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Newsletter



From the Head Teacher



This week is **Children's Mental Health Week** and a subject which causes us great concern. Childhood should be the happiest, most carefree days of a child's life and yet too often we see children weighed down with problems beyond their years, often related to issues at home.

Last summer we appointed our first **Mental Health Manager** through Place2Be, Kimberley Burch, and she has been successful in training staff in awareness of emotional and mental health, especially issues related to attachment and trauma. Kimberley has just taken maternity leave and is replaced by Annie Evans who is available, along with Mrs Philpott, for meetings with parents on a Tuesday morning. Please phone Mrs Philpott for a discrete conversation and to book an appointment.

We also engaged a group called **Fegan's** who provide a trained counsellor for children and this has been really successful. Our counsellor is called Katie Kay and she has had an amazing effect on some of our children. Again, speak to Mrs Philpott, or myself, if you think that this might benefit your child.

Lastly, we are able to put parents in touch with **parenting courses** and self-help groups. Don't leave it until the last minute when you are struggling and your child is in crisis. Get in touch and let us help .

The **PTFA (Parents Teachers and Friends Association)** is an important part of our school and raised £3,700 for our children and school last year. This paid for

- Tom Palmer author visit
- Atomic Tom science visit
- Year 6 Leaver hoodies
- Library books and furnishings
- Lots of other things!



We need more volunteers to help and it does not mean committing to everything. Just a little help, here and there, or at specific events, will go a long way. The next meeting is at 7.00pm on Monday 4 March, but even if you can't attend, just let someone know that you are willing to help sometimes. More details are on the school website.



The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children visited us this week to thank our children and families for all the money that they have donated. The grand total was £1,247.12 and with the promise of more still to come. The senior volunteer who delivered the workshops to Years 5 and 6 commented that this was one of the best, most respectful schools she has been to. Thank you, everybody.

Best wishes,

Neil Blackwell



Focus on Year 3

Our Year 3 children are very lucky to have an extremely hard-working team looking after them and helping them to learn. Left to right are: Mrs Gilkes, Miss Packham, Miss Hill and Mrs Malik and this term the children have really enjoyed learning all about what life was like during the Stone Age. They have got their hands dirty doing some authentic cave art and learnt all about the kinds of houses, animals and food the Stone Age people had. In English they have been reading Stone Age Boy and written their own amazing Stone Age inspired adventures! In Maths, they have been learning formal written methods of addition and subtraction with lots of time to practise using equipment to deepen their understanding of these processes.



Year 2 and Year 4

It was lovely that so many parents visited school for this week's Year 2 assembly, where the children shared the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with fish and bread. They were very proud to be able to show you what they had learnt.

The Year 4 Learning Afternoon was also well attended and parents were able to see some of their children's hard work since January. Particularly impressive was how children had learnt the ways animals had adapted to the harsh Antarctic habitat, camouflaging themselves and finding ways to get food.



Take One Picture



Our Take One Picture art exhibition is in the hall after school next Wednesday and Thursday, so please come and visit us! Year 5 have been finding out about Bluebird by Jack Vettriano and Year 4 have been looking at work by Wally Herbert, who was a British polar explorer and artist. Every class will have work on show from Nursery up to Year 6. Come and be inspired!



SATs revision

The mosque has arranged some classes for SATs, starting during the Easter term and carrying on in the weeks up to SATs in May. There is a special concession rate for Sanctuary residents. If interested, please contact Yasmin directly on Yasminkad@yahoo.co.uk



St Leonard's Church

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



SCIB

It's not too late to find out about Internet Safety and we have a second event lined up, for Tuesday 12 February, 5.30-6.30pm. Even if you went to the last one, things change very quickly and we all need to be aware of potential risks to our children.



Dates for your diary ...

Tuesday 12 February	Internet Safety evening 5.30-6.30 pm
Wednesday 13 February	Take One Picture exhibition 3.00pm
Thursday 14 February	Take One Picture exhibition 3.00pm
Friday 15 February	School closes for half term normal time



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Monday 25 February	School reopens for children
Thursday 28 February	Year 3 Learning Afternoon
Monday 4 March	Atomic Tom Science Week
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day



**GRIMSBURY
NEW YEAR WISHES
Fun Day**

**MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2019
11-2PM**

**GRIMSBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE,
BURCHESTER PLACE, BANBURY**

Free play and activities including:
DIY face painting
Rodeo Bull
Giant Connect 4 and Jenga
Crafts
Henna
Smoothie bike
Hot lunch

All ages welcome
Sorry no parking available
Children must be accompanied
by an adult

Love where you live

Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

OPA
OXFORD PLAY ASSOCIATION

**Sanctuary
Housing**

Sanctuary Housing and Cherwell District Council are really excited to be holding the first Grimsbury New Year Wishes event on Monday 18th February at Burchester Place Community Centre, by the Co-op.

The event (11-2pm) is free for residents of Grimsbury and will feature lots of activities for families and young people. It's a chance to think about what sort of community you would like Grimsbury to be and the chance to have your voice heard.

