

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure your children will be very tired by today, after their first full week of school. Its always tricky getting back into a routine and existing school staff have been so supportive with our new team members who are not just adjusting to the start of term but a new job, and getting to know everyone in our school community. Thank you for being so welcoming – I know it has helped them all settle in.

We have already had some parents come forward as Aspiration Ambassadors, after my message last week. We are looking forward to welcoming in a nurse and a geologist over the new few months. Please do let us know if you are happy to come in and talk about your job, whatever it may be. As adults we are the inspiration for our children and broadening their perspectives is a powerful tool in helping them to see the purpose of their learning in school.

Last week we announced some of our key leadership roles in and around school. I'm very pleased to say that Ewan is Chair of School Council and is already coming up with fantastic ideas for everyone to get the most out of their breaktimes and playtimes. Voting for school council is underway across the classes and I know he is keen to get started with his ideas and collecting the ideas of others. Zzombor is Chair of Eco-council – the perfect role for him as he has been an active member of eco-council last year, being proactive and very vocal about many environmental issues. He will be joined by Eco-council who again are going to be elected from all the classes.

Dates for this term

To help you plan the next few weeks below are key dates for this term. We will always try to give you as much warning as we can about forthcoming events so that you can attend.



St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

East Challow, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 9RY

Life in all its fullness John 10:10
Belonging, Compassion and Resilience



Tuesday 27th September 5.30-6.05

Books and Bears plus Phonics and Early Reading session for parents (Nursery-Year 2). Please see Ms Winters' letter for more details.

4th October –3.15pm and repeated again at 5.30pm

Internet Safety and Wellbeing Information session (all parents- led by Mrs Mallinson)

30th September – McMillan Coffee Morning 10am-11am

Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th October – Parent-teacher meetings.

14th October 1.30-2.30pm - House Sports (Yr1-6)- Parents welcome

20th October – Harvest Assembly (We will be inviting contributions again for the local Food Bank)

Please note Friday 21st October and Monday 31st October are both INSET days, and school will be closed to all pupils. We will return after half term break on Tuesday 1st November.

What's been going on around the school

Wrens

We are nearly at the end of our first full week in the Wrens class. The children have been settling in each day fantastically. We have been exploring our new space, testing the abundance of toys and learning the routines of a nursery day. The children have already started to create bonds with other peers and adults, which is lovely to see.

For the next couple of weeks, our primary focus is to get to know your little people really well during 'learning through play' and for them to feel safe within The Burrows classroom. We are lucky to have the older Kingfisher children to be role models and show us the ropes.

The children have been engaging in daily storytimes, looking at picture books but also making up our own stories. They have been contributing interesting characters/ ideas and showing off their great imaginations. Group singing sessions have been a hit (Old Mcdonald being a favourite), as well as cosmic yoga. I am really look forward to this year with The Wrens.

Ms Dyet

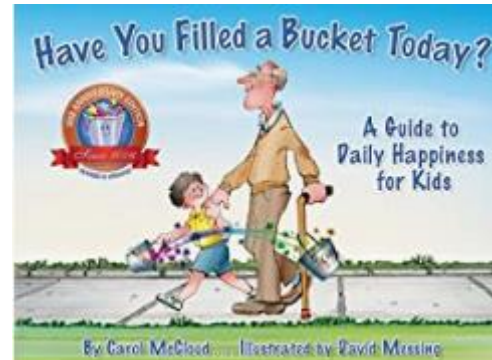


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Kingfishers

In Kingfishers we have been focussing on getting to know our classmates and adults; exploring our new space and the resources available; learning the rules and routines; and sharing lots of stories. We learnt about the school rule "Be Kind" by reading the book "Have you Filled a Bucket today?" We are making a kindness chain where each link in a paper chain represents an act of kindness spotted in our classroom. We learnt about the school rule "Be the Best You Can Be" by reading Splash by paralympic gold medallist Claire Cashmore.



We have been doing lots of singing and the children have learnt a song to support handwashing. You might like to ask your child if they can sing it to you. In maths we have been focussing on counting and numbers to five including singing number songs.

Mrs Thorpe

Robins

This week, Robin Class have been settling in to a new classroom and a new routine. Despite the changes, the class has really worked hard to follow the new routines and lessons and we have still managed to fit in lots of reading, singing and dancing, which the children have really enjoyed.

In English, we have started to learn the Gruffalo story to tell out loud and had great fun acting the story out together. We are now working on describing characters in the story. In art, we have been learning about primary colours and what other colours can be made from them, whilst in science we thought about what animals, including human, need to survive.

Ms Winter and Mrs Miller

Owls

This week in Owls, we have been reading our new class book Arthur and the Golden Rope. The children have enjoyed this and we have been thinking about what heroes look like to us. The children loved creating their own super heroes and had some incredible language to add to our working wall, using Thesaurus' to up level their adjectives. We have also been looking at what Arthur packed for his adventure into his bag. We all came up with items that were essential for our adventures and it was interesting to see how many chose pets over water!

In Science we have been learning about forces. Focusing on pulling and pushing. The children have been fantastic at categorizing forces and understanding the effects of friction. They have a clear understanding of our key vocabulary and are confident in their approach to the tasks. I am really impressed with their scientific knowledge and their eagerness to learn.

In History we began our topic on the Anglo-Saxons. When given the challenge of creating ships for the Anglo-Saxons to arrive in, it was beyond impressive when they created ores and benches out of sticks and cardboard. They worked well as part of a team and were very inventive in their designs. When evaluating their boats, it was lovely to see how many children had commented on how well their team worked together and were reflective in how their designs matched up to their final creation.

Ms Palmer and myself have really enjoyed how passionate the children have been about their learning and how many new friendships have formed from a new class. Well done Owls!

Ms Batty

Red Kites

At the end of last week, we wrote up the story of 'The Dragon Pearl'. This is a traditional Chinese tale which focuses on service to others. This week we have looked at the central plot of the story in order to establish what we can change without changing the plot. In the original story, the protagonist meets three animals who ask for his help. Each then gives him a gift which will help him in his quest. We had fun thinking about which animals the protagonists in our own stories might meet and the gifts that they might give. I am looking forward to reading the final outcomes next week.

Both Year 5 and 6 have made an excellent start to their maths this term. I have been pleased with the general determination to improve and be the best that they can be. Both Mrs Ambrose and I were particularly delighted by the positive approach shown by the children who joined us for some extra maths work this week.

We have also made a start on our project this term which looks at the importance of the Shang Dynasty. So far we have learned that it was a Bronze Age Civilisation which grew up along the Yellow River in a similar way to Early Egyptian settlements along the Nile. We have also heard the Story of Yellow Dragon and Black Turtle and considered which aspects of the story might be true. In Science we have found out how we see and have created mono-chrome optic art.

Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Richards

High 5's

Wrens

My high 5's are Evie for being kind, caring and inviting children to play with her and Teddie for always being ready to engage in carpet time.

Kingfishers

This week's High Fives go to George for being a super sitter on the carpet and to Isabelle for being a kind friend



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Robins

This week's High Fives go to Sophie for being such a helpful Year 2 role model and Grace for trying her best in everything.

Owls

Caitlin for being the best she can be and showing she is ready to learn
Ethan for settling in so well and working hard on his presentation.

Red Kites

Sennen for working hard in all lessons all week.
Leo for his fantastic writing last Friday.

Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes
Heather Richards and the St Nics Team



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