Christmas Fair

Thank you to everybody who supported this year’s Christmas Fair in the new Nursery, especially the small army of helpers from the PTFA and everybody who had a stall. Together we raised over £400. In particular, the Year Six ‘Enterprise’ team sold lots of their Christmas sweets and goodies with great gusto. I was particularly pleased with my success in the tombola – a Pretty Princess Colouring-In book! Every Headteacher should have one.

Year 6 Learning Afternoon

Thank you very much to the 27 parents who attended our Learning Afternoon and SATs meeting on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see so many of you working alongside your children and supporting their learning. The children are working so well at the moment and are a credit to you all. Past papers can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials

Anti-Bullying

As part of Anti-Bullying week the children compiled Hotspot maps of where they felt safest around the school, and pleasingly the classrooms came out top. The ‘least safe’ areas were those furthest from adult supervision, with the bike sheds coming out highest in terms of feeling unsafe. We have reminded children in assembly that they should not be playing anywhere near the bike sheds during school time and that, should they feel unsafe on the playground or the field then they should move closer to an adult.

Prayer Space

Prayer Space has been a great success, with children of all faiths joining together to reflect upon their relationship with God. The discussions and prayers have been thought provoking and there have been some lovely moments as children have shared their ideas, for example praying for someone else within the school community or saying thank you for something special in their life. I particularly liked the tablets which children dropped into water so that their negative feelings of anger and bitterness would fizz away, allowing them to forgive over time.

Eye Tests

Don’t forget that children’s eye tests are free. Banbury has a number of excellent opticians and regular check-ups are advisable in order to ensure the health of our eyes and to create good habits for when the children are older. Why not fit in a visit alongside Christmas shopping or the New Year sales?!

Best wishes,

Neil Blackwell
Physical Education

A big thank you and well done to Mrs Nottingham and Mr Clark who together lead PE and have earned us a Silver Quality Mark this year. This is due to the high number of competitive events that we have competed in this year and the large number of PE clubs that we provide. Thank you to all the staff who have supported the events and helped to coach and transport children and to supervise them. We are very grateful.

Music Week

What a fantastic array of music our children presented last week. We had rainforest chants and singing accompanied by African drums from Year 5, and marching and singing from Reception as they gave us a rousing rendition of The Grand Old Duke of York. Year 2 got us in the mood for Christmas with ‘Ho, Ho, Ho!’ and we heard from Bob Marley (Year 3) and Bon Jovi (Year 6). Miss McKenna’s class sang a tear-jerker, Somewhere Only We Know, whilst her Digital Music club played their electronic dance compositions which were fantastic. And finally, Year 1 played music from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker with the rhythm being played by plastic cups on the floor. Sensational!

Big Bang Fair

On Friday 24th November, Year 4 visited the Big Bang Fair at the Space Studio, Banbury Academy. This was a science exhibition covering many different areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (also known as STEM). The children watched a show, with one of our favourite scientists, Atomic Tom, where they learnt about scientific phenomena associated with air, they took part in workshops about renewable energy and coding, saw a range of wild animals including tarantulas, meerkats, millipedes and armadillos and took pictures of the insides of their eyes! The coding workshop was run by a company called FUZE and they have free software that you can currently download for Microsoft Windows and Raspberry Pi devices, if the children are keen to investigate coding further. Visit fuze.co.uk for more details (printable guides are available online).

Dear God

Thank you for everything we have

Help us to have a happy school with no bullying

Let our school teach us right from wrong

Let our school friends help us when times are tough

Help our school understand that everyone matters,

Even if you’re big or small, or black or white

Let our school be the best it can be

Amen

School Prayer

Find out what is happening in our church by going to their website:

http://saintleonards.org