

# Newsletter (6) Autumn Term – 13.10.2023

## What happened this week in school?

- Our school attendance is looking really good! We are meeting our school target of 96%. Well done to all our regular attendees and for being punctual.
- The Dog Trust was in this week and pupils attended workshops on dog safety.
- We had our first reception open day visit for prospective parents. It was well attended and we are excited to show off all the improvements of the school.
- We had a volunteers' and helpers' meeting on Thursday to discuss fundraising events. Please see Minutes in this newsletter.
- Pupils looked very smart for the individual photos and sibling photos taken today.
- Mrs Snow has asked that we share an update, as she will be halfway through her chemotherapy next week. Mrs Snow is missing everyone very much and can't wait to be back at school. We miss her too and wish her a speedy recovery. Please keep her in your prayers.
- We are looking forward to Monday's visit with Paul Sturgess (<http://www.paulsturgesswowbasketball.co.uk/>)
- Prefects and class ambassadors will be announced next Thursday at the Harvest Assembly at St Nicholas' Church at 14.00. Parents are kindly requested to attend to hand over badges.



## Roots and Fruits Value







This term's focus will be on the words of Jesus.

## British Value of the term

**Democracy**







## Attendance target: 96%

	Reception class <b>100%</b>
	Years 1 and 2 <b>98%</b>
	Years 3 and 4 <b>95%</b>
	Years 5 and 6 <b>97%</b>
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>97%</b>








## Picture News – This week's Big Question...



## House Points

<b>Ants</b>		241
<b>Badgers</b>		243
<b>Locusts</b>		305
<b>Lizards</b>		171

# Value Awards

	Reception	Jake	Courage: Coming into school happily without any tears!
	<b>Courage</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Scarlett	For asking for help when she needs it
	Years 3 and 4	Hugo	For standing up for himself
	Years 5 and 6	Maxwell	For always trying his best
	<b>Creativity</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Lincoln	For using amazing choice of words when providing his answers
	Years 3 and 4	Joey	For trying really hard in PE this week
	Years 5 and 6	Ralph	For a great futuristic sketch in art
	<b>Respect</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Ava	For listening to both adults and her friends
	Years 3 and 4	Cassidy	For improving her behaviour
	Years 5 and 6	Cash	For treating all staff and peers with respect
	<b>Compassion</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Madison	For understanding other peoples' feelings
	Years 3 and 4	Phoebe	For being a good friend
	Years 5 and 6	Sienna	For being a great friend when people are upset
	<b>Perseverance</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Knightley	For not giving up when the work is challenging
	Years 3 and 4	Dotty	For always taking part in class discussions
	Years 5 and 6	Paul	For working hard on completing set tasks
	<b>Responsibility</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Lucas	For being efficient when entrusted with the task
	Years 3 and 4	Jude	For starting to take ownership for his learning
	Years 5 and 6	Talia	For taking responsibility for her own learning
	<b>Hope</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Jett	For trying hard to make better choices
	Years 3 and 4	Amber	For always being positive
	Years 5 and 6	John James	For great effort in his learning

# Classroom News



## Reception Red Class



## Years 1 and 2 Orange-Yellow Class

This week we have learnt h, b, f and l.

We have also learnt another tricky word: the. You can consolidate the learning [here](#) and by seeing if they can spot the graphemes that they know in other environments too!

For maths we are consolidating our recognition of numbers 4 and 5. Help your child to spot these whilst you are out and about.

Many of you have already visited our class to see the butterflies! Due to the weather, we won't release them until next week.

We have also been using our new equipment too!



Our class really enjoyed the workshops provided by the Dog Trust.

They spoke about their pets, discussed what pets they need and what makes them happy.

The volunteer, Charlotte, taught them how to behave around the dogs and what to look out for in order to be safe.

Thank you Charlotte!

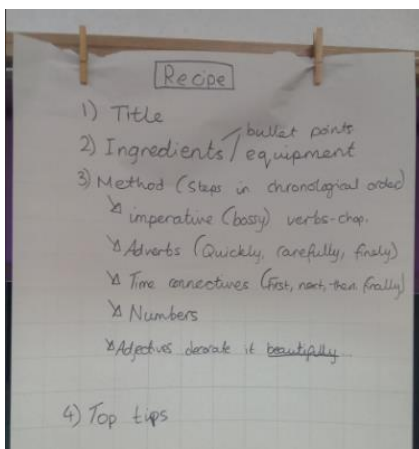


## Years 3 and 4 Green-Blue Class



## Years 5 and 6 Indigo-Violet Class

In English, the children have been learning about the features of a recipe and looking at some examples.



The children have been comparing numbers to 1,000 by using 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to' in Maths.

It is lovely to see the children making a big improvement with their handwriting, well done!

In Religious Education we are investigating: *Is believing in God reasonable?*

This week we talked about Humanists and what they believe.

