

# West Tytherley CE Primary School

Friday 3rd March 2023

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the second week of the term, we can see some lovely signs of Spring, which will no doubt lift our spirits and help us all to feel positive.

I hope that you enjoy reading all the news from around the classes and across the school. I had a little investigation at what other schools offer in terms of the information that they give in their newsletters and I have to say that the level of detail, the range of subjects, photographs and information in ours is second to none.

## World Book Day

There will be a report later in the newsletter with news from all the classes, but I would like to share what an enjoyable day we had. The children enjoyed a variety of activities, which they did with friends from across the classes. It was also lovely to welcome parents to the assembly and to read with children at the end of the day.

## Parents Evening

Today, we are sending out your parents evening appointment times. These will be in your child's comms folder. If you do not receive one, it may be that we have not yet received a request from you. If this is the case, please contact the office. We will endeavour to accommodate your wishes, and give you the nearest possible time to your request.

## RSE Consultation Evening- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March- 5-6pm

Last reminder (of a number) that there will be an opportunity to meet with Mrs Lowey to discuss our RSE programme. All the parent information is on the website and it is worth taking a look at this prior to the meeting. Please be aware that we cannot offer childcare for this meeting and we have given a lot of notice, in order to allow parents to make arrangements.

## Strike Action

There have been no disruptions, to date, to your children's attendance at school. We will, of course, notify you if this is likely to happen.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes

Lucy Macey

## **From the Chair of Governors**

### Raising concerns

You may have seen that we have uploaded to the school's website the summary 'Parent View' responses which formed part of the recent OFSTED inspection. We were very pleased to receive such positive evidence of support from parents. We do know, of course, that concerns can arise and this note is to set out a process for how best to deal with those circumstances if they arise – in a way that is clear for you, as parents, and manageable for the teaching staff.

If you have a concern, your first port of call should be to contact your class teacher to discuss it with them. If you would like to discuss the issue further, you should then contact Mrs Macey and discuss it with her. We would hope that most issues can be resolved in this way.

If you feel the issue hasn't been resolved to your satisfaction, you can contact a school governor. All governors' details are available on the school website and in the school office. To make contact with governors simpler, we have suggested that you contact either Jonny Alison or Louise Payne, in the first instance – but you can reach out to any member of the governing body. If so, the school governor will act as a liaison between you and the teaching staff.

Once these processes have been completed, the next stage, if needed, would be to raise a formal complaint. The complaints policy on the school website sets out the detailed process for logging and investigating any complaints.

I hope setting out these steps helps all those involved to manage and deal with issues in a prompt and effective manner.

Derek Smith, Chair of Governors

## Weekly Awards Friday 3rd March 2023

<b>Beech</b>	Holly	For her wonderful writing during literacy
<b>Willow</b>	George	For his readiness to learn and taking an active part in discussions
<b>Oak</b>	Hannah	For taking ownership wither learning both in and out of school, especially with her times tables.

### Thought for the Week

This week we acted out the story of 'A Tale of Two Houses' – and saw that building a good life means listening to wise words. We prayed: *Dear God, help us to listen to those who have wise words to share. And help us to ignore silly ideas. Amen*

*Vicar James*

# News from around school

## Beech

Beech Class started the half term with an exciting new topic - People Who Help us! On the first day back, they were given capes and masks and instructed to solve challenges and problems in the classroom. The children spent the day in continuous provision and it was lovely to see them choosing to read and write, taking inspiration from the enhancements that were set out for them. The superhero headquarters were a firm favourite, with the children setting up their own log books to record instances and how they resolved them.

Our new literacy learning journey is 'Mog and the VET' and we are very lucky to have had Mrs Dovey visiting us on Friday to tell us all about what a vet does and how they help animals. The class have been talking about their favourite pets and have been discussing how we help animals. This week we have 'boxed up' the story, pulling key moments from it to create a structure for our own stories which we will be writing next week.

In Mathematics, our focus has been on finding more and less than a given number. The class have been using numberlines, 100 squares and concrete resources to find this. The year one children have extended this to find 10 more and 10 less than a given number within 100. Moving on from this, the children have been creating addition and subtraction number sentences and linking these as 'fact families'.

Our afternoon lesson focus this week has been Religious Education. The focus has been change, following the stories of Jesus and the Blind Man and Zacchaeus the tax collector. The children have linked these stories to change within their own lives and national and global change.



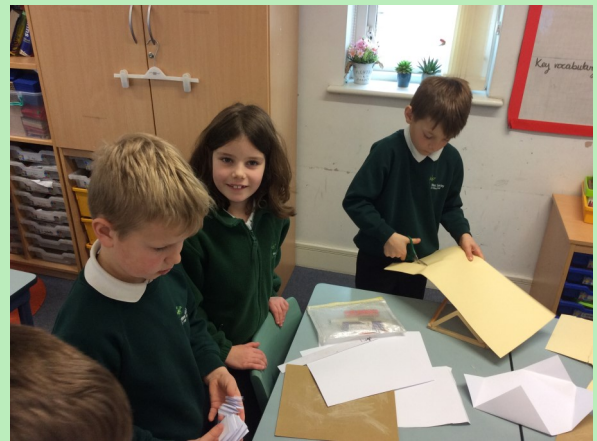
# Willow

Before half term, the children worked in groups to plan and create their earthquake-proof houses. They considered the features observed in the buildings in Japan and used some of those features and shapes within their own projects. Last week, the children tested their houses to see if they could survive an earthquake. We ventured to the top playground and placed them on boards with wheels. The children thought up different ways to test these – pushing them down ramps, going over bumpy ground, falling off the benches. By the end of the afternoon, it became apparent that all children had created sturdy structures that had survived, albeit not always the decorations.

