

Holy Trinity C.of.E Primary School

Founded 1858



Oct 20th 2017 Newsletter

News from Holy Trinity School

The start of a new academic year is always busy but exciting. The last seven weeks has seen a new cohort of thirty children settle into life at Holy Trinity School supported by those who are already familiar with routines and expectations. It has certainly been a positive couple of months with lots going on. Several classes have enjoyed trips out, we have welcomed many visitors in to school and our sports' teams have experienced success in a number of matches. I hope you enjoy reading about these events in our end of term newsletter.

Projects to enhance the learning environment for the children have also been planned. At the very end of term, in a initiative steered by Mr Burn, we welcomed a graffiti artist to school. After spending a little time with Year 5 who have been studying graffiti art this term, he set about revamping the resource room on the playground using designs generated by the children. We are all excited to see his creation when we return after the holiday.

Equally exciting is the laying of a running track around our field which is scheduled for the half term break. All being well, the pupils can look forward to incorporating physical exercise into each day in the coming months.

Collective Worship

Right at the very start of the year during Collective Worship, we spent time drawing up our school charter. Together we decided on a series of rules which we felt were important to help keep everyone safe and happy through the coming months. These are on display for all to see and so far everyone has worked hard to ensure they are being followed.

Our thoughts then turned to autumn and the changes we could see around us. In our Harvest Service at Holy Trinity Church which many of you joined us for, we enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate and thank God for this special time of year. We used the occasion to explain what makes autumn distinct for so many people. A week later many of the children joined the church congregation during their Sunday service at church also to celebrate earth's abundant gifts. While some read the lesson, others read prayers and to conclude, everyone joined in in singing our favourite song, 'Harvest Samba'. Many commented on how smart the children looked and how much they enjoyed them being there.



News from around the school

Hobbits at Holy Trinity

On 29th September everyone was excited to welcome M & M Travelling Theatre Company to school with their production of 'The Hobbit'. The company, made up of four talented actors, quickly got to work transforming the hall into a make believe land ruled by dragons and other strange mythical creatures. It was here we saw the tale of Bilbo Baggins magically brought to life. The production was very cleverly staged and everyone relished the chance to join in with the action as we were taken on one adventure after another. It was a spectacular way to end a week.



Great Start to the Term for Teals

It has been a busy but exciting start to the new school year for Teal Class! In English, the children have enjoyed exploring the magical world of Narnia and have written detailed pieces of writing looking at a variety of writing styles. They have included figurative language techniques when describing a setting, punctuated dialogue in a narrative and studied factual writing in the form of non-chronological reports. In Science they have been learning about the digestive system and the route which food takes once it enters the mouth! Two interesting facts they discovered are that in adults, the large intestine is about 1.5 meters and the small intestine is about 6 meters long! Picasso was the focus artist this term helping the children produced some super cubism portraits based on his famous cubism painting "Girl Before a Mirror". Among other areas of maths, times tables have been a large focus this term as well as learning about factor pairs, arrays and short multiplication.



Cygnets Settle in Well to New Routines

Our youngest children have all settled really well into Cygnet Class. They have been learning about themselves this term and looking at the changes in autumn, especially in nature. Time in class is always busy but everyone is getting used to the routines of the school day. Their first outing to the Harvest Festival Service at church was fun and everyone enjoyed learning special harvest songs during assembly time, all of which told of why we celebrate harvest time and how our food is harvested. The children are trying really hard in the class to learn new things and have made lots of new friends which has impressed Mrs Brown and the team. Amongst other things, many books have been shared including 'Funnybones', 'The Little Red Hen' and 'Rosie's Walk'. With an emphasis on phonics and early reading strategies which you will have learned about at our Phonics Workshop, these texts have provided great inspiration.

Bringing Maps to Life

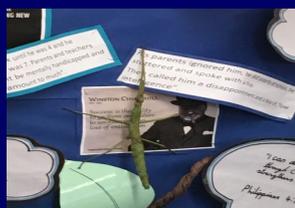
Year 4 were very lucky to receive a visit from Mrs Britton who spoke about her job and the importance of being able to read maps and atlases to do it successfully. She took the children on an exciting trip through the skies from London to New York while bringing maps to life!!





