



CHECKENDON CE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

26th February 2010

Let's Celebrate!

The main news is that the new Reception Classroom is finished and Owlets are now enjoying their purpose-built learning environment.

Thanks to the combined efforts of governors (David Horton, Tony Kerry and family, Jerry Green and Fiona Broadbent and family), parents (Mr and Mrs Woodcock, Mr Burrows, Mr Ives and Mr Sykes) and staff, classroom equipment was moved across on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th February, and the room prepared for use. After a lot of hard work over the holiday from the reception class staff, the children were able to start the new term in their new classroom. Mr Davies, the Rector, came to bless the classroom in a short service held with Owlets that morning and the whole school celebrated with Owlets in a special worship held in the new classroom this morning.

The continued bad weather has meant that the builders cannot finish off all the outside work just yet, but we hope that the field can be reseeded by the end of March, and that everything will be perfect for our official opening, by the Bishop of Oxford, on 11th June.

Meanwhile, back in the main building, Lyn McEvoy and her team have been busy preparing the 'new' Owl classroom. Owl class have been able to expand into the space vacated by Owlets, doubling the size of their classroom. They will now have room to apply themselves to the more creative side of the curriculum.

The whole project has been voted a great success, and we would like to thank everyone in the community for their support over the last few months. Although we are extremely pleased with the outcome of the project we cannot rest on our laurels. Our next plan is to renovate the cloakroom block between Owl and Panda Class, with some further improvements to the new Owl classroom at the same time.

Notice Board

We have set up a new 'Parent Information' board in the corridor between Owl and Panda class. This will be used for information specific to the school and we hope that the School Association will also make use of this board to communicate with you. More general information, including details of extended services, will continue to be displayed in the entrance lobby.

School Dinners

Thank you for your responses to the school lunch survey. So far we have just reached the required number of dinners to make this possible. We now need to look at how these could be delivered in such a way as to minimise any impact on the running of the school. There are two areas in particular that we will be looking at: the impact on the school budget if for any reason the actual uptake was less than that indicated to date and the lunches had to be stopped; and the way in which staffing levels over lunchtime could be guaranteed. This may require us to ask for parents to help out if for some reason there was a staff shortage one day. Fiona Broadbent is looking at ways to reduce these issues and will update you on progress as soon as possible.

Music for Mums

We will be holding a short musical celebration for Mothers' Day in the school hall, on Friday, 12th March at 2.30 pm. We do hope that you will be able to attend. We are not able to provide a crèche on this occasion, so if you do bring young children with you we ask that you sit near the exit, so that you can take them out of the hall if they are likely to disturb the celebration.

World Book Day – Thursday 4th March

Children will each receive a £1 book token and will participate in a range of activities in school to celebrate this event.

Each child should bring in a favourite book to talk about in a small group. Each class will vote for its favourite author and certificates will be sent to the winners. Children will also be involved in story writing as part of the "Celebrating Children's Writing in Oxfordshire Schools" project which is held annually in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Literary Festival.

We would ask that each child brings in a 50p coin, our target is to create a display of a hundred 50p coins in the hall. This money will then be donated to Book Aid International which provides books for libraries and schools in the developing world.

Children's Disco

The School Association is organising a children's disco at the Checkendon Village Hall. It will be from 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm on Friday, 12th March. A flyer will follow shortly.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 2 nd March	Owl Class trip to Aston Rowant Nature Reserve
Wednesday 3 rd March	Mobile Library
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day
Friday 12 th March	2.30 pm Music for Mums in school hall
Monday 15 th March	Choir – performing "Jewel of the River" at Hexagon
Wednesday 24 th March	Mobile Library
	Year 6 – Junior Citizen at Fire Station, Oxford
Monday 29 th March	Owl Class trip to Oxford Natural History Museum
Wednesday 31 st March	Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion in Church (2.00 pm)
Thursday 1 April	Last day of Term 4
Tuesday 20 th April	First day of Term 5
Wednesday 28 th April	Mobile Library
Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th May	SATs
Friday 14 th May	2.00 pm May Service in the church followed by country dancing
Wednesday 19 th May	Year 6 – Tempest Vista Photograph
Friday 28 th May	Last day of Term 5
Monday 7 th June	First day of Term 6
Friday 11 th June	am: "Grand Opening" of Reception classroom
Tuesday 15 th June	Evening - Partnership concert at Langtree School
Wednesday 16 th June	Mobile Library
Wednesday 23 rd June	Year 6 – Langtree Taster Day
Wednesday 7 th July	Last Mobile Library
Thursday 22 nd July	Last day of Term