In English over the past couple of weeks, the children have begun their new text of 'The Night Gardener'. Through this book, the children have explored expanded noun phrases, to add description, and the use of subordination to add extra detail to sentences. Next week, the children will apply these features when writing descriptive labels for topiaries.

Throughout this week in Maths, the children have been exploring time. We began the week by revisiting o'clock and half past before moving on to quarter past and quarter to. Later in the week, the children looked at 5-minute intervals past the hour and 5-minute intervals to the hour.

What is the difference between good and evil? We have been exploring this through the story of Prahlad and his father in the Hindu faith. Last week, the children identified items that represented good and evil to them whilst this week the children considered the four characters within the story and whether they were good and evil. From this, there was some fantastic discussion around Holika, the aunt; a lot of children could not decide whether she was good or evil. Ask your child which they thought she was and why, based on the events.



# Oak

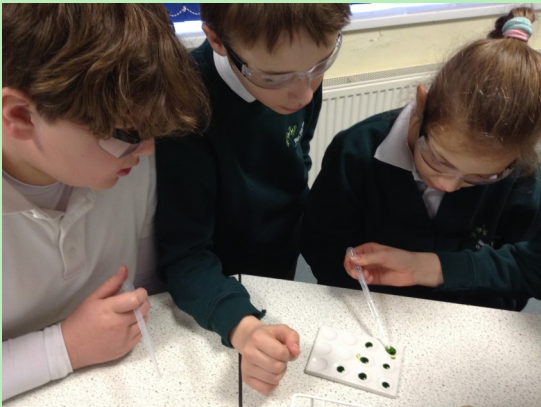
It has been a busy start to the term in Oak class with lots of fantastic learning. We have been exploring the work of Shaun Tan in our English lessons, analysing 'The Red Tree' in week 1 and 'The Lost Thing' in the past week. Our main focus has been exploring the themes in each book and finding similarities and differences between the texts. More recently, we focussed on the character of 'The Lost Thing' and describing this mysterious object using similes and a range of interesting synonyms and pronouns to aid cohesion.

In our Maths lessons, we have been using our times tables facts to solve multiple possibility problems before moving onto using our times tables to help us find a fraction of a number and multiple fractions by integers. The children have been working particularly hard with showing their understanding of these concepts through different representations and using key vocabulary to explain their reasoning.

Our topic in Science this term is the classification and evolution of animals. We began by working in groups to sort animals in different ways, such as by habitat, appearance or diet, before creating dichotomous keys to help classify different animals. We then started to explore the life cycles of different types of animals and compared these. Using the table provided, we analysed information given to us to create bar charts and draw conclusions for the question 'Does the size of an animal affect its gestation period?'. We found out that there did seem to be a link and on the whole, the larger the animal, the longer the animal was pregnant.

We are becoming music producers for our computing unit this term. We spent our first lesson of this unit consolidating our understanding of the coding programme Scratch and 'tinkering' with the sound elements. Each group was tasked with creating a working digital instrument. Miss Lee was very impressed with the children's perseverance, teamwork and determination to create something unique.

Instead of our usual Tuesday afternoon of French and PE, we had the fantastic opportunity to visit South Wilts Grammar School in Salisbury to take part in a Science workshop. When we arrived, we found out that the school rabbit had been 'murdered' and it was our job to find out who did it! Over the afternoon, we did a series of different science investigations, including chromatography and testing pH levels using a universal indicator, to try to find out which teacher had committed the crime. The favourite experiment by far was the flame test, where children had to use the bunsen burners to test different 'dirt samples' to see whose footprint may have been left. The 'dirt' caused the flames to turn different colours, which was both exciting and very surprising! A big thank you to all the parents who offered to transport.



Date	What	Who	Where	
10/03/2023	Tag rugby competition	Yrs 5 & 6	Wallop Primary School	
13/03/-16/03	Bikeability	Beech Class		
14/03/2023 16/03/2023	Parents Evening	ALL		
20/03/2023	Inset Day	ALL		
21/03/2023	Netball Tournament	Yrs 5 & 6	Test Valley School	

### World Book Day

On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day by dressing up and taking part in lots of book-related activities. In our morning assembly, the teachers and some children showed off their fantastic costumes and talked about who they dressed up as and why. It was lovely to hear the children talk so passionately about books. Throughout the morning, there were a variety of activities to do, such as bookmark making, a library scavenger hunt, making tube characters, using story cubes to make up stories and a quiz to see if children could work out what some of the teacher's favourite books were when they were younger (accompanied by some funny looking photographs of the teachers as children!). Before the end of the day, we had some parents join us to read together and share some new books the school are borrowing from the school library service. Everybody had a fun day and it was great to celebrate all things books together!

