

Oak Hill Church of  
England Primary School  
*'Jesus said, 'I have come that you may  
have life in all its fullness'  
(John 10:10)*

**FAITH – VALUES – ACTION**



Newsletter Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Harvest Festival**

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to our Harvest Festival on Friday afternoon. We were so proud of the children and the way they performed and sang. It was great to show the building works to so many parents after the service. Everyone was so positive about the way the school looked and the exciting changes that are still taking place.



**Building Work**

Wow, what a difference tarmac makes. It has been exciting to see the change that laying the tarmac has made. It has been fascinating to watch the workers and the children have been excitedly grabbing glimpses and cheering on the progress.





There was a discussion about what seeds need to grow - soil, water and sunlight. Betsy remarked that 'the sun is like nature's oven'. The children then sowed one tray of honesty and one tray of 'Oak Hill' hollyhocks, covered them with vermiculite, watered and labelled them, before putting them in the mini greenhouse. These will be checked each week for signs of germination.



### **Thrive – Therapeutic Gardening**

On Tuesday, the therapeutic gardening sessions began with Eleanor Wroath, of Hope Springs Gardening, for two small groups of KS2 children. The session was very informative and practical. The children came away from their first session saying they really enjoyed themselves and were excited about the next one.

Within the first session, the children looked at lots of different seed pods and heads (honesty, nigella, hollyhock, poppy, lychnis coronaria, snapdragons and wallflowers) and talked about the way plants produce seeds in the late summer and early autumn months once they have finished flowering or producing fruits and vegetables as part of their reproductive cycle. We observed the different types of seed heads, different sizes, shapes and colours of the seeds and the different ways of dispersing them by shaking out poppy heads 'like pepper pots', listening to the rattle of the nigella heads before bursting them open and rubbing the papery honesty seed heads between fingers and thumbs to release the seeds. The children also extracted the Oak Hill hollyhocks seeds, collected by Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Greaves, from the front of the school.





### **Senior Mental Health Lead**

This week, Mrs Edwards has begun the training to become the Senior Mental Health Lead within the school. The government Green Paper recommends that all schools and colleges have a designated Senior Mental Health Lead (SMHL) by 2025. As part of this role, Mrs Edwards will be supported to develop and implement a whole school approach that will embed mental health and wellbeing into the culture of the school for both pupils and staff. This will have a positive impact on learning, achievement, behaviour and staff wellbeing and morale.

### **AVUK loud shirt day 20th October**

We are thrilled to be supporting [www.avuk.org/loud-shirt-day-uk](http://www.avuk.org/loud-shirt-day-uk) again this year. The children are invited to wear loud shirts on Thursday 20th October in exchange for £1 donation towards the charity. The official day is Friday 21st but we are not at school so will be celebrating a day early.

### **Attendance**

Attendance at school is critical to success for every child. The DFE define a good

level of attendance for a child and school as 96% or over. The Government has issued new guidance this year regarding attendance and school will be implementing this over the coming weeks and adapting our school policy.

Attendance below 90%, in reality means one half day off a week. Over five years this equates to missing half a school year. 80% attendance means a whole day lost every week. Over five years this would mean a whole year of missed learning and progress. There is a correlation between school attendance and the progress that your child makes.

### **Parent's Evenings**

Parent's Evenings will take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 15:30-17:00 and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 16:30-18:00. These will take place in person. Booking will become available in the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Carol Service**

Advance Notice:

We are aiming to do something different this year. We would like to invite everyone to our Carol Service at St Margaret's Church in Alderton on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. All children will be performing in the service and Year 6 will be leading us in worship.

### **Winchcombe Meeting**

Thank you to the parents who attended the Winchcombe meeting on Monday. A very informative session.

