



NEWSLETTER

1st July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Time is flying - we can hardly believe we are in July already.

The school is a happy, active place and the children are making the most of the extra opportunities being offered to them this term. It has been wonderful to see children excel in different areas, show their good knowledge of the natural world, challenge themselves to try something new, encourage others or work in teams to achieve. The children are being wonderful.

Class 4 Outdoor Adventurous Challenges

Children in Class 4 enjoyed a day of outdoor adventurous activity at South Cerney. The challenges had a strong focus on working within teams which the children enjoyed too. Here are some of their thoughts:

Harriet: I learned how to collect water from natural materials. I used moss. I liked the challenges – they were fun.

Bethan: I liked making fire using flint and steel.

Harry: Using the flint and steel to make fire was fun. It was quite hard and you needed to use lots of pressure. I made fire 3 times.

Seren: I liked den building because I like building things. We got help from each other and completed it. I gave our den 7 out of 10.

Rio: I enjoyed the race at the end. It was quite hard as we worked in teams to move wooden planks. I liked it as we worked in a team and people helped me.





Creative Dance Days

The children in C1, 2 and 4 have enjoyed dance days with Miss Mills over the last few weeks. Class 1 and Class 2 both worked on developing a routine to 'I'm the king of the Jungle' linked to their class learning on animals. Class 4's dance was linked to the class butterflies they grew from eggs last term. Miss Mills said the children improved the quality of their movements and recalled the routine really well-she was impressed. Class 1 loved sharing their dance on celebration assembly on Friday so we could all enjoy their performance too. Here are some of the thoughts of the children:

Basil: It was fun. We worked in lines and in groups. I liked learning the moves. The end of our dance looked really good as we were like a butterfly.

Lola: Our dance was inspired by our class butterflies. We learned moves from Miss Mills and added some of our own ideas too. At the end we worked together to make a butterfly shape. The children on the outside moved one leg like a Mexican wave so it looked like the butterfly was moving. It was great.

Evan: I liked the freestyle circle. You could do your own dance in the middle or if you were shy you could give a big wave. I did the floss in the middle.

Jonah: I learned the crissy-crossy dance step. I can still do it. I liked the freestyle section the best.

Foley: I learned the ice cream move. You jump to the side and scoop your arm. I made up my own dance in the dance circle – I felt confident.

Harlow: Different groups were different types of monkey – I was a chimpanzee. I liked the monkey dance sections. I learned how to do the worm too – you can do the worm standing up or on the floor.

Thea: I learned the ice cream school step. It was easy but then hard because I challenged myself to do it 10 times. I enjoyed it and my favourite part was doing the whole dance all the way through.

Angelo: I liked the elephant dance. It was fun.

Freya: I liked waving my arm like a trunk and stamping my feet like an elephant.

Darcie: I liked the monkey dance and pretending I was a monkey.

Dylan: We spun around in the monkey dance. I liked that part the best.



Thanks go to Miss Mills for sharing her skills and expertise so the children had such active and fun days.

Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)

We have moved to a new PSHE curriculum this year. As part of that move we have new progressions for teaching the skills, understanding and knowledge and new resources to support teaching within the context of a growth mindset.

As part of this curriculum updates, the children have enjoyed working in their year groups for the new Relationship & Sexual Relationship (RSE) unit. The teachers and children have been positive about the sessions taught in year groups and the resources used. Thank you for supporting your child by talking/answering their questions in this area too – it is great for children when we work together. Thank you to Mrs Rome for supporting the school in developing this new curriculum too.

Class 1 and Class 2 Nature Learning Visits

Class 1 and Class 2 children have been enjoying visits to Mr Dougan's garden over the last couple of weeks in small groups. As you know Mr Dougan loves nature and his garden is bursting due to the mini habitats he has developed. The children learned lots about local plants and animals, some new nature vocabulary as well as having a special time with their friends. Here are their thoughts:

Alice: We went on a Bear Hunt just like the story book. The tiny bridge was fun.

Jackson and Delilah: We went on a Bear Hunt through the swishy-swooshy grass and over the bridge. I liked colouring the bugs best.