Learning about 'Evolution'

On Monday 16th October, Holy Trinity were the lucky hosts of a science day run by eminent scientist Paul Carpenter. Six Year 5 pupils were joined by pupils from three other local schools for a day studying evolution. The children handled a wide variety of live creatures, most of which have been on the planet for far longer than our species has, and looked at how they have adapted to survive. We now know that where you live governs what you look like and discovered some of the amazing tricks that animals have developed in order to shelter, eat, reproduce and defend themselves.



Round the World in Seven Weeks!

Kingfisher's theme this term is 'Round'. The children have found out about everything from life cycles to Wassily Kandinsky, from the oceans and continents to snails, from lonely aliens to family and friends, all in seven weeks!

With all the stories, information writing, calculation, fractions, number sequences and measuring that's been going on, the children have needed to be super-organised to maximise their learning. To this end, they have embraced the rather wonderful iPad app 'Seesaw'. Parents have leapt on board too with home access to our blog and have responded to classroom posts, leading to some exciting live discussions with their children.

It's all go for Goslings!

It's been a busy term in Year 3 too! To tie in with history, science and DT, Gosling Class travelled to Whitchurch Silk Mill to see industry in motion. The children explored the weaving process from silk worm to finished product. They had the opportunity to experiment with natural dyes and try their hand at spinning, weaving and braid making before exploring the mechanics of the mill from water-wheel to loom.

The class have also been creating narratives by developing their own characters and settings which they have used as inspiration for creative writing.

They have also begun French lessons this term which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. Our weekly trips to the Magnet Leisure Centre for swimming lessons have also been something the children have look forward to each week. My thanks go to those of you who accompanied the pupils on the school trip and who have helped out with supervision to the leisure centre.

Fabulous Phonics Workshop

The Cygnet and Key Stage 1 Phonics Workshop proved to be an exclusive affair with Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Nicol and Mr. Burn's presentation being well received by those parents who were able to attend.

The workshop explained the phonics covered in each phase of the DfE's Letters and Sounds scheme taught through the year groups. It outlined the activities we employ and the resources we use. Fun games to support learning were described and feature in a handy leaflet which was given out to parents. If you did not pick up a copy, please speak to your child's teacher who will be happy to hand one to you.

Cake Sale Success!

Thank you to everyone for your kind support and generosity at our cake sale on September 29th. We raised £182.41 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Cormorants enjoy a Trip to Henley Literary Festival

Michael Morpurgo's 'Kensuke's Kingdom' has formed the basis of our study in Yr.5 English. The children have travelled with the main character, Michael, across tropical seas to distant lands, on the way producing some fabulous writing describing his adventures. We shared our love of reading new texts when we went along to the Henley Literary Festival with Year 6 at the beginning of October. There we heard children's author and radio DJ, Christian O'Connell, talk about his first novel, 'Radio Boy'. As well as learning about what motivated him to write, the pupils had a chance to ask him questions all of which produced some amusing stories which kept everyone entertained.



We returned to school, many with signed copies of his book, inspired to experiment with our own ideas for stories.



New Faces Around School

This term we have welcomed three Reading Partnership Teachers from Reading University - Mrs Akber, Miss Hullait and Mr Hall, who are working alongside teachers in Year 1 and Year 5. They are making a positive contribution to our school and we look forward to working with them for another three weeks at the beginning of next term.

Embracing New Topics and Instruments!

This term Year 5 has relished the chance to launch themselves into new topics. As well as learning about Ancient Egypt and getting to grips with German greetings, the children have really embraced the opportunity to learn how to play the steel pans. After only seven lessons, the sounds coming from the hall on a Wednesday afternoon are really rather impressive.



Impressive Violin Performance

On the 18th October, Mrs Larkin, our violin teacher used assembly time to introduce the children to playing the violin. Two of our pupils, Daisy and Maja then wowed the audience with a skilful performance.

If your child is interested in learning how to play the violin or indeed any instrument, please check book bags for a letter about signing them up.



Castles, Dragons and Much More!

