

Headteacher:  
Neil Blackwell



16th June 2017

# Newsletter



From the Headteacher



## Attendance

School attendance was a super 96.1% in the first week back. Particular congratulations to Mrs Pratley's class and the morning session at Nursery where every child was in school all week—100% attendance.

## Penalty Notices

There is a close link between under-achievement and Persistent Absence. The government defines Persistent Absence as being 90% or below, in other words missing 10% or more over a given period, equivalent to about 4 school weeks per year. Where attendance remains at 90% per year this means that children miss one tenth of their education, meaning that by the time they reach Year 10 they have missed one WHOLE year of education. 80% attendance means being two years behind at GCSEs and there are inevitably huge gaps in learning.

Where serious medical conditions exist we are very happy to work with parents and medical professionals to facilitate recovery and thankfully these incidences are very rare. However, there are other instances where children are persistently absent without notes from doctors or because of extended holidays, and in some instances this leads to safeguarding concerns for the welfare of children.

Just as we like to reward good attendance, if we notice that attendance has slipped we will write to you to alert you. If that doesn't lead to improvement then we offer support to families through a Parenting Contract, aimed at improving attendance to average levels. If this route fails, Governors have agreed that we will now be issuing Penalty Notices Warnings in conjunction with the County Attendance Team, which could lead to a fine if attendance does not improve.

## Sports Days

Parents are very welcome to attend the upcoming Sports Days. Reception and Nursery have theirs on the field next Friday, 23 June, during the morning. Key Stage 1 and 2 have their team events the Friday morning afterwards, 30 June, with the competitive races after lunch.

## Non-Uniform Day

Next Friday, 23 June, is a non-uniform day in return for a donation to the summer fete tombola. Please bring any tins, jars, bottles or 'smellies' which would be suitable as prizes. Thank you.

## Bike Sheds

Please lock your bikes whilst they are in the bike sheds as unfortunately we had a bike stolen this week. The shed most at risk is the one at the main entrance, next to the pedestrian entrance to the school. Bikes are more secure at the other two sheds during the day, but please ensure that you walk bikes through the school and wear a helmet.

## Eid

It is almost time for Eid al-Fitr and the end of Ramadan. We hope that our Muslim families enjoy the festival and we will authorise one day's absence for religious observance.

Best wishes,  
*Neil Blackwell*



## What we are doing!

### Nursery visit to the Cotswold Wildlife Park

On Tuesday, the Nursery children visited the Cotswold Wildlife Park, and a number of parents came too; thank you! They had a fantastic time and this is what some of the children had to say:

Usman: "The porcupines can stick up their quills to make themselves bigger."

Luchia: "The camel's winter coat was coming off."

Nicolas: "I liked the wolves. You had to be quiet on the bridge or they'd run away."

Richard: "I saw the lions and the peacock. The lion was hiding in the bushes."

Since then, they have been able to have a go at making models and drawing pictures in their sketch books of the animals they saw. On the right is Christina's peacock!



### Year 3 visit to Chedworth



Also on Tuesday, Year 3 made a trip to Chedworth Roman Villa in Gloucester to support their Topic Work on the Romans in Britain. While on site the children had a guided tour of the remains of this once impressive site, including the Baths in which the wealthy owners and their guests would have spent up to four hours every day! They also got to dress up as Roman characters (including slaves) and make medicines using herbs, as well as become archaeologists for an hour, sifting through relics found on the site for clues as to what life had been like nearly 2,000 years ago. It is not difficult to see why the Roman army was so feared and successful! (see the gruesome specimen to the left).

### Life in a Paper Boat

Year 3 and 4 have had some of their artwork published on the musician Kate Rusby's Facebook and Twitter account. She was moved to tears by the 'gorgeous work' based upon her song about refugees, 'Life in a Paper Boat'. Well done to everyone for some lovely, thoughtful work and for Miss Nicklin providing inspiration.

### Britain in Bloom

Miss McKenna's class were a real credit to the school last week at Planting in the Park. Their behaviour was excellent and was commented upon by others. They have shown huge amounts of maturity since half term and have been a huge help to Miss McKenna whilst she is on crutches. Thank you!



## Dates for your diary

<b>Tuesday 20 June</b>	<b>Chenderit transition day begins</b>
<b>Wednesday 21 June</b>	<b>New parents afternoon 1.30 pm</b>
<b>Friday 23 June</b>	<b>Early Years Sports Day</b>
<b>Wednesday 28 June</b>	<b>Y5 Steamer Point trip</b>
<b>Thursday 29 June</b>	<b>Y3 &amp; 4 Rounders festival</b>
<b>Friday 30 June</b>	<b>KS1 and KS2 Sports Day</b>
<b>Monday 3 July</b>	<b>Banbury Academy Transition Day</b>
<b>Tuesday 4 July</b>	<b>Y1 Sea Life Centre trip</b>
<b>Friday 7 July</b>	<b>Y6 visit to Oxford museums</b>
<b>Saturday 8 July</b>	<b>PTFA summer fete 11.00-2.00 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 19 July</b>	<b>Matilda trip London</b>



## St Leonard's Church

Find out what is happening in our church by going to their website: <http://saintleonards.org>