### **Online Safety**

Right now, humans are not living sustainably: we are taking too many

resources and not leaving the world in a fit state for future generations. Old tech products are a clear example: if we throw them away, the poisonous lead and mercury inside can get into the food chain through the soil. Recycling tech, though, has its own issues: it's often exported to countries where the law doesn't protect people from hazards. Whole villages (including children) sort through discarded devices to remove useful parts and substances like gold, silver and copper – often putting their health at risk. Finding ways to re-use tech is the greenest option.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of tips such as donating your old devices to charity, reusing your smartphones and recycling the batteries.



### School Residential

There will not be a newsletter next week due to the residential.

We are very close to leaving for Georgeham now. The children are very excited, as am I. The weather forecast is

looking a little hit and miss for next week so please make sure the children have plenty of spare socks and warm clothes as well as a bag to put any wet kit in!



### National Children's Measurement Programme

The National Children's Measurement Programme for Years R and 6 will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

On the same day the Reception children will have their vision screening. Further details will follow,

### Operation Christmas Child

This year Oak Hill will once again be taking part in Operation Christmas Child, the UK's largest children's Christmas appeal. It is an initiative of the Christian relief and development agency Samaritan's Purse and provides underprivileged children around the world with gift-filled shoeboxes wrapped and packed by children and adults in the UK. The idea is simple. Children and adults wrap and pack shoeboxes with a range of gifts and bring them to school. These are then collected and sent overseas where local churches distribute them to children, on the basis of need alone. This year the goal is to send two-thirds of shoeboxes from the UK to Ukraine or the neighbouring countries like Moldova and Romania that are hosting many Ukrainian refugee families. If you

would like to fill a shoe box, please look out for a leaflet that will be sent home with your child in the next week.

For more information, please take a look at

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

### Half Termly Christian Value

**FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT**

**Friend**- a person you know well and like

**Respect**- admiration for a person's or thing's good qualities; politeness or consideration  
*(Oxford School Dictionary)*

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you  
Matthew 7:12

Respect is one of the greatest expressions of love.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"  
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

### Church Service in Alderton

**9.00am** - Great Washbourne

**10.30am** – Dumbleton

All are welcome

### High School Open Days

**DENMARK ROAD HIGH SCHOOL**  
Discover Realise Honour Shape  
[www.denmarkroad.org](http://www.denmarkroad.org)

Welcome

**Open Events October 2022**

Open Mornings: 10th & 11th October 8.30 to 11:50  
Headteacher Talks at 8.45, 10.45

Open Evening: 11th October 17:00 to 20:00  
Headteacher Talks at 17.15 & 18.15

To book: email [reception@denmarkroad.org](mailto:reception@denmarkroad.org)

### PATE'S OPEN MORNINGS 2023

Places are available to book on our website

Tuesday 28th February 2023

Tuesday 28th March 2023

Monday 26th June 2023

Timings: arrival at either 09:00 or 09:30 – finish by 11:00

This will be a wonderful opportunity for you and your children to visit the school on a working day. There will be a Head Master's presentation, and student-guided tours of the school. Our Head of Year 7, and pastoral staff will be on hand to talk to you about the transition from primary school and about life at Pate's, including the House system, clubs, uniform and school buses.

Parking will be available on site (subject to weather conditions)

**BOOK YOUR OPEN MORNING VIA THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Pate's Open Evening

Tuesday 4th October 2022, doors open 5pm

(no pre-booking required, just drop in)

Head Master's presentations will take place

at 5.15pm & 6.30pm.

There will be student-guided tours of the school, and staff will be available to answer any questions. Pupils are invited to join in with

experiments and demonstrations, as well as tackle the climbing wall!

(There will be parking on-site)

### **Sir Thomas Rich's School GL2 0LF – Open Days 19 and 20 October**

Just to let you know that Sir Thomas Rich's next Open Days for Year 7 admissions take place on 19 and 20 October 2022.

Boys currently in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are warmly invited to attend with their families, but it would be of particular benefit to Year 6 boys who are sitting the grammar school admissions test on 17 September 2022, and to Year 5 boys who are starting to consider their secondary school choices.

### **Winchcombe School**

Open Mornings

5<sup>th</sup> October Tours from 9.30am

Or contact us to book a visit on another day!

