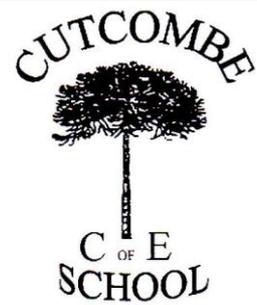


Newsletter

22nd March

Cutcombe Church of England First (VA) School

Tel: 01643 841 462
email: cutcombe@educ.somerset.gov.uk



Love, Learn, Live and Grow together

Dear parents, carers,

A big welcome back this week to Mrs Jackson, and a big thank you to Mrs Cooney for covering in her absence. We can now settle in to the partnership working.

What a wonderful musical extravaganza this week, our pupils did so well, and special thanks to those who read as well. What a brave and courageous thing for them to undertake. The songs were tricky too and they did really well. Superb behaviour and lovely manners all day, they should be very proud of themselves. It was also lovely to see them all mixing in together, with year 5 and the other schools, we hope that they made lots of new friends (they certainly seemed too) and got used to being in the Middle School as part of preparing for transition.

Our Ethos, Vision and Values committee met again this week for the second time, some familiar faces and some newbies which was lovely. Rev'd Weir joined us, as did two of our governors and we focussed on wellbeing for this week. It was a heart felt and in depth conversation that identified some key areas for development. We have captured the conversation for you in this newsletter so you can email/ or write to us to add your own thoughts and views if you were unable to attend. The staff also had a session this week on the vision of the school and would love you to email or write if you wish to share any views on their key area of work.

Our new website is well underway and we are hoping to launch after the Easter holidays. On Monday we have a photographer coming in the afternoon to capture photos for our website, we are sure our children will look their usual best, but also we have some lovely planned activities to really capture the essence of school life at Cutcombe.

It is going to be a busy day but very fun day on Friday with visitors joining us from many career pathways, to inspire us and to help us learn about a new or different skillset: We are joined by: vets, park rangers, police and school nurses in the morning. Then in the afternoon we are enjoying our Passover meal with Rev. Butt. Mrs Blackmore has worked hard, supported by the team, to organise this fun and learning filled day of activities and will no doubt be sharing photos in next weeks news.

Finally, a plea and a thank you for your support of FOCs; a letter will be sent out shortly from FOCs and they are really hoping you can spare some time to help them with the Easter activities. As a school, funding is extremely difficult and we massively appreciate all the help and support that you can give, no matter how small or big, every little counts and without a team effort many of these events, activities and fund raising just simply could not happen.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Naomi Philp

News from Class 1

As Class 2 were at the Musical during their normal Ukulele lesson, it was great to have Mrs Hobdell join class 1 for an afternoon of musical creativity. The children heard a number of new songs and explored the musical instruments. In R.E. we are continuing with the story of Easter, linking it to Salvation on how Understanding Christianity timeline (displayed in the hall).

News from Class 2

Class 2 had a fabulous day at Minehead Middle School for the Federation Musical. It was a pleasure to watch the children become familiar with the school ready for most of them to begin their next school adventure there in September. The children were able to play in the 'cage', use the Year 5 block as a base and experience the cooked food!

Comments from child(ren)

"It's ok to make mistakes, that's how we learn" - Toran

Attendance

Class 1 96.3%

Class 2 93.8%

Whole School 95.2%

Pupil Commendations

These awards along with star certificates were given out in our Awards worship by Mrs Philp

Kindness: This award is for when people have stepped up and done something kind, especially when they didn't have to. This award can be for good manners, thoughtfulness, and showing empathy.

Class 1: Harry for telling the truth

Class 2: Abigail for her amazing manners

Christian Value – Courage

Ryan for reading at the Federation musical

Achievement:

Class 1: Olivia for great effort (and results) in her maths 'quiz'

Class 2: Tom for full marks on his spelling test

Safeguarding

[Parents vs. Kids Online Quiz](#)

Children love competing with their parents! This free quiz from O2 and the NSPCC is a fantastic, fun way for families to have conversations about staying safe online. It can be played on phones, tablets, laptops and even Amazon Alexa, and aims to: 'get families talking about the exciting possibilities of the internet, as well as the risks to look out for.'

Visit <https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc/parents-vs-kids> to find out more.



School Christian Value - Courage

Courage is:

Carrying on when things are difficult

Overcoming fear

Understanding and facing a challenge

Risking being out of your comfort zone

Always believing in God's promises

Going for a goal

Empowered by encouragement

In other news:

Love, Learn, Live and Grow together

In addition to the thought provoking ethos, vision and values committee meeting on Wednesday, staff and children have been discussing our vision in more detail. What does love, learn, live and grow mean to us? And where do we find examples of each in our school? We have begun to put together a document to capture our thoughts on these areas and invite you all to email us (or write us a letter- old school style!) about your thoughts as we know not everyone can attend the Ethos, Vision and Values sessions.

The key question we have been considering is: *What does, love, learn, live and grow together mean to us, to you, to our community, to the children?* Please feel free to give us your thoughts about this so we can incorporate that into our vision.

Ethos, Vision and Values Committee feedback:

As a starting context point for our discussions we began by considering the following thoughts from Rev'd Weir:

Spirituality:

Listen with the ear of your heart. St Benedicts.

