

29th January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Class Awards

Awards were given to the following children this week:

Butterflies – Sol for being a great friend to others, being kind and helpful when they are feeling sad. Well done Sol! Max for super work in numeracy this week, solving sharing problems. Well done Max!

Owls – Lily for participating in all lessons and asking lots of questions, keep it up! Tyler for showing kindness and thinking of others all week.

Dragons – Lucy for constantly looking for jobs to do around the classroom and always being helpful. Margaux for excellent contribution in DT this week and improving her reading.

Rabbits – Charlie G for excellent times tables progress. Alfie for moving to free readers this week.

Hedgehogs – Tabitha for a well planned and presented collective worship. William L for a brilliant own-version story about the founding of Rome. Harry for an excellent preparation and delivery of his ‘ask the expert’.

Foxes & Eagles – Oliver for thinking really critically during Geography, appraising different bio-zones and the animals that live there, asking great questions. Abi-Leigh for approaching everything this week confidently and with a great attitude.

Celebrating Cultures Week

A reminder that the week beginning February 8th we are having a ‘Celebrating Cultures Week’. If you have a link to another country and would like to share stories, customs, language or traditions with your child’s class, please speak to the class teacher.

Collective Worship

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Friday 5th February – Butterflies

Friday 12th February – Owls

Friday 26th February - Dragons

Friday 4th March - Rabbits

Friday 18th March – Hedgehogs

You are welcome to attend your child’s class Collective Worship, at 9am.

Sorry if I have caused any confusion by using the term ‘Collective Worship’ in our Newsletters. I have been informed that this is the correct title for what many of us have always called Assembly and as a Church School it is important that we use the correct wording.

Staffing

We would like to share the news that Miss Smith is expecting a baby and will be taking maternity leave starting in June. Governors have already started the process of recruiting a temporary replacement and we will inform you as soon as we have any news. We would like to congratulate both her and her partner, Carl and wish them all the best with their new endeavour.

In addition to the above post we are also recruiting a teacher to enable us to have a through school of single age classes from September. Other posts we have available are supply teacher, lunch-time supervisor and temporary cleaner. If you know of anyone who may be interested in any of these posts then please let them know. All of the details, job descriptions and application forms are available on our school website.

Attendance

Well done to the Eagle Class for 100% attendance for the whole of this week!

Your School Needs You!!

On Saturday 6th February one of our parents is coming into school with a power washer to clean the bike shed and possibly the windows. Another couple of parents are going to carry out some painting. I know some of you are planning to generally tidy, clean and power wash during the week before the official opening. You know the saying 'many hands make light work' so if you can offer any help then please do. Thank you very much to those parents who have already offered their help, it is greatly appreciated.

We are very proud of our rural village setting and want our school environment to look the best it can for your children. Please encourage them to keep it looking nice for example by not dropping rubbish. Grass seed has been scattered on the beds at the front of school and we are planning to plant some bulbs. Please keep your children off these beds to allow the seed to take and avoid walking mud into school.

Official Opening of New Classrooms and Kitchen Friday 12th February

We would like to welcome you all to our Grand Opening and have attached an invitation to this newsletter.

Arriving at School on Time

When children arrive at school from 8.45 they are expected to start their day with for example the 'morning challenge' or check their work from the day before and address any marking or feedback issues. Most mornings we have Collective Worship and I am increasingly finding that I am following the children down the corridor into the hall. Obviously I like to be in the hall first to welcome them. Whilst we realise that some mornings things happen to delay your journey to school, please do try to get them to school for 8.55 to enable a smooth start to the day.

Lost Property

Our lost property box is again bursting at the seams. Please come into the school hall next week at pick-up and reclaim any of your child's belongings. I am going to relocate the box to the corridor outside the Dragon Class and any new items found next week will be put in there. Any items remaining in the box in the hall will be put in the recycling bank at half term.

School Governor Profile

Zsa-Zsa Smith

I am very excited to have joined the Governors at Marsh Gibbon CofE School at the beginning of this academic year.

I began teaching at Marsh Gibbon in September 2013 in the Butterfly Class, after teaching for 3 years at a larger 2 form entry school in Aylesbury.

I am currently the EYFS Leader and the Mathematics Leader as well as co-ordinator for Art and Design, Design and Technology and Outdoor Learning for the school. We have a very happy school that benefits from a supportive team of staff and governors; I have really enjoyed my time here to date and I am looking forward to being an active member of the Governing body.

I live in Bicester, however I was born and raised in Taunton, Somerset. Before moving to Oxford to complete a degree in Primary Teacher Education I attended Richard Huish College to study A-Levels in Psychology, Philosophy, Art and English.

Hot School Lunches

Fresh Start will be opening Meal Manager for Term 4 on Tuesday 2 February and the deadline for orders will be Tuesday 16 February. Letters will not be sent out this term and Fresh Start will be sending an email instead.

The theme day next term is St Patrick's Day and will be held on Friday 18 March.

Calendar Dates:

Friday 29th January – PTA Film Night 3.15-5.15pm
Wednesday 3rd February – Dragons Outdoor Learning
Friday 5th February – Year 5 Handball Tournament – a.m.
8th – 12th February – Celebrating Cultures Week
Wednesday 10th February – Rabbits Outdoor Learning
Thursday 11th February – Fox/Eagle - Science Museum
Friday 12th February – Official New Classrooms Opening 2pm
Friday 12th February – PTA Disco 6.00-7.30pm
Friday 12th February - Last Day of Term

Monday 22nd February – Return to School
Wednesday 24th February – Hedgehogs Outdoor Learning
Wednesday 2nd March – Fox/Eagle Outdoor Learning
Wednesday 2nd & 9th March – Parents' Evenings
Friday 4th March – PTA Film Night
Wednesday 23rd March – Year 3 & 4 Music Concert