What a busy term it has been for Swan Class! The topic has been castles and, as well as learning lots of new vocabulary related to parts of a castle, much of our work has been based around stories. 'George and the Dragon' was one of the children's favourites especially when they found a newly-hatched baby dragon just outside the classroom! Thanks to the book of instructions which the children created, it is being well looked after. Pupils have also learned how to roll and cut clay tiles and create clay castles, which were glazed with a range of colours.

An afternoon was also spent being royal portrait artists and looking carefully at a subject to create effective likenesses.

Do pop into their gallery to see if you recognise any kings and queens!



A Jam Packed Seven Weeks!

The term got off to a fantastic start with Moorhen Class undertaking a Bikeability course. The instructors who spent the week with us, reported back on how much effort the children put into learning how to ride their bike safely. They highlighted how well the children worked as a team and went about encouraging each other throughout the course.

The class have also enjoyed reading and completing work on 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman. The children have used the text as a stimulus for diary, letter and narrative writing. They also used the green screen to produce some outstanding work simulating a journey up a volcano. With SATs not far off, the children have been working extremely hard addressing specific elements of the curriculum but there has been time for fun with two school trips.

As previously reported, they joined Year 5 at the Henley Literary Festival where they listened to radio DJ and comedian Christian O'Connell speak about his new book 'Radio Boy'. His presentation was full of fun and antics as he told some hilarious stories while answering the children's questions. The pupils have since been busy writing letters to him inviting him to join us for 'Book Week'. Let's hope he is tempted!

Year 6 also had a fun-filled visit to the Bell and Dragon in Cookham where they had the chance to do some pumpkin carving. The children showed off their artistic talents and produced some creepy creations. Our thanks go to Ronnie and his team for making this possible.

Moorhens shared their term's learning with parents during their class assembly a couple of weeks ago. As well as performing a rendition of 'Macavity, The Mystery Cat', they sang, read out some of their writing and explained the principles of Growth Mindset. Our whole school approach to this has had an enormously positive impact on the children's learning and will continue to feature in the coming months.

Pupils Ready to Rock!



Wednesday mornings, when we welcome 'Rock Steady' to school, are rocking at Holy Trinity! Amazing sounds fill the hall as our bands, featuring guitarists, drummers, keyboard players and vocalists, have their weekly practice. We can't wait to hear them when they perform to their parents and the rest of the school on Wednesday 13th December!



Music, Dancing, Hotdogs-Such Fun!

This term we saw the highly anticipated return of the PTA school disco. The children had a wonderful time 'strutting their stuff' to the beat of 'Dave the Disco'. Thank you to all those of you who helped out and made the evening such a huge success!



School Fete Balloon Race

The school fete balloon race results are in! Using a snazzy software app, distances of how far each balloon travelled have been established and are listed below;

- KT21 1BZ - 25.1 miles (Mae Rees)
- KT20 7RQ - 27.9 miles (Charlie Myall)
- KT20 7TP - 27.9 miles (Daisy Moorhouse)
- RH2 OSD - 31 miles (Emilly Ellwood)
- RH1 5JJ - 33.4 miles (Gabriella Robson-Myall)
- RH1 5DN - 33.8 miles (Jack Mustard)

The winner, whose balloon travelled a huge 51.2 miles, is **Louis Leaf** (Ollie Leaf's baby brother).

His winning voucher is on its way!



Sporting Updates

Netball

This term the netball team have played three tough games. Owing to a successful season last year, the team were placed in the 'A League' which has produced some strong opposition. Despite being unsuccessful in winning their matches, the resilience and perseverance demonstrated by the whole team has been outstanding and they should be highly commended for their sportsmanship and dedication to the sport.

However, on 19th October fortunes turned when the team played Oldfield C resulting in a well deserved win. From the start, they were focused, driven and alert with every member of the team playing a huge role in securing success - a 10-0 victory. Goals were scored by Max Newman, Scarlet Harper and Gabriella Woodhead! The children all displayed superb sportsmanship throughout the game with Gabriella receiving the title of 'player of the match'. Massive congratulations go out to the team!

