

St Nicholas CE VA Primary School Newsletter

October 2016

Vision Statement

At St Nicholas we nurture everyone to 'be the best we can be' in a caring and inclusive Christian Environment



DATES

18th October- **OPEN DAY**
(9-12am) (1:30 -2:30) for
prospective parents.

21st October - **Harvest
Service** - 2:30 in school
led by Rev Lydia

21st October
Representatives from
Year 6 visiting Millbrook
House

**Half term - Monday 24th
- 28th October**

First Day back - Monday
31st October

1st November - **Parent
Consultations** - Reception,
(9am - 5.15 pm Y1, Y2 &
Y3 (2pm -8pm)

1st November - **Leeson
House Information
session Y5 parents**
3:15

7th November - **Parent
Consultation on the
future of our school**
(separate letter
attached)

11th November -
Remembrance Service -
2:30 in School. Hope you
can join us for this.

Please visit the Events page
on our website to view
future dates

www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk

M& M Theatre Visit The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the M& M theatre production of the classic fantasy tale by C.S Lewis: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Theatre, particularly theatre for children, fires the imagination and helps to develop creativity; a vital skill that enables children to solve problems and think more deeply about the world around them.

Thank you for supporting this opportunity and thus making it possible.



Simon King What an inspirational evening! Simon kept the packed audience entranced with anecdotes, animal mimicry and tips on spotting our local wildlife. The audience, with an age range from 4 to 94, were encouraged to practice various animal calls, leave their screens at home and go out into nature, to enjoy encounters with barn owls, foxes and otters. We learnt that otters, in fact, can be seen from the comfort of a local car park and that barn owls can be enticed to swoop down for nose-to-beak encounters.

On a more sombre note, Simon shared statistics about the decline of wildlife in the UK and compared his childhood with that of today's children, who will be lucky to have such encounters. He urged the audience to be part of the solution, rather than the problem, by being aware how their food is produced and buying organic, sustainable, local products, which will support the maintenance of valuable habitats. The message of our responsibility for the whole of the created world was underlined by the enthusiastic response and insightful questions from the youngest members of the audience.

Extending the hand of friendship Anyone who attends Celebration Assemblies at school at the moment can't fail to notice the increasing mountain of black plastic sacks piled around the worship table. These contain donations of warm winter clothing and sleeping bags for refugees in the Jungle Camp in Calais.

In the summer term, Oak class, as part of their RE topic on the Good Samaritan, asking the question 'Who is my neighbour?', invited Suzi and Mike Hearn from the Blandford-based charity 'Blandford Cares' to tell the class about their activities helping those living in appalling conditions in that camp.

As a result, the then Year 6 decided to raise money and donate clothing which could be used by the refugees. Donations of clothing, back packs, tents and sleeping bags flooded in. The charity has already collected one van full of donations and is returning shortly for the next load, when they will be speaking to the whole school about their work, including the plight of children of the same age as those who will be watching.

Parental Workshops

READING

'Read Write INC' - thank you to all those who attended the Read Write, Inc workshop this term and to Mrs Sanders for organising and running this. If you were unable to attend, Mrs Sanders will be uploading the information onto our school website over the half term holiday www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk .

The children are thoroughly enjoying the scheme and first indications suggest they are making great progress.

READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge: Nathan and Thomas L, Amelia and Maisie M, Georgia , Lauren P , Sammy and Natty Q , Faith

We appreciate, as professionals and parents ourselves, that engaging children in reading can be challenging, when technology increasing entices them away from a good book. Therefore, it is vital we continue to foster a love of reading and literature through our curriculum and opportunities such as the M& M theatre. We also recognise that boys are particularly hard to engage. We have just purchased some books that we hope will inspire our boys and below are a couple of useful websites you may wish to visit.

<http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/genre/gr8/Books-for-Boys.html>

<http://happyhooligans.ca/best-books-for-boys-ages-8-16/>

If you have any recommendations regarding books that have inspired your boys to read, please drop us an email so we can post them on the children's classroom walls!

We are also holding a **BOOK SWAP day on Friday 4th November** as part of our first Book Week of this academic year. (31st October - 4th November)

We are inviting children and adults alike to donate a book they would recommend in exchange for a different book. Children and Adults wishing to take part should bring their books in from Monday 31st October. Children will have the opportunity to choose a new book during the day on Friday 4th and adults are invited in from 3:15 to pick up their new read!

HAPPY READING!

Maths Workshop for Parents

Mr Friese - Greene will be leading a Calculation Workshop for parents on 23rd November 3:30 - 4:30. This is another opportunity for parents to gain an understanding of how we teach calculation in school, in each year group. It will also provide you with some tips on how you can support your child at home. We will shortly be publishing our revised new Calculation Policy on our website, so please look out for this.

In the meantime, please keep encouraging your children to learn those all-important tables and division facts. Some useful websites are listed below

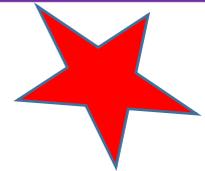
<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm>



HALL OF FAME

Class Cups



Max , Jeremy , Joseph , Reuben , Byron , Archie D , Georgina , Isaac ,
Beth , Alfie , Lilly H , Tristan B Rafa , Ava , Finn, Alex , Hayden , Amy

Congratulations to...

ACORNS, our **Gold Medal** winners last week! Our youngest children have amazed us all. They have settled so quickly and are already fantastic role models and ambassadors for our school. Thank you to all the staff and parents who have helped their transition in to school be such a positive one!

Sporting events

Our sporting fixtures have started in earnest. The children have already participated in two orienteering events as well as Tag Rugby. As usual they displayed great determination and above all thoroughly enjoyed competing. There are further orienteering events planned and our Tag Rugby team will go on to the next round. Well done everyone!

And finally ...

As you know, our value this half term has been 'Friendship' so it seems fitting to end the term with our Harvest Festival on Friday 21st at 2:30, in school. We hope lots of parents will be able to join us. We would welcome donations from Tuesday 18th October and any fresh produce from Thursday 20th. All proceeds will go to the Blandford Food Bank.

Our value next half term is 'Peace' so I will end by thanking you for your support and friendship this half term and by wishing everyone a peaceful and relaxing week with your family and friends.

The staff and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 31st October 2016.

HAPPY HALF TERM EVERYONE!

Current Parent Representatives :

Mrs Carpenter -marioncarbecomingpenter@btinternet.com (Willows);

Mrs Andrew - rachel@juddstransport.com (Ash);

Mrs Tonks -samtonks@hotmail.co.uk(Acers); Mrs Sharples -helenno58@aol.com(Acers) ;

Mrs Belbahi -mehdi.belbahi@btinternet.com (Oaks) Mrs Rigler -hannahrigler@hsbc.com or hannah.rigler@homecall.co.uk (Oaks)

On a day to day basis the school is run by the Head teacher and staff. They are held to account by the Governing Body. If you wish to contact the governors concerning a school related issue or are interested in being a governor please contact our clerk Robert Wellen robertwellen@btinternet.com

Chair of Governors: Rev Lydia Cook Vice Chair of Governors : Oliver Davis