also find it difficult in getting changed into and out of PE uniform, if they cannot identify their own kit. This holiday might be an ideal time to get your sewing kit or iron-on labels out! Thank you, from the staff.

Feedback to Parents

Thank you to all who responded to our 'Curriculum Evenings – help us know what works for you.'

These were reasons why parents didn't sign up:

50% say a 3.30pm meeting is not possible for you to attend

38% say a 6pm meeting is not possible for you to attend

32% say you were not concerned about the Behaviour Audit

38% say you were not concerned about these areas of your child's learning (Reading and RE)

Other reasons provided were all individual responses, with no particular issue being shared by a number of parents.

In conclusion, it seems that – being a small school – there will always be a wide variety of reasons why parents cannot attend our Curriculum Evenings, but we will continue to put on events, varying the times, and take each one on a case-by-case basis to see if it can run successfully with the numbers. I hope that is a satisfactory resolution for everyone.

Behaviour Forum – in the absence of forming a parent group for this, I have asked the Parent Governors to review the Behaviour Policy on your behalf. You are very welcome to speak to them about this too: they are Mrs Liz Nichols (Phoebe's mum) and Mr Mark Earle (who has a pupil at St Lawrence). Mr Sam Strong (Joshua and Lottie's dad) is also one of the Federation Governors.

Playground Requests

We realise that we have not reminded parents and children for quite a while now, about our requests for playground 'etiquette'. Please take this in the spirit in which it is offered – to ensure a calm, happy and safe environment for the wide range of ages we welcome onto the playground at the start and end of the school day. We have had a couple of bumps, bashes and altercations recently – nothing serious but we want to calm things down now rather than risk more serious incidents.

Parents are asked to supervise children, and children are asked to play close by to their parents at the start of the day. Please do not play chase up by the classroom doors.



Please stay on the playground itself; this is especially important in the wet or muddy winter months. When the grounds are firm enough to cope with lots of children during the day, we put on our welly boots, and give children plenty of opportunity to be in the open space.

All pupils, including Year 5s and 6s who walk to and from school by themselves, will be expected to stay on the playground once they have arrived, and not return back around the path towards the side gate.



The school's policy of 'no mobile phones' extends to the playground, please. We kindly request that parents keep their phones in pockets or bags.

That's it! Hopefully, a few simple and reasonable guidelines to help everyone start and end the day in a positive frame of body and mind. Thank you.

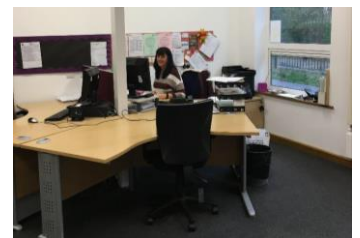
Project Ash



Our refurbishment project is complete! We hope you share our delight at having the school entrance back, and a smart new reception area for parents and visitors arriving at the school office.

We are very grateful to our main contractors **Mineralstar**, and in particular, to our site manager Steve and the company director Antony Owen, who has gone above and beyond to ensure we have improved energy efficiency, a new watertight roof and a beautiful, smart frontage to the school, all on a very challenging budget. We are also very grateful to Mrs Watts and Jane Smith Financial Planning for the donation of our lovely office furniture.

Thank you very much, too, to parents, for your patience through the refurbishment process, negotiating temporary



entrances and dodgy phone systems. Mrs Mustoe (who has walked the equivalent of a marathon up and down the school corridor) can now enjoy more efficient office systems. The improvements are all part of the big picture to ensure the sustainability of our wonderful little school.



Very best wishes to all our families from all the staff and Governors, for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Children Celebrated in the Golden Book:

Acorn Class

Oscar Gorton – for fantastic reading and again for trying hard with his letter and number formation
Willow Meadows – for showing excellent manners to adults and again for independent writing about bonfires
Teddy Doe – for working hard in his learning about Diwali and again for super independent writing
Harlan Johnston-Smith – for trying hard and forming his letters correctly and again for working hard in maths
Erin Morby – for showing her values with a calm and peaceful attitude
Samuel Terkemani – for neat letter formation
Zachary Hubbard – for fantastic maths work with coins
Patrick Chance – for his learning about shape at home and at school
Albert Rand – for a beautiful presentation of his snowflake challenge
Savannah Croucher – for creating a beautiful firework picture

Willow Class

Florence Eggleton – for trying hard with her writing
Mia Goodliffe – for persevering with her maths
Abigail Manko – for great writing about our Autumn walk
Brihanna Graham – for a super attitude to all her work
Betzie Sidorowska-Jenkinson – for showing responsibility and working independently in writing
Brooke Nash – for being helpful to others
Harry Stocking – for showing a positive attitude and trying his best and again for hard work and a great attitude
Noah Burnett – for showing a positive attitude and working hard in English
Nadia Gzyl – for a positive and mature attitude to all her work
Ben Chambers – for working hard with his writing
Rex Carr – for improved concentration and a super attitude to his work
Harrison Freeman – for showing excellent knowledge of animals in science

Juniper Class

Keavy Nash – for working hard in reading comprehension
Chloe Bastin – great sportsmanship at the Sports Festival
George Colson – for showing enthusiasm in maths lessons

Jessica Bennett – for helping others with their learning

Pippa Parnell – for showing a positive attitude in all her work and again for a peaceful approach in painting – living our values

Zoe Warden – for showing a calm and peaceful approach to school – living our values

Adam Nowak – for an excellent positive attitude and contribution in English

Joshua Tilley – for a calm peaceful approach in class – living our values

Sky Anderson – for working hard in maths and again for working hard on her newspaper report

Ben Lee-Rowlay – for a super poem

Lexi Price – for working hard in multiplication

Joshua Strong – for good scientific thinking

Joshua Strong, Lexi Price, Chloe Bastin, Adam Nowak, Harry Cunningham – silver times table award

Oak Class

Fabiana Ciampa – for fantastic debating skills

Eleanor Truckell – for great results in a STAs practise reading comprehension

Oscar Greatbatch – for showing great knowledge and understanding in science

Tabitha Dunne – for her class discussion skills

Nathan Watts – for working really hard and persevering in maths

Josef Chambers – for much improved concentration in his learning all week

James De St Aubin – for a great attitude to all learning

Bella Lambert – for a great attitude to all learning

Izzie Burnett – for a great effort in singing

Jack Saunders – for good work in his writing

William Richardson – for hard work with printing in art

Jacob Howe – a truly fantastic attitude in learning all week

Olivia Moore – meeting Mrs Fraser's challenge, asking herself 'What more can I offer?' and taking action

Daniel Ashton – gaining his pen licence

