

# Minchinhampton CofE Academy

# Newsletter

Newsletter Number 11: Spring Term

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

## NEWS:

### **Cracking Cross Country!**

On Tuesday 28th February 2017 a couple of Year 5/6 pupils went to Archway Secondary School to compete against different schools throughout the District. The course was 1500m. It was very cold and we were all very proud of ourselves----By *Annabelle & Tabby*

### **Debating**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February the debating team went to Archway School to compete in the School Games Debating competition. They prepared to debate the question: 'Which sport makes the best athlete?' In the end we had to debate in front of the judges alone because the other team failed to show up but it was a really good experience all the same. We now progress through to district competition.---By *Tessa*

### **Football**

On Monday 27th February 2017 a team of 9 went to Park Junior School in Stonehouse: sadly Phil and Dan couldn't join us. We played 4 matches: we WON the 1st match 2-0 thanks to Jake's AMAZING goals. The 2nd,3rd and 4th matches all ended in a draw—which was not that surprising given the games were only 8 minutes long.—By *Mathew*

### **Cracking Knex**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February the Year 6's took part in a Knex challenge. The winners, Ollie Brown and Charlie Burfoot now go through to a competition against other schools from across Gloucestershire. Josh Young remarked, 'It really expanded my mind.' By *Cooper & Josh*

## INFORMATION

We are running a **Readathon Sponsored Read** and we'd like your child to join in.

The money raised helps the charity Readathon to regularly give brand new books and storyteller visits to children's hospitals across the UK. For more information, check out your child's sponsorship card and visit [www.readathon.org](http://www.readathon.org).

We are running the event over several weeks to give pupils the best opportunity possible to develop even better reading habits.

As well as encouraging pupils to read for fun, our school will get free books worth 20% of our sponsorship total – so there really is something in it for everyone.

## **COMMUNICATION**

**Please check the school calendar for upcoming events and put them in your diaries.**

Please note our school reports this term will include a lot of commentary from the pupils themselves: this is in keeping with our push to give pupils greater autonomy in their learning. We have put aside quality time to allow for in-depth dialogue about learning between the class teacher and the children and the process has been invaluable for building relationships and understanding. I hope you find the reports illuminating and interesting. We would value any constructive feedback as we go forward with this.

**TEXTS:** I looked back over my poem and could hardly believe it was me who had written it.

## LEARNING

At Minchinhampton Academy, we understand the importance of learning outside the classroom. Outdoor learning has many benefits including improving children's levels of concentration, invoking awe and wonder and developing resilience. Children love to be outdoors, getting close to nature and using their senses to explore. It stimulates all their senses, providing skills and confidence for a child's lifelong learning.

Over the past few years we have developed our school grounds, creating a number of different outdoor learning areas.

## SCHOOL PRACTICE

We want to encourage children to **try to evaluate the process** they went through when they learnt something. We ask questions like:-

*What helped you the most when you found this learning tricky?*

*At what point did you feel really challenged?*

*How would you do it differently next time?*

## POETS CORNER

### *Tom Long's Post*

*I stand here on my frosted hill,  
A post so small, a post so still,  
I hear the fumbling engines re-start,  
As the cold snow brushes against my face,  
Which sends me into shivers,  
Sliding screeching tyres that slip in the snow,  
And icicles sticking to my nose.*

*Winter is over and I see the seasons change,  
The flowers are blossoming,  
The trees that drip with golden dew and silk,  
Down to the wet grass,  
And the odd bee that lands on my arms.*

*The summer came to me,  
I hear the laughing children biking in the dips,  
The smell of Winston's ice-cream,  
And the flutter of butterflies by my nose,  
I wish I could be unstuck, be a child again,  
And run and play with all the others.*

## REQUESTS

Please remember previous: fruit & veg for snacks: no nuts :: homework: PE kit

### Head Lice

Just a reminder to please regularly check your children's heads for head lice. If you find any, the recommended treatment is the wet combing method, which avoids the use of chemicals:

- Wash your child's hair using a normal shampoo.
- Use plenty of ordinary conditioner to make the hair slippery so the lice will lose their grip.
- Comb your child's hair with a normal comb, then with a nit comb. Start at the root of the hair and go all the way along to the ends. Check the comb for lice after each stroke and clean it if any are there. Keep combing over the whole head for at least 30 minutes.
- Rinse their hair, and comb it through again.
- Do the whole thing again four times over the next two weeks. The rule is carry on until you haven't seen any full-grown lice for three sessions.

The NHS website has further information:

[www.nhs.uk/livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Nits.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Nits.aspx)

If you do not have access to the internet or would like further advice please see our First Aid Co-ordinator, Sara Jones.