

SISSINGHURST (VA) CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Friday 12th October 2018 - Issue 5

Enjoy, Achieve and Celebrate Together in Faith

SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear God,

We ask that you would bless us in our school, give us the strength to learn, to be kind, to be fair and to look after others. We are thankful for all your gifts **Amen**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Harvest Festival

What a wonderful week we enjoyed last week! We started the week with a harvest walk in the orchards. The sun shone and 158 very excited children walked through the orchards chattering merrily as they went. We stopped in an open area where we could see Trinity Church and said a prayer of thanks and then sang 'We are Marching in the Light of God' (including our African verse). The children looked for signs of harvest and autumn. We met the farmer and some fruit pickers on our way back to school. I think the farmer was delighted that we were enjoying his orchard as much as he does! Once back at school the children wrote prayers, some of which were read in church at our Friday harvest service and also at Harvest Festival on Sunday.



The school harvest service was, as always, a joyful occasion. The children sang beautifully and we listened to



super poetic prayers written by the children. Again the sun was shining and we all enjoyed the walk to church and back. The only concern from one child, who has recently joined our school, was, would we be back in time for break! I reassured them that we most certainly would! Thank you for all your kind donations of food for harvest. The church was resplendent with gifts and the children in Eagle Class really enjoyed delivering the parcels on Monday afternoon to local residents.

Malawi

I have recently received a communication from Boma School, Malawi. Harvest for them has been mixed. Northern and central Malawi has had a bumper yield but the southern region had erratic rainfall and as a result the yield is down and many families have been hit by hunger. Boma is in the central region so fortunately ok.

Grow a Pound

Leopards Class have undertaken a fundraising project in aid of Boma School. They were all given £1 and asked to find a way to make it 'grow'. They all found innovative ways to increase their money: some grouped together, others took advantage of a clear out at home of toys and others visited Poundland (or equivalent) to buy items for their stalls. The pupils were incredibly creative with planning, publicising and running a variety of stalls and activities over a two week period. These stalls included: a nail salon, cookie stalls, popcorn, bookmarks, guess the sweets in a jar, raffles, tin can alley, lucky dips and a range of other highly enjoyable activities. In total, the pupils managed to grow £30 into £262. Well done Leopards! I have already been asked if Eagle Class can have a go and they are determined to raise even more. They will probably take their turn in term three, so look out for information regarding this.



Money raised for Malawi will go towards items we send in the container on an annual basis, subscription to Starfish Malawi, the charity that supports the linking schools project and help with roofing materials for new classrooms. They have a new classroom block built through community contributions however, building work has had to stop as they have run out of funds.

Curriculum

I have attended various training, meetings and conferences recently, all linked to developing our curriculum. This is an area identified by Ofsted and also a key focus from the DfE (Department for Education). Throughout the year we will be working hard on developing all areas of our curriculum but in particular our foundation subjects (geography, history, art, music, DT etc). Mrs Macfarlane and I attended a very interesting conference at Canterbury Diocese one element of which discussed the curriculum in relation to the four key elements of the Church of England Vision for Education. Educating for: wisdom, knowledge and skills; hope and aspirations; dignity and respect; community and living well together. It is altogether a very different approach to curriculum design when you put these elements at the heart of what we teach. I will update you on our developments as then unfold!

Eagle and Leopard Class Art Day

Today we had Birgitta Wilson, a talented artist and ex member of staff from Sissinghurst, visiting both Eagle and Leopard Class. Birgitta spent the day delivering art showing the children a range of printing techniques that link to their topics of the Mayans and the Golden Age of Islam.

Open Morning

The next Wednesday is Open Morning for parents wishing to send their children to Sissinghurst next September. If you know of any parents who may wish to join us, they should come to school at 9.30am. I will give a short talk and then the Year 6 pupils will show them around. The FOSS will be providing coffee and tea.

Farewell

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs O'Rawe next Friday who is leaving to spend more time with her family. We would like to thank Mrs O'Rawe for all the hard work she has put into the school and our pupils here at Sissinghurst for the past five years. Good luck and best wishes for the future you will be greatly missed.

Next Newsletter will be on Friday 2nd November 2018. Please check the website calendar, news items and office area for further information.

Mrs C Penfold



gardenscape



Lion Class

Lion Class would like to thank Gardenscape services for their kind donation of play bark. We have replenished the bark in both our mud kitchen and bug area and the children are enjoying using these areas once more.