Football

Tuesday 17th October was a very exciting day. The AJD Year 5 Football Tournament was held at the Cressex sportsground in High Wycombe. Fourteen schools from around the area brought teams to compete. The opposition looked fierce but, undaunted, Holy Trinity took on the competition in Group A. Due to one team not showing up on the day, we had to play another two teams twice however Mr Redjeb's coaching and the team's hard work soon paid off. Holy Trinity were victorious in the first two matches but in playing one of the teams, whose coach had studied our tactics carefully, again, the opposition managed to get just one goal past us resulting in a draw. After a third victory, Holy Trinity went on to play in the next round which meant we again had to play both the other teams twice.

But this time, despite some very skilled players on the opposing teams, not one goal was scored against us. Holy Trinity won every game and ended up the group victors which was a fantastic and well-deserved achievement. All in all the team scored 27 goals in the tournament and only conceded 1. Most importantly, they displayed a high level of skill and sportsmanship throughout every game. Well done, Holy Trinity Year 5 footballers and Mr Redjeb. You did us proud.



Yr.6 - St. Edward's 1 - Holy Trinity 3

Irresistible, delightful, well-seasoned - the post-match hotdogs were a real treat but not a patch on our first half performance. As the game St. Edward's lumbered around like an overfed uncle on Christmas day, the boys in blue served up hors d'oeuvres with some utterly delicious football. It was Brennan who delivered the main course with his scrumptious right foot...tasty! Parrott scored a succulent second, filling his doggy bag with a back post snaffler...juicy! The half ended with a harsh tip for St Edward's from Brennan...eat my goal!

Having gorged themselves in the first half, Holy Trinity loosened their belts and sat back to digest their over indulgence in the second. Just one wafer-thin mint was granted to a starving St. Edward's team as a early season footballing banquet ended with a 3-1 Trinity win. Too much of a good thing can be wonderful, gents - feed me up!

(Thank you Mr Burn for a creative match report!)

Rugby

The rugby season got off to a fantastic start with success against Oldfield. The B team and the Girls' Team impressed with comfortable victories as Lily Gibson led the way. The A team, who also played, were just denied victory but held onto a draw after Oldfield scored in the last minutes of the game. The team have been training hard and Mr Gosling is feeling confident ahead of the schools' '6 Nations Tournament' which starts after half term.



Dates for your Diary

3rd Nov - Yr.3 Class Assembly - 2.45

7th Nov - All - School Photographs

8th Nov - PTA Meeting

8th,9th,10th Nov - Book Fair

**10th Nov - All - Remembrance Service -
War Memorial - 10.30**

13th Nov - Yr.4 trip - British Library

14th/15th - All - Parent Consultation Evening

17th Nov - All - 'Children in Need'

Star of the Week Awards

Cygnets Class - Alex Barker - for being a kind member of Cygnets Class and for always trying hard

Swan Class - Thea Winrow-Davies - for a brilliant attitude to learning and making great progress

Kingfisher Class - Joe Muckle - for dedication to reading both in school and at home

Teal Class - Ella Siddons - for an excellent attitude in the classroom and showing great effort in all her work

Gosling Class - Daisy Mizelli - for showing courage and dedication to practice by playing her violin beautifully in assembly

Cormorant Class - Tilly Stockdale - for always showing such enthusiasm for learning

Moorhen Class - Grace Gibson - for outstanding progress in her maths

Finally... a few gentle reminders

- * Pickup from Rugby & Football clubs are by the side gate near the staff car park.
- * All other clubs - please wait outside reception rather than in the building as the office is not manned after 4pm.
- * No nut produce allowed in school - this includes Nutella spread
- * Birthday sweets - please do not send in boxes of Celebrations, Roses, Heroes or anything that include nuts. It is not sufficiently safe to simply remove the chocolates from these boxes which contain nuts.
- * Please note our policy on returning a child to school following sickness or diarrhoea. It is essential that a period of at least 24 hours after being sick passes before they return.
- * Recently head lice has been reported in school. Please use the holiday period to check your child's hair treating them if necessary.

Christmas Card & Mug Project



This year we are pleased to announce that the PTA are raising money by taking part in the Personalised Card Pack & Mug Project again!

Over the holiday your child can design a special picture which can be printed on to their very own packs of cards and even on to a ceramic mug if you wish, perfect for sending to family and friends this coming Christmas Season. Please see the attached flyer for more details. The deadline for handing in designs to the office is the 31st October.

Follow us on twitter and see more of what we are up to! @HTSchoolCookham