We came up with questions such as:

*Do they celebrate Christmas?*









*What do they believe happens to you after death?*

Finally, we thought about whether it is possible for a Scientist to believe in God...

Indigo/Violet children hard at work. So proud of them!



## Class buddies of the week

			
<b>Reception</b>	<b>Years 1 and 2</b>	<b>Years 3 and 4</b>	<b>Years 5 and 6</b>
			
Talula and Jake	Alice and Mikey	Jude and Amelia	Barney and Gabriella

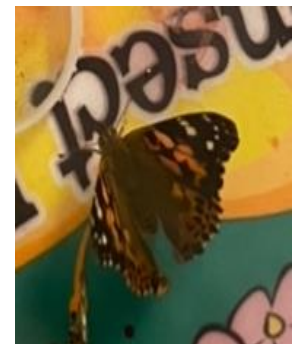
## Red Class Butterflies

Red Class observed a life cycle this half term.

We had 5 caterpillars that came to the class that grew, and grew, and GREW! After about 10 days, they were all full up and began to form their crytalis. Then we had to be really careful and patient! Finally, after another 10 days of observations and patiently waiting, we finally had one butterfly!

We were lucky enough to observe two butterflies half emerging from their cocoons, but missed the whole process whilst we were learning!

The final two butterflies emerged over that night. Due to the change in weather, we won't release the butterflies until next week. So, watch this space to see our photos of the release!



## Information

### Reminders

**Harvest collection:**

As part of our annual Harvest Assembly, we will be working with St Nicholas' Church to collect food donations for the food bank. Please send any donations into school from Monday, 9th October until Thursday, 19th October.

The following items are suggested:

- baked beans
- biscuits
- cereals
- chopped tomatoes
- coffee
- cooking sauce
- crackers
- long life milk
- nappies
- rice
- shampoo
- soup
- spreads
- tea
- tinned deserts
- tinned fish
- tinned fruit
- tinned meat
- tinned ready meals
- tinned vegetables
- tinned/instant potatoes
- toothbrushes



**Governors, staff and parents open meetings:**

Our next open meetings will be held on:

- Tuesday, 31 October at 09.00
- Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November at 15.30.

**Reception open days:**

- Friday, 3 November 2023 at 09.45-10.15
- Monday, 4 December 2023 at 09.45-10.15
- Thursday, 11 January 2024 at 09.45-10.15

**Parent Governor vacancy:**

There is still one vacancy for a Parent Governor. Please contact the school office to indicate any interest.

**iRock and Dance club**

Both providers have asked to remind parents to respond as they need a certain number of pupils to go ahead to provide this.

**Concerns**

A kind reminder that parents should discuss any issues with the class teacher in the first instance to resolve them. We are aware that a very small number of individuals are using social media to air their concerns. This is not the appropriate avenue and we urge parents to partner with the school to address any issues collectively.

**PR drive for the school**

We are open for suggestions to promote the school and to establish us as the preferred choice of school. Word of mouth is a very effective and a valuable tool. Thank you to our wonderful community, who is supporting the school and spreading all the positives about the school.

## Minutes from Helpers/Volunteers meeting (12.10.23)

In attendance:

- Mrs Louise Webb
- Mrs Samantha Shaffer
- Mrs Emma Laurence

Many thanks for the lovely comments, suggestions and ideas put forward by those in attendance (and on behalf of those who could not attend).

The following were discussed and agreed:

### **Strategic calendar**

- The Headteacher shared the school's annual strategic calendar with possible suggested events and fundraising events.
- It was agreed to look at these termly and not plan for the whole year ahead.
- This term the focus is on Christmas.
  - There **will not** be a Christmas bazaar this year. Instead the school will host a Christmas Carol Concert (more information to follow as we will link the concert to "Christmas Around the World" and also have traditional Carols alongside a contemporary performance) and then a Christmas Disco for pupils.
  - The music tutor to help with preparing something using xylophones and ukuleles.
  - If there are any parents/governors who would like to be part of the performance e.g. singing or playing an instrument, please let the office know.
  - For the Disco, pupils will come to school in non-uniform.
  - Pupils will still have Christmas activities in school such as Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner, etc.
  - Reception pupils will also still dress up as the nativity characters to celebrate Christmas.
  - As a Church of England school we do celebrate the Christian foundation of Christmas as this the heart of the school's vision.
  - We will also have a Christmas service at St Nicholas' Church for pupils, parents and staff.
  - The school to look at the possibility of visiting a care home to go and sing carols – Student Council to arrange this.

