

Minchinhampton Primary Academy

Newsletter No 5 2016/17

News

Minchinhampton Academy's Patron of Reading

Encouraging our pupils to become avid as opposed to simply capable readers has always been our aspiration here at Minchinhampton but it has now become a priority. The benefits of reading are indisputable but the number of possible distractions for our children ever growing. Hence our fine-looking library is at the centre of the school: you can't go anywhere without going past it or through it. This is the way we want it; the way it has to be.

In the 2015 16 year our efforts to promote reading gained a significant and very welcome boost when the author, John Dougherty, became our Patron of Reading. This is an excellent initiative that teams up an author with a school for three years to help raise the profile of reading. You need look no further than the look on the children's faces when they work with John, a living, breathing author, to know that this is an experience for them which has the potential to have a profound and lasting impact.

This would be exciting enough in itself but to make matters a whole lot better, we have decided to write and illustrate a book with John. Each class, from Reception through to Year 6, is writing a chapter ; each chapter takes the reader on an adventure through a different period in Minchinhampton's history. In terms of a purpose for their writing, it doesn't get much better than this.

Report by our news reporters

A Portal in Time!

By: John Dougherty and Minch School

In our school we have recently been writing a book called 'A Portal in Time' with the author of Stinkbomb and Ketchupface, John Dougherty. The story is about 3 children and a funny fairy pig who are looking for their lost friend that has been captured. The 3 children and the pig embark on an epic adventure through time.

Each class are writing a chapter about them in different times. These time themes include:- Saxons and Vikings, Highwaymen, Tudors, Archery in the woods, World war two, and Iron age.

As this is a rare and exciting event, we are hoping to say something about the book to Corinium radio. Of course we leapt at this once in a life time opportunity.

by Bel and Isabelle (Cyan)

PS Look on the School Website 'School Book Blog' for an update on how the book is going!

Minchinhampton Exam results

We have been sent a letter from The Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West—
I paraphrase:

-'I was very pleased to see your school's provisional Key Stage 2 results, which position Minchinhampton Primary Academy as one of our region's highest performing schools. In a year when standards expected have been higher than ever, it is impressive to reflect upon the results that you have been able to achieve.'

Interestingly, as a staff, our thoughts turn more and more towards what we want for our children in the long term. It is of course quite possible that by thinking bigger and longer term, you can end up with better SATS results.

Achievement For All

The school have been awarded the Achievement for All Quality Mark which recognises the work being done by the school to improve progress in reading, writing and maths for all pupils, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. The assessor said, 'The children I saw are a credit to you; happy and engaged in their learning journey, surrounded by a beautiful environment that inspires them to work at the highest level.'

Information

Please remember previous: fruit & veg for snacks: no nuts :: please check the calendar

Foundation Stage/KS1 Christmas Party

This is being held on Thursday 15th December. We will be sending out a letter with more detail nearer the time - please note we will be asking your children to bring in food - they will not need a school dinner or pack lunch that day.