



Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School
Together we live, learn and flourish
Newsletter 3: Autumn Term 1 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of you who donated an item or more to our Harvest Festival Food Bank collection. It was a massive amount and will make a huge difference to lots of families. I hope, if you were able to join us in Church you enjoyed the service and a special mention to Maple children who did exceptionally well for their first appearance in Church!



Fundraising

Our Macmillan Coffee afternoon raised £70 so thank you for your donations and cakes.

Back in June, 2 of our parents, Abigail and Mark Webber, completed the Welsh 3000s Challenge, climbing all 15 of the mountains over 3000 ft in Wales within 24 hours. This was an amazing achievement and raised £715 for our school. We will be putting this towards a free-standing climbing wall on the playground.

Chestnut Cake Sale- don't forget Chestnut cake sale this **Friday 20th October** in the hall so it is not hampered by the weather.

What has been happening in School?

It has been lovely to show lots of new families around the school over the last couple of weeks already thinking about places for Reception in September 2024. The yearly calendar of school works so far in advance! I am always so proud when taking visitors into our classrooms to see what's going on, as the children love showing their work.

Worship

Our theme for this week has been, Is it Fair? and we have tied this into thinking about Black History Month and equality. Reverend John joined us yesterday and talked about the Gospel of St Luke and how Luke tried to be inclusive to all people no matter where they were from. He played "You will never walk alone!" and that could be a theme for our school, that children, parents, and staff when in our school are never alone. (Though the children will tell you that the football team that song is linked to is not my favourite!)

What have the classes been up to?

Maple

In Maple, we have made a super start to learning our phonic sounds and are already able to read and write simple CVC words which is very impressive! We are continuing our topic and big question 'What makes us special?' and have been busy drawing simple maps of Ampney Crucis, identifying the church, park, and our school, which we were brilliant at. We have also loved using maps in our play, asking for directions, and creating our own city on the tarmac using chalk. In the short time we've been in school, we have really developed our independence skills and most of us

can now get ourselves ready for Forest School without any help at all, which means we get longer to enjoy our time there!

Willow



Over the last couple of weeks in Willow Class, we have been learning more about the Creation Story and how Christians believe that God created the world in seven days. We shared story books together and then created our own picture of one of the days, using a range of materials - from pastels to metallic crayons!

The children have also been working hard writing their own postcards based on the book *Meerkat Mail* by Emily Gravett. Year 1's have been using the joining word 'and' in their work and Year 2's have been practising using a list of 3 with a comma. They have done a great job!

Chestnut

We have been writing some super explanation texts about the process of mummification in English this week. The children showed great understanding of food chains in science and have had some brilliant discussions in PSHE relating to dares. In art we have managed to make our own papyrus in preparation for our own Egyptian Scrolls which will be finished next week.

A really lovely moment was an impromptu seed dispersal 'lesson' on the playground on Wednesday morning when the children showed great interest and excitement in throwing 'helicopters' (sycamore seeds) into the air and watching them spin!

Oak

Oak class have been busy of the past few weeks. In English we are working on the *Nowhere Emporium*, so the children are writing lots of fantastic descriptive sentences. Science has been all about micro-organisms. We are currently carrying out an investigation into what conditions produce the most Mold on bread. We are all enjoying our weekly swimming sessions, and some children have represented the school at Bee Netball and Tag Rugby events. Finally, in art with Mrs Paxford, all the children have produced some amazing sculptures in the style of Henry Moore, and they look great now they have been painted in bronze paint.

What's Happening next week?

Friday of this week- as the email explained, we will be having Class photos on Friday of this week.

Monday is photo day for individuals and Siblings so please make sure children look very smart (as always)

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all at **Parents Evenings either on Monday or Wednesday**. Willow, Chestnut and Oak's work will be on show in the hall where you will be able to wait until the teacher is free and Maple parents will be able to wait outside Maple's classroom.

Last day of the half term is Friday 27th October and we finish at normal time, 3:15pm.

Enjoy the rest of the week and the weekend.

Mrs Wood