Thank you Gardenscape.

Governors

The Learning & Development team held its first meeting of the year on 28 September and, as planned, reallocated various roles to bring fresh focus to our priorities for this year (including the Ofsted next steps of ensuring that lessons are consistently and suitably pitched for all ability groups and that the curriculum is further developed so that all pupils, particularly the most able, are challenged to improve their skills across all subjects). We appointed Scott Martin to Chair the team and Letty Neill as Vice Chair and reallocated various monitoring responsibilities. We also reviewed the first detailed set of official outcomes and progress data from last year, which confirms the excellent performance of pupils at our school against national and other Kent schools.

Andrew Chandler

FOSS

At our AGM on October 1 we were pleased to hear updates from the last academic year. We reflected on all the hard work and super events that had been organised and were pleased to have confirmation that we raised £6420. This was a little down on the previous year but given the Quiz Night was cancelled due to snow and the May Fair takings were significantly knocked by rain, overall we were pleased. We thanked our chair Nathalie Tucker for all her hard work over the last year, as well as the treasurer Peter Denyer and secretary Jo Cottage who were all standing down.

We've also had our first full committee meeting of the year where we discussed what events will take place this year and discussed funding requests from the Headteacher and her team. We're looking forward to an exciting year but still need more helpers and members to offer the range of events we'd like so please get in touch. The more of us there are the easier it is for everyone! Many thanks.

Anna Bourne - Acting Chair - FOSS annabourne@hotmail.co.uk 07989414426

News From the Classes



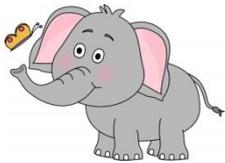
Lion Class enjoyed making and eating apple crumble following our harvest walk last week. This week we have been learning about growth from a baby to adult and had fun guessing who everyone was in their baby photos. If any parents have a toy garage that they could donate to Lion Class we would be very grateful. Thank you.

Mrs Lyon



Well done to all the Giraffes for their great spelling work! I can see some fantastic progress from everyone. This week we have been working on information booklets about Sissinghurst. It's been interesting finding out about the history of Sissinghurst Castle. If anyone has any recycling such as tubes or boxes - it would be great if you could send them in for our Junk Modelling box. Thank you to parents who have already been doing this.

Mrs MacFarlane



Elephants went into the school grounds on a dragon hunt and discovered a nest with eggs in it and we found scratches on the trees and burnt wood. It was very exciting. The children wrote very creatively as a result of this activity. Please can everyone bring in a coat everyday into school.

Mrs Delorie



Zebras have begun to draw and paint their designs onto their Greek pots. They are looking great! We will be inviting parent into school to see them once complete. In English, they have been using prepositions in their writing to describe different settings.

Miss Ovenden



This week in English our focus was adverts. The children produced some really thoughtful posters for pet products using persuasive features. We are looking forward to the Mayan Art workshop this afternoon.

Mrs Desai



In science Leopards dropped a variety of items off the top of the wall bars in the hall to investigate air resistance.

Mr Boyles

Sports News



On Wednesday 10th October, years 5 and 6 competed in the WOKSSA Football Tournament held at Marden Hockey Club, their first tournament for this academic year.

I would like to say well done and congratulations to the following children in the team for coming joint second; George B, Zak S, Max B, Oliver L-S, Ryan S-S, Hollie-Emma D, Leah P, Harrison S and Tomas R. They all played with enthusiasm, showing great teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. I am very proud of them all and will be arranging a few friendly football matches against other schools in the up and coming months.

Events for term 2 include Cross Country running and Sportshall Athletics for KS2. More details about these events will follow later.

I have chosen a few children from year 6 to help support me in the Change for Life club, which will start Tuesday 6th November, aimed for years 3 and 4, starting at 12.00pm.

Mrs Saxby



Eagle Class – Thursday 8th November

Leopard Class – Thursday 29th November



Lion Class enjoyed their first experience of Forest School this week. They explored the environment through games, discovered some strange objects in the woods and practised their tree climbing skills.

