

Headteacher:
Neil Blackwell



Overthorpe Road,
Banbury, OX16 4SB
Tel: 01295 262507

office.3262@st-leonards.oxon.sch.uk

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Newsletter



From the Headteacher



Building Learning Power

Alongside our usual curriculum we are also teaching children to learn! One aspect of being a good learner is Being Curious and in assembly we used Roald Dahl's BFG to encourage a love of words. We asked children to collect new words and to find out what they mean; to use them in their speech and in their writing. If everybody were to collect just one new word a day just think what a magnificent, splendid, imposing, towering, sublime vocabulary the children would have... I have asked children to make mini-dictionaries collecting a minimum of 26 new words, one for each letter of the alphabet. Who will rise to the challenge and Build their Learning Power?

Attendance

We will continue to reward good attendance this year and look forward to as many children as possible receiving their silver (95%+) or gold stickers (100%) this term. Reception and Year One and Two classes compete for Attendance Ted each week and Years Three to Six have the chance to win the Attendance Trophy. There is also £50 to win each term for the class with the best attendance.

School Values

Our School Values are **Love, Respect** and **Responsibility**. All our children and staff are encouraged to share and model these values in their behaviour and this message is reinforced throughout the school. This term our assembly themes reinforce the idea of responsibility: aspiration, dependability and shared responsibility.

Open Door Policy

Nursery and Reception parents are welcome to accompany their children into class every day and Year One for the first half term. Look out for a series of special events inviting Reception and Year One parents into school this year to find out more about Learning.

Cycling

We encourage children to ride their bikes into school but please can you ensure your child wears a helmet and dismounts upon entering the school gates. Bikes should be parked in the shelters provided. Don't forget to wear bright colours and reflectors as the days get shorter.

Best wishes,

Neil Blackwell



Ronaldo Reports

The school's pet tortoise as roving reporter

Welcome back to school everyone! The first thing that I want to say is how lovely the new jumpers and t-shirts look especially the new PE kit! Exercise is so important for keeping our bodies and minds fit and there are some really exciting new sports clubs this term, including football and archery. I think that my shell might come in handy for that last one! Healthy food is important too and I know Kate, our cook, is always really careful to provide a balanced diet. As I often say, you can't go wrong with lettuce. Plenty of sleep is also needed for growing bodies. Speaking as someone who's been known to sleep for whole winters we see far too many children yawning their heads off in the morning! Help your child to learn by getting them to bed early and reading a book. Try Esio Trot by Roald Dahl – it's all about a tortoise!!



What we are doing!

Spotlight on Reception

What a fantastic first week at school our Reception children have had! I am so proud of them and I'm sure that you are too. They have been learning routines and making new friends! Their behaviour has been super and it was a delight to see them all acting out The Three Little Pigs yesterday. This week has also marked the opening of our new outdoor play area and there was much excitement as children explored their new environment.

Ride a Cock Horse

Year 3 have started their excellently named topic about Banbury. Let's see who is curious enough to find out:

What are the main ingredients of a Banbury cake?

What were Banbury United called before they became 'United'?

Which Formula One racing team is based in Banbury?

Which famous person used Banbury as his base during the English civil war?

Where was Douwe Egberts Coffee made originally before Banbury?

How would you persuade someone to move house to Banbury? What are the best things about our town...?!

Target Books

There are many aspects to learning and as children get older they need to accept some responsibility for their learning in order to prepare for their next phase of schooling. In order to encourage children to know what they need to do to improve their work, we are introducing Target Books this term. Children from Year One to Year Six will be given small targets twice a term in reading, writing and maths which they will share with you. Please could you encourage and support your children in achieving these and, together, sign the Target Books and return them to school.

Learning Links

There are some wonderful links listed on the school website, in the Children's Pages tab. Have a look at "Top Marks" this week; there are some fantastic maths and English games for children of all ages! These could be used to practise some of the skills identified in the Target Books.

Clubs

After-School clubs start next week and the last day for returning forms is Thursday at 9am.



Dates for your Diary



Monday 19th September: Clubs Start

Thursday 22nd September:

- 5 week Maths workshop course for parents starts.
- Governors' Meeting (Resources)

Saturday 24th September: Banbury Area Cross Country at Banbury Academy



Gardening

Gardening!

Are there any parents with green fingers who would be willing to do a little light gardening around the site? A pair of you would be perfect to clear and tidy planters, to weed the fountain area and so on. Times can be arranged to suit... come in for an hour at lunch or an hour prior to pick-up. Anybody interested please contact Mrs Steptoe at reception.