Minchinhampton C of E Primary Academy Newsletter

Newsletter Number 5: Spring Term Friday 24th Jan 2018

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| **NEWS:**  **ICT at SWR**  Last week Year 5/6 went to Sir William Romney for a special day of ICT. We did tons of programming