### **Fundraising events**

- The Headteacher asked if helpers can consider fundraising for specific thing in the school.
- A suggestion was made to apply to Tesco for specific projects.
- We agreed to have a "HUGE COKE BOTTLE" in school and see how quick we can fill this up with small change donation (or more generous notes!). Might do one per class!
- Parents conveyed they would like to see pupil voice and democracy to be an element of fundraising events.
- It was agreed to have a small comments/suggestion box in the reception where parents can drop anonymous suggestions (these need to be realistic) – the box will not be there to post complaints in.
- Suggestions:
  - Pupils to be "Headteacher of the Day"
  - Sponsored walk
  - Sponsored silence
  - Sponsored skipping
  - Penalty shootout (on a PE day)
  - Parent vs teaching staff sports activity/competition (on sports day).



### **Educational visits**

- The Headteacher explained the importance of these events, but that they are costly. We hosted brilliant activities in the past e.g. the hatching ducklings, circus workshop, planetarium dome, visiting zoo, Shakespeare workshop, etc. and would like to do so going forward.
- Events are either to be hosted at school, e.g. the year 6 Tudor workshop or to be off site, which might require booking coaches which will push up cost in excess of £25 per pupil.
- Where possible we will look at trips where parents can help with the transportation to reduce costs.
- It was also suggested for families to make a termly voluntary payment of around £25 per child to be used for educational visits and then no further contributions will be asked for. If the school did not receive the voluntary contributions, these events would not be possible to be offered.

### **Volunteer Readers:**

- Discussion ensued around the possibility of parents coming in with their children before school to read. We will look at the possibility of Reading mornings and for parents to "Bring a breakfast and Story book" to school for these mornings. We will look at either a whole school or class set-up (TBC). Parents to be with their own child(ren) for supervision and not other children. The

purpose is to entrench a love of reading and support reading mileage. The morning to finish with an online virtual story.

- The school is also looking at the progression of reading in school and volunteer readers to come in to school regularly. A reading agreement will have to be signed for volunteers to help in this regard. A DBS will also be required.

### **Clubs**

- The headteacher encourage pupils to take up provision of the SCS sports company, iRock for a music band and Dance tuition. If there are too few numbers, external providers cannot deliver it.
- The headteacher explained the limitation of staffing numbers to run clubs after school.
- Other suggestions:
  - Seasonal Gardening
  - Homework club
  - Lego club
  - Colouring club

### **Public Relations (PR)**

- This is much needed to increase the school's pupil numbers.
- Positive Word of Mouth is extremely important.
- Please encourage positive feedback and commend in the community and on social media.
- The school is open for any suggestions as to how we can promote the school.

### **Parent class representatives**

- Parent class representatives will share info on WhatsApp. This is only for information sharing not a platform for discussions or complaints.
  - Reception: Mrs Jemma Doran
  - Years 1 and 2L Mrs Samantha Shaffer
  - Years 3 and 4:
  - Years 5 and 6: Mrs Louise Webb

### **AOB**

- A positive comments book is suggested as part of Ofsted evidence for visitors and parent to leave positive comments – we can all do with some positivity.
- Suggestion to have a school mascot, which pupils can take home.
- Parent volunteer visits – Headteacher to draw up a list of things to be done around the school and then for parents to volunteer to do these (e.g. tyres to be painted for planters, a volunteer to take charge of the front of school's garden area by the parking, etc.)

## **Dates for the diary**



<b>16.10.23</b>	Paul Sturgess (Guinness Book of Records tallest Football Player) visiting school
<b>17.10.23</b>	Parent consultation evening 15.30-18.00
<b>18.10.23</b>	Parent consultation evening 15.30-18.00
<b>19.10.23</b>	Harvest Assembly at St Nicholas' Church at 14.00. Parents are invited to attend. The prefects will also be announced.
<b>20.10.23</b>	Years 1 & 2 Assembly – parents are invited to attend
<b>31.10.23</b>	Governors, Staff & Parents/ Carers Open Meeting 9am
<b>03.11.23</b>	Dr Walker's Open Day 09.45am to 10.15am
<b>14.11.23</b>	Governors, Staff & Parents/ Carers Open Meeting 3.30pm
<b>11.01.24</b>	Dr Walker's Open Day 09.45am to 10.15am



## Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School

### Term and Holiday Dates - Academic Year 2023-2024

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												

December 2023							January 2024							February 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28	29			

March 2024							April 2024							May 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					27	28	29	30	31			

June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

	<b>School closed: Holidays</b>		<b>School closed: Bank Holiday</b>		<b>School closed: Staff training (INSET)</b>		<b>School days</b>		<b>Weekend</b>
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In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

<b>Autumn Term</b>	Monday, 4 September 2023 – Wednesday, 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 27 October</i>	<b>73 days</b>
<b>Spring Term</b>	Thursday, 4 January 2024 – Thursday, 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February – 23 February</i>	<b>56 days</b>
<b>Summer Term</b>	Monday, 15 April 2024 – Tuesday, 23 July 2024 <i>Half Term 27 May – 31 May, and May Bank Holiday – 6 May</i>	<b>66 days</b>
		<b>195 days</b>

**You are strongly advised to check with the school before making any holiday or other commitments.**