Ethan: I liked looking at the pictures in the special nature books Mr Dougan had.

Hugo: We looked around and explored. The pond was my favourite part. I drew a moth – I was pleased with my drawing.

Eoin: I looked at the pond and saw a lily pad. The flowers weren't open but I saw a bud. I liked it when Mr Dougan showed me a huge antler.



£1 Challenge

The PA and the School Council are working together to set the KS2 children a challenge over the Summer holidays with the aim of supporting the entrepreneurial spirit within and raising funds for school.

The idea is children think of a way they can use £1 to generate more money. They could buy ingredients to make a cake and sell it or buy a sponge/bucket to wash some cars or craft some cards for others to buy and sell. When children have an idea of what they want to do they will need to complete a simple form explaining their idea - we ask parents/carers sign

this form to show you will support your child in keeping safe/undertaking the activity too. Forms will be shared with children soon.

If you want to take part please send in your completed form as soon as possible and by **July 14th** at the latest. The School Council will review the forms and give a £1 to each child who wants to take part. We will celebrate the children's effort when we return to school in September.

Thank you to Maude on the SC for the great idea and leading the project with Mrs Yorke.

Sports Day Reminder



We have planned sports day differently this year in light of current guidance and the expectation that it is unlikely to change on June 21st for schools. Children will have a Class Sports Day within their bubbles. We will hold these on the school playground and field. Unfortunately parents will not

be able to attend on site – we all hope for a return to normality next year as we know Sports Day is a special occasion for families.

The children will earn stickers for their individual Sports Day Cards if they meet the standard for their age for each activity. Some activities will be undertaken as a class to help organisation. We expect to have 12 activities on offer. Teams within a class will have a relay at the end and of course we will purchase some lolly treats for the end of the afternoon.

Please make sure your child has their school PE kit in school for their Sports Day. It is helpful if you can send in 2 safety pins so the children can pin their Sports Day Cards on their t-shirts too so their hands are free.

Class 1: Friday 16th July

Class 2: Tuesday 13th July

Class 3: Thursday 15th July

Class 4: Wednesday 14th July

Class 5: Monday 12th July

Transition



There is lots of change ahead for children in school:

The C5 teachers and SENCo have met/are meeting with the secondary school staff virtually to discuss children as the Y6 children look ahead to their next steps. Several secondary schools are holding virtual transition or/and are sending staff to

meet children on site in socially distanced ways. It is not ideal but I know local secondaries have worked brilliantly to alter their plans without much notice. We thank them for their hard work – it's great to know information has been shared with them which will help our Y6 children settle well in September.

New Reception children are working on site so they can become familiar with each other, Mrs Parsons and the school site ready for September. We are doing this as safely as possible by creating a new reception bubble which work in the hall and Mrs Parsons is distancing when meeting with the children. It has been great to meet our new intake and understand their needs before September.

Reports for children are being finalised and these will come to parents soon along with letters regarding which class children will be in – these are always sent at the end of the academic year as I attend appeals for places in June/July which affect class numbers. The children have been fantastic this year through the strangest of times – I hope you are all very proud of them. Be proud of yourselves too – we do understand the additional strains covid has placed on families. We will continue to work with you so your child can thrive no matter how we will be working in September.



Covid & School Operation

Though some restrictions for outside school were lifted in May, school restrictions have not been altered which means we are still working with staggered lunches/breaks, class bubbles not meeting, full staff team not meeting together etc. The many operational changes we have put in place do reduce our capacity and

I sincerely thank the staff team and parents for all their support and hard work. I know it is not easy and we all want to return to normal as soon as we are allowed.

While the covid rate was low locally we have tried to plan more activity for the children. The LA have made us aware now that local rates of covid are increasing rapidly. Clearly vaccinations are helping keep people safe but there is concern still over some people who are not able to be vaccinated. In addition reducing the risk of moving to remote learning which impacts on children and working parents is key too. Balancing extra activity for children while reducing risk means many choices need to be made daily and are dependent on staff, site, parents etc.. We have been exceptionally fortunate that we have not had to move classes to remote learning repeatedly since returning...long may it continue!

Ms Avastu
Headteacher