

Great Bowden Academy

A Church of England Primary School

inspire ~ believe ~ learn ~ achieve



Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you all had a good Easter break and are looking forward to some warmer weather. We are now in the final term this year and it promises to be a very busy one as usual. In this newsletter we're looking back at some of the things we enjoyed at the end of last term and forward to some coming events this next term.

Ash Routen- Explorer

The children really enjoyed a visit in assembly from Ash Routen at the beginning of term. Ash is an explorer and he inspired everyone with his recent achievement, walking across the frozen Lake Baikal in Russia and being the youngest Briton to do so. His message to follow your ambitions and never give up was appreciated by everyone.



Keeping Children Safe online- information for parents

Thank you to everyone who came along to what I'm sure you will agree was a really informative talk from David Barsby, CSE officer from Leicestershire Police. His advice around setting rules from a young age around technology, ensuring children access the internet in a family room and keeping mobile phones out of children's rooms at night was all useful. For more information, you can access the thinkuknow website.

School Health UK

We are delighted to be working with School Health UK to improve the lunchtime experience for our children. We have undertaken an initial survey of the dining hall experience and play time experience. This involved consulting both children and staff and we will work with School Health UK over the next 12 months to achieve a Better Lunchtimes quality mark. We'll keep you informed.

Attendance

Please can we remind all parents that absences in term time can only be allowed in exceptional circumstances and that family holidays are not regarded as exceptional circumstances.

Regards,

Angela Dewes

Class news

Class 1

Class One have had a very creative half term. They have been busy developing their number sense of 8 and 9 and writing stories and information texts. They have been very creative designing and making 'Rain Sticks', Mothering Sunday and Easter cards. We also had a fantastic display of incredibly, imaginative 'potato book characters' for World Book day. The children have thought carefully about others when finding out about Mothering Sunday, Easter and 'hats for heads' day. We had an amazing Easter activity morning in church and had fun role playing the Palm Sunday story.



Class 2 & 3



Classes 2 and 3 have had an action packed few weeks. Our topic has been based on castles and we started it all off by having a huge game of hide and seek, which got us thinking about how hard it is for a big group of people to hide away and then about why people needed defences around them, as well as learning what the defences are. We had a lovely day visiting Warwick Castle, writing leaflets about the castle to encourage others to visit, and have also been making slime, writing fairy stories and our own adventures set in castles; and thoroughly enjoying ourselves learning and having fun!



Class 4 and 5

Most recently Class 4 and 5, have been exploring the ancient civilisation of the Mayans. They have been reading and researching different topics to learn more information about the Mayans. The children have really enjoyed being historians and have learned so much! Both classes have produced some Mayan inspired art work from patterns to rainforest animals.

In Science, they made the most of the freezing temperatures to cover the topic 'States of matter'. This was a fabulous real learning experience where the children went out to find snow and ice. They then heated it up and investigated what happened as it was heated and recorded the experiment.



Class 6

On Your Bike!

Year 6 have participated in a 'Bikeability' training programme this week. Bikeability is a form of cycling proficiency focused on confidence building and gaining practical skills and understanding for cycling on today's roads.

The programme starts at Level 1 where riders learn to control and master their bikes on the playground. Some children then progress to Level 2, which takes place on the local streets around the school. Riders learn how to deal with traffic on short journeys such as cycling to school or the local shops.

Other news



Cross Country – Following the Harborough District heats, Gracie Mathie-Russell, Tallulah Dring and Benji Dubois qualified for the County Finals at Prestwold Hall. Benji finished in an impressive 13th place overall. Well done!!

Swimming – Having finished in 1st Place in the East Leicestershire Small School gala, 8 children from year 5 and 6 will be competing at Leicester Grammar School this evening at the level 2 gala.

Tag Rugby – We took 10 year 3 and 4 children to compete in the Tag Rugby tournament hosted by Harborough Rugby Club. The children played very well and just missed out on the last stage on try difference.

World Cup Football Festival – On the 13th March we took 7 children to take part in a fun event where we represented Brazil in a football festival held at Harborough Town FC. The children received coaching, took part in matches, and had a great time.

In school we have lots of specialist coaching taking place for the children with activities such as Big Moves, Energise Club and Dodgeball.

Watch this space...

Throughout this term, we will be taking part in other activities and competitions such as Cricket and Tennis. We also have Sports Day on Wednesday 13th June.



Requests and information

Head Lice



We have a continuing problem with head lice in school. Please make sure you check your child's hair daily. A good deterrent is to regularly wash hair and apply lots of conditioner then thoroughly comb the hair with a nit comb (available from all pharmacies). All family members should also be checked regularly to help prevent re-infection.

We also ask parents to make sure that long hair is tied up for school (this helps prevent the spread of head lice and is safer for P.E. and play times).

Lost Property



We are still experiencing problems with the amount of lost property that we have in school. If an item is clearly named we can easily return it to the rightful owner; however, we find that a lot of the items are not named or claimed.

Please check that your child's clothing is clearly named and encourage your child to look after their property in school.

Car parking

Following some parking issues on the close, we want to give a polite notice to ask all parents/carers when parking to drop off or collect your children that you are mindful of our neighbours. Please be careful not to block driveways, leave your engine running or radios playing loudly. Thank you for your help with this matter.



Diary Dates

24.4.18	Class 1 trip to Kelmarsh Hall
24.4.18	Great Bowden Stars Auditions (in school time)
25.4.18	Great Bowden Stars Auditions (in school time)
26.4.18	Y5 Football/Netball at Stoneygate school (selected children)
30.4.18	Church Assembly – all welcome
1.5.18	Spelling Bee – KS1 - after school
2.5.18	Spelling Bee – KS2 – after school
2.5.18	Rotary Science Quiz at Kibworth (selected children)
3.5.18	Open Morning (current parents invited) – Timings TBC
11.5.18	School Nurse drop in morning 8.30am – 9am
14 – 18.5.18	Y6 SATS week
18.5.18	Class 4 and 5 trip to Cadburys World
22.5.18	Class and Team Photos
24.5.18	Great Bowden Stars! (1.30pm, all welcome)
28 – 3.6.18	Half Term
4.6.18	Olympic Athlete to visit school
5.6.18	Stops Away! At De Montfort Hall (Class 4 &5)
6.6.18	Cricket at Billesden (selected Y6) – all day
8.6.18	Y6 trip to Drayton Manor
9.6.18	Harborough Carnival!
13.6.18	Sports Day PM
20.6.18	Y5 Technology Day at Welland Park Academy
26.6.18	Last swim of the term
29.6.18	Y5 & 6 performing arts concert at Welland Park Academy
4.7.18	2pm & 7pm – end of year performances – Romeo & Juliet
5.7.18	7pm end of year performance – Romeo & Juliet
9.7.18	Secondary School / Reception induction Days
10.7.18	Secondary School / Reception induction Days
12.7.18	Leavers Evening in Church
13.7.18	Assembly in Church – Morning. All welcome.
13.7.18	3.30pm Break up for the Summer holiday!

Please note these dates are provided merely for planning purposes. Separate letters will be sent out for events as needed.