Be generous, attentive and open to new ideas- Rublev's Trinity

Don't interrupt, don't judge and don't belittle.
Look for the good in others, in yourself, and look for balance.

Love:

God is love, if you live in love, you live in God and God lives in you.

Love is listening, learning, growing.

Listening to God's call to love.

Listening to others about their story.

Listening to our own story: how do I feel?

Love holds us in balance: self and others.

The group then considered: What 'well being' means to us:

Living in harmony, inclusivity, pluralism, in harmony with our community, our culture our world. Peace.

Being healthy, physically and mentally.

Being loved and loving others. Being valued and valuing difference. Socially accepted and accepting. Belonging, a feeling of belonging and being welcome at the church, at school, within our community. To act with kindness.

Believing in yourself. Having resilience and being able to problem solve. Using your creativity to learn, to understand, to resolve and to extend. To have the confidence to try and the resilience to try again. To accept failure is a part of learning and mistakes happen but they help us to grow. To learn how to forgive others and yourself. To know you are perfect as you are and already welcome in the Church and with God.

Having balance between standard learning and creativity- standards English and poetry. Poetry and prayer. The balance between study and play. A broad and balanced curriculum that offers children a wide range of activities and opportunities for them to discover their talents and passions. Enabling them to set themselves goals and have aspirations. We recognise success is empowering and to enable our pupils to succeed is an important factor for their wellbeing.

Being safe, including online in this technology rich world.

To have balance in all things.

These were then reflected upon in relation to where we considered ourselves to be now with our school practices:

We acknowledged there is a lot we do well at Cutcombe CofE First School to support the wellbeing of our pupils, our staff and each other. The church is part of that support network and we feel strongly that we act with love in our hearts.

From that discussion came some key actions/ ideas for further development:

- To undertake a pupil survey, to talk to the children about their passions, their lives, their loves, their hopes and their wellbeing, to identify further areas of development and/or areas of strength.
- To plan and develop a parent and pupil programme of play, learn, grow and love together. Building on the healthy eating work already started at the school but moving into e-safety and cooperation, problem solving, creativity, maths, literacy all through play. This now just needs some planning and prep work for it to be carefully executed and enjoyed.
- To develop and extend the 'Cattle Market' curriculum project to become an annual learning experience rich with opportunities to learn in context and within our community.
- To review policies on: wellbeing, outdoor learning, growth mindset, and curriculum. To agree a set of principles on which decisions regarding these are taken to safeguard our values for the future.
- To reflect upon balance within our school, to ensure this is actively reviewed.
- To actively teach mindfulness and reflection, embedding and developing the 'green shoots' of this practice, building this into our daily teaching practices as well as through key events and activities.

REMINDERS FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

- On Tuesday the children will need a coat and wellies for a visit to Roger's farm to experience lambing.
- There are still a few appointments left for Parents evenings on Monday and Wednesday -do please call or email the school office.
- Please sign up for Church club on Tuesday this week and let Sheralee know if you intend to go to the Mothering Sunday service in church on the 31st.
- There is NO Monkey club this Wednesday due to parents evening.
- There are a few outstanding payments on ParentMail, if you have trouble meeting the payments it's no problem, please do let me know and we can arrange a part pay schedule for you.

Dates for your Diary (**new dates in bold**)



Monday 25th March – website photographer in the afternoon

Monday 25th March – Class 1 parents evenings

Tuesday 26th March – visit to Roger Webber's farm

Tuesday 26th March – Church club

Wednesday 27th March – Ethos, Vision and Values Committee 9.15 – 10.15

Wednesday 27th March – Class 1 and 2 parents evening

Friday 29th March – Reception and Year 1 children at the Moorland Hall for a drama afternoon

Friday 29th March – Mothering Sunday Service at School 3pm everyone welcome

Friday 29th March - Catchball

Wednesday 3rd April – Celebration Worship

Thursday 4th April – Voles and Rivers Morning at Allerford for Class 2

Friday 5th April – Mobile Library

Friday 5th April – Easter Service 2pm at St John's Church (you are welcome to collect your child from church after the service)

Friday 5th April - Catchball

Friday 5th April – Last day of term

Friday 19th April – Good Friday Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Fayre

Tuesday 23rd April – First Day Back!

Friday 26th April – Science Fair (details to follow)

Friday 26th April - Catchball

Monday 29th April – Wednesday 1st May – Year 4 Residential trip to Pinkery

Friday 3rd May – mobile library

Friday 3rd May – Catchball

Monday 6th May – BANK HOLIDAY

Thursday 9th May – Whole School Photo

Friday 10th May – Catchball

Friday 17th May - Catchball

Federation Notice: SCARLET FEVER AND CHICKEN POX

We have been informed of 1 confirmed and 1 suspected case of Scarlet Fever at Exford School.

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, which is treated with antibiotics.

The **symptoms** of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor.

Stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

Complications

Children who have chickenpox or influenza at the same time as scarlet fever are more likely to develop a more serious infection so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance.

If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

You can find more information at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/762132/Scarlet_fever_factsheet.pdf

Further advice can also be obtained from the Health Protection Team on 0300 303 8162 during office hours.