



Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School
Together we live, learn and flourish
Newsletter 9 : Spring Term 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Lunar New Year. It is the year of the Rabbit, the water rabbit in fact, something that has not happened since 1963. Those born in the year of the Rabbit are said to be sensitive, lovable, and calm. I wonder if this is true!

Despite the extremely cold weather (will it never end) school has been buzzing with learning and many different activities going on.

It has been wonderful to have Mrs Hopkins back in school and **Maple class** have been enjoying learning all about Chinese New Year. The children have made their own dragons, eaten Chinese food, and listened to Chinese dragon dance music. The whole school and parents thoroughly enjoyed their Chinese parade on Friday.



Willow Class been producing some great writing linked to their book, Traction Man and working hard on their partitioning in Maths. So, if you have heard your child talk about part, part, whole this is linked to their maths learning!

Chestnut Class has also been thoroughly enjoying their class book, The Phantom Tollbooth, and the writing has been flowing from them. The children have also been practising their music skills, singing, and learning to play Bob Marley's Three Little Birds. I greatly enjoyed one of their first performances. Chestnut Class are also embarking on a new project called the Young Leaders Award, where they look to change their own communities as well as the wider one. Already we have had children making meals for their families at home, building bird feeders and litter picking. Well done Chestnut children.

Oak class have produced some excellent work this week, from science posters on Nutrition to using the Chrome Books to produce drawings only using circles and squares!

Art in School - All the classes are very focused this term on improving their sketching and drawing skills, both from observations and their imagination. Hopefully, at parents' evenings in the second half of this term, you will see the children's progress as well as their talents.

A Few Reminders

Children in Willow, Chestnut and Oak all **have logins for TT Rockstars and** should be practising at home on a regular basis. This will help with all their maths concepts in lessons.

Reading - We want children to be fluent readers who can read anything for pleasure. We do ask that you hear your child read as much as possible during the week and ideally you should be reading to them as well, even children in Year 5 and 6. It is so important that younger children read on a regular

basis to as many adults as possible. In school we hear children read in a variety of different ways; on an individual basis, in groups, as class, in planned and ad hoc sessions. Teachers can't hear every child read individually every week as this would mean this would be the only thing they were doing. Please help us to help your child be a reader by reading with them at home.

Absences due to Sickness

If your child is not well enough to come school, can we please ask you to stipulate the nature of their illness. We have received several notifications recently without detail of why they are absence; 'feeling unwell' is an insufficient explanation.

Elka Evalds Visit

As I said in my last Newsletter, **Creativity** is our value for this half term. We were delighted that Elka Evalds, the children's author could join us in school and spend time with the children from Year 1 upwards. Elka sent me an email afterwards, saying how much she had enjoyed the afternoon.

"I had a thoroughly wonderful afternoon. What a lovely school! The students were polite, engaged, interested and interesting. I loved seeing their drawings and hearing their ideas, and I enjoyed telling stories with them."

It is always lovely to hear visitors say great things about our school and children. Hopefully this might have inspired someone in our school to always keep their dreams and hopes alive and perhaps become an author one day.

News from the School Council

Our Smart School Council has decided to save the money they have raised so far and add to it so they can buy something bigger for the school in the Summer Term!

Events coming up!

Next week 30th January

As our continuing focus on keeping children safe we are working with the NSPCC next week to talk to the children about Speak Out and Stay Safe. Willow, Chestnut, and Oak will all be watching a virtual assembly and completing some work based on this. Oak will have a workshop with someone with the NSPCC on Thursday afternoon. A letter giving you more details has already been sent out.

The Week starting 13th February

To finish our Value of Creativity in style we have invited in the iSingPop Team (we currently use their virtual worships in class) to spend Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in school. They will be working with all 4 classes every day to teach them a range of songs and actions that the children will then perform for you **on Thursday 2nd March in 2 concerts** (one afternoon and one evening performance.) A letter will be coming separately explaining all the details of the concert day. This is an exciting opportunity for all our children to perform in a concert and showcase what they have learnt.

Additional Dates

Day	Time	Event
Friday 3 rd February		Bags2School Collection
Tuesday 7 th February	All Day	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 9 th February	1:30 (in Class)	Leah Davies in to talk to Oak about Online Relationships.
Friday 10 th February	All Day	Cricket sessions for each class- please send children into school wearing PE Kit.
Friday 10 th February	3:00 onwards	Oak cake sale, books and uniform
Monday 13 th February	Evening	Dance Festival – for Dance Club
Monday 13 th February	Morning	Swimming Gala – letters already been sent home
Friday 17 th February	Normal end of day time 3:15pm.	Finish for Half Term

Next Half Term

Day	Time	Event
Tuesday 28 th February	All day	School Photographer in
Thursday 2 nd March	All day	World Book Day (details to follow)
Thursday 2 nd March	2:00 5:45	iSingPop Concert for all children in the Church. All children to attend and parents can come to either time. Letter to be sent with details.
Monday 13 th March and Wednesday 15 th March	3:30 onwards	Parents Evenings in School, letters will be sent out after half term.
Friday 17 th March	All day	Dress Down day for the whole school. Please bring in a bar of/box of chocolates or an Easter egg for the Chocolate Bingo event. (This is instead of Red Nose Day.)
Friday 17 th March	8:30 onwards	Mother' Day Breakfast (booking form to be sent out.)
Wednesday 29 th March	9:30	Whole School Easter Service
Thursday 30 th March	6:00	Friends Chocolate Bingo Night
Friday 31 st March	1:00pm	All children finish for Easter Holiday

Have a great week.

Mrs Wood