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Newsletter



From the Headteacher

Book Fair

Thank you to everybody who attended the recent Book Fair at school. In total the event raised £722 which earned the school £400 to spend on books for our children. This is the best that we have ever done!

Young Leaders

We are very proud of our twelve Year 6 Young Leaders who attended a conference and training day at BGN school last week and are developing their leadership skills. They are very keen to encourage more children to take part in physical activities at break times and lunch times. They will also be launching a competition to design a poster for Oxfordshire School Games Values.

Educational Visits

There is always lots of learning going on outside the school building. Last week some of our Year 3 and 4 children represented the school at a football festival at Banbury Academy and had great fun. They were well-behaved, tried hard and showed tremendous teamwork. Miss Moon reports on all the educational visits on the website; September saw visits to Banbury Museum and Canal (Year 2), Banbury Cross (Year 3), Waddesdon Manor (Year 4) and Burton Dassett (Year 6).

Diary Dates

From Monday 7 November we will be hosting a **Library Open Week** where each year group in turn will be invited to take their parents upstairs to see our amazing library. On Monday 21 November we will be holding afternoon and evening sessions on **Online Safety** for parents.

Macmillan

Huge thanks go to the staff of the school, and to Mrs Mallarky in particular for organising, as we raised £249 for Macmillan Cancer Support. (The Guinness Book of Records has secretly been in touch as we were close to the world record for the amount of cake eaten in one week!)

Your Views

The views of parents are important to us and we hope that you will take time to complete the Parent Questionnaire at our Parent Consultation evenings next week. You will also be asked to sign several documents for school records, including the Oxfordshire Code of Conduct for Parents.

Parent Consultations

The first parents evenings of the term are next Monday, 17 October, between 6 and 8pm and Tuesday, 18 October, from 3.30 to 6pm.

پرنت ایونگ 17 اور 18 اکتوبر کو ہے - اگر آپ کو ترجمہ کی ضرورت ہے تو اپنے بچے کا نام کلاس سٹیچر اور اپائنمنٹ کا وقت بتائے۔

Best wishes,
Neil Blackwell



St Leonard's Church

Pets' Service

"All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all".

Come along and give thanks for all God's creatures at St Leonard's Church Pets' Service this Sunday, 16 October, at 10am. Mr Blackwell will be there with Jonty, his labrador, and there will be a speaker from Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Even small pets are welcome and each pet will receive a blessing during the service.



What we are doing!

Focus on Nursery

I am so proud of our Nursery children! They have settled brilliantly to their new routines and are a joy to have at St Leonard's. The children have harvested the sunflowers, courgettes and pumpkins from the garden and managed to turn them into vegetable stew, courgette muffins and vegetable pasties! They have also used the vegetables to inspire artwork and have drawn sunflower heads and printed with courgette segments and large leaves. On top of this they have also had their first day out, at Waterstones. They had a lovely walk along the canal, saw some boats and swans, and then had a story read to them whilst they looked at the books. Well done, Nursery children!

Focus on Year 5

Year 5 are learning about woods and forests for their topic this term and are off to Batsford Arboretum on Friday for a day of outdoor learning, which will include everything from identifying different species of tree to creating artwork outdoors. They have been writing on a variety of Autumn themes in literacy, describing settings and creating poems. Some of their work will be read out in church at their Harvest Festival Service, which will be held in church on Wednesday 19th October. (Everyone is invited to join us at St Leonard's Church!). In PE lessons, Year 5 have learnt the Haka in their dance lessons and are playing rugby too. Some of year 5 and 6 are off to a tag rugby tournament at the end of term.

Phonics

Teaching children to read is one of the most important things that we can do and we had a super turnout at our phonics sessions for parents on Monday where, in the afternoon, Year 1 shared all the sounds which they are learning and we learnt that there are 144 different letter combinations in the English language! If you were unable to attend the presentation and want to find out more it is on our website under the curriculum tab and is called "**Teaching and Learning Phonics at St Leonard's Primary School**". Please remember that we also offer drop-in sessions for our Pakistani and Polish families on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons where they can further their English skills. Wednesday morning is a general drop-in for all families and we would urge that any adults with their own literacy worries contact either Christina or Mr Blackwell so that they can direct you to adult literacy courses. If you are friends with anyone who would benefit please let them know.



Learning News

Our Brains

Our brains are fantastic! This week the children have learnt about the many parts of the brain and the different jobs that they do. The **cerebrum** is the **largest** part of the brain and helps us to think and speak. The **cerebellum** helps us to move and to balance. The **prefrontal cortex** is particularly big in headteachers as it helps us plan and make decisions! The **hippocampus** helps to....????... oh yes, remember things. Finally the **Amygdala** CONTROLS OUR EMOTIONS!!! The important thing is to use our brain as much as possible. The more that we learn, the stronger our brain gets. It's like elastic, the more we stretch it the more it can do. Even when we make a mistake we are training our brain and, next time, we try something else.

Learning Challenge

Linked to the above, Mr Blackwell has set the children a home learning challenge. They have two choices: either to find out more about how their brain works (by reading, researching, Googling) or to show how they are using one of the Learning Powers to improve their learning. What they choose to do to show their learning is up to them but it could take the form of a poster, a description, a pretend webpage, a diagram, or a recount to explain how they can now do something that they couldn't do before.



Dates for your Diary



Monday 17th October: Parents' open evening 6pm—8pm

Tuesday 18th October: Parents' open evening 3.30pm—6.0pm

Wednesday 19th October:

- School photos
- Harvest service in church - year 5

Friday 21st October: Term 1 ends at the usual time

Monday 31st October: School closed (INSET day)

Tuesday 1st November: Term 2 begins