Mrs Hutchings

LEARNER & CITIZEN AWARDS

Friday 12 October 2018

Lion Class – Sonny/Reuben

Giraffe Class – Poppy/Seb B

Elephant Class – Annabel/Sophia

Zebra Class – William/Kristopher

Eagle Class – Charlie/Effiee-Mae

Leopard Class – Ryan/Harry



Week Ending 12th October 2018

Lion Class - 98.5%

Giraffe Class - 97.0%

Elephant Class - 97.1%

Zebra Class - 97.0%

Eagle Class - 97.8 %

Leopard Class - 97.6%

Whole School - 97.5%

Well done Lion Class
an amazing week!



Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival



Musical Background Performances Friday 7th:

09.30 - 10.30am Opening of the Festival
10.30 - 11.30am Sissinghurst Primary School
11.30 - 12.30 U3A Men's Singing Group
12.30 - 1.30pm Dulwich School Jazz Band
01.30 - 2.30pm Sissinghurst Primary School
02.30 - 3.30pm Quiet hour
03.30 - 4.30 String Quartet
Donations on the door



Musical Background Performances Saturday 8th:

09.30 - 11.00am Organ Recital
01.00 - 2.00pm U3A Women's Songsters
02.00 - 4.00pm (tbc)
Donations on the door



Saturday 8th Evening:

7.30pm Wealden Consort
Suggested minimum donation of £5 on the night for the evening performance



Craft Stalls: Open from 9.30am - 5pm (7th and 8th December)

Raffle Donations include:

Catherine Berkeley Biddenden Christmas Trees –
decorations, room diffusers, scented candles

Jolly Tolly Handmade Doll - knitted and crocheted dolls

Pompared and Pom Squared - Handmade Beauty Bathroom
Products and all Things PomPom

Cranbrook Conserves - Jams and Chutneys (Friday)

Holdens - Jams and Chutneys (Saturday)

Christmas Crafts and Gifts Anne Made

Christmas Cards

Trinity Church Cake Stall

Sissinghurst Scout Group - Crafts



*The Trees decorated by village organisations will be judged by
The High Sherriff of Kent Jane Ashton on Saturday afternoon.*



Calendar Dates September 2018 – July 2019

Date	Day	Event	Time
17.10.18	Wednesday	Opening Morning (Reception 2019)	9.30-11.00am
18.10.18	Thursday	HWA Maths Challenge Y5 (selected pupils)	10.00-12.00am
18.10.18	Thursday	CPR Training Y6	1.00-2.30pm
19.10.18	Friday	Last Day of Term 1	
TERM 2			
29.10.18	Monday	INSET DAY	
30.10.18	Tuesday	Pupils Back to School	
06.11.18	Tuesday	Cross Country – Cranbrook Rugby Club	2.30-4.00pm
07.11.18	Wednesday	Individual Pupil Photographs	
09.11.18	Friday	Invictus Athlete Darran Challis in School	12.30-3.00pm
13.11.18	Tuesday	World Kindness Day	
14.11.18	Wednesday	Captain Safety Roadshow	1.00-3.00pm
14.11.18	Wednesday	Child Learning Reviews	3.30-6.00pm
15.11.18	Thursday	Child Learning Reviews	5.30-8.00pm
15.11.18	Thursday	HWA DT Challenge Y5 (selected pupils)	10.00-12.00pm
16.11.18	Friday	Children in Need	
28.11.18	Wednesday	Leopard Class Swimming Last Lesson	
03.12.18	Monday	'Bach to the Future' Music Roadshow	11.00-12.00pm
03.12.18	Monday	Christingle (All parents welcome)	2.15-3.00pm
07.12.18	Friday	Trinity Church Tree Decorating Service	KS1 am KS2 pm
10.12.18	Monday	KS1 Nativity Performance to Whole School	2.00-3.00pm
11.12.18	Tuesday	KS1 Nativity Performance for Parents	5.30-6.30pm
11.12.18	Tuesday	Flu Vaccine YR-Y5	9.00-3.00pm
13.12.18	Thursday	HWA English Challenge Y5 (selected pupils)	10.00-12.00pm
14.12.18	Friday	Whole School Christmas Lunch	12.00-1.00pm
14.12.18	Friday	Christmas Fair	3.00-5.00pm
18.12.18	Tuesday	Whole School Christmas Service at Trinity Church	9.30-10.30am
18.12.18	Tuesday	Pantomime Robin Hood	2.00-3.00pm
18.12.18	Tuesday	Last Day of Term 2	
19.12.18	Wednesday	INSET DAY	
TERM 3			
03.01.19	Thursday	First Day of Term	