### **Rowan Class**

This week Rowan cCass have been delving into our new topic 'Movers and Shakers'. We have been exploring a local significant person from the past called Raymond Priestley. We found out that he lived in Tewkesbury and went on to

become an explorer who made an attempt to be the first person to reach the South Pole.

In English, we started the week thinking of 'est' words and used these to make our sentences more interesting. We then went onto think about 'ing' verbs and watched the opening scene clip from the film Rio whilst jotting down the words to describe what the beautiful birds were doing such as swooping and flapping. We then went back to our class book of Grandad's Island and used our action verbs to write sentences about the liveliness of the forest.

In Maths, Reception have been busy counting out amounts of objects and playing lots of Maths games to practise their number recognition. Year 1 have been working hard on one more and one less and Year 2 have been counting in 10s up and down the number line as well as estimating numbers on the number line.

We also couldn't believe that we were mentioning the word 'Christmas' this week as we have been busy making our Christmas cauliflower cards to support FOOHS. We hope you like our design!



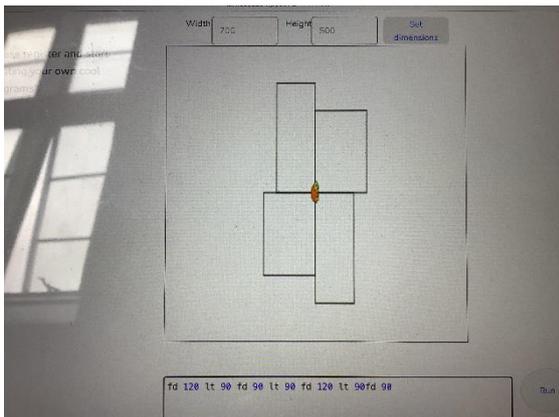


### Elm Class

Elm Class have been spending some time coding using Logo to control an on-screen turtle and learning a number of ways to travel using apparatus in our gymnastics lesson.

In English, learning has been focused on the use of prepositions and rhetorical questions and in Maths Year 3 have begun their addition and subtraction unit of work and Year 4 have begun to learn about rounding.

I have been most impressed with the improving quality of the children's writing this week. Very encouraging.



### Redwood Class

This week in Redwood Class, we had Christmas in September! The children have made lovely Christmas cards which can be ordered soon. These will come home tomorrow.

In English we have been using symbolism, juxtaposition, similes, personification and dialogue to write exciting descriptions for our main Character Daniel as he entered the Nowhere Emporium. The quality of the children's writing is fantastic.

In Maths, we have been adding, subtracting, using mental strategies and finding common factors across the two year groups. The children are very focused but really need to keep revising their times tables!

In History, the children explored Britain's role in the Maru, creating mind maps of the different ways Britain contributed to gain wealth and power.

In Science, we have learned even more about our heart and the function of blood.

PE this week was still centred on team work and good communication whilst still developing gymnastics skill.



### **House Points**

House point totals for this week:

Ashdown 71

Sherwood 82

Dean 108

### **Stars of the Week**

#### **Rowan Class:**

Star of the week - Lyla for always listening carefully and having a 'can do' attitude

Value of the week - Rory for persevering with your maths work and being proud of your achievements

#### **Elm Class:**

Star of the week - Edward for some fantastic writing this week, which is improving daily

Value of the week - Martha for being so helpful and thoughtful throughout the week

#### **Redwood Class:**

Star of the week - Charlie and Elliott for a fantastic gymnastics routine

Value of the week - Henry helping support his friends in class

### **Diary Dates**

Please be aware that these may be subject to change.

#### **October**

3<sup>rd</sup> Year 5/6 Residential starts

7<sup>th</sup> Residential returns

18<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening

19<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening

20<sup>th</sup> Loud Shirt Day

Break Up

21<sup>st</sup> INSET Day

31<sup>st</sup> School returns

## **November**

10<sup>th</sup> School Disco

11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day

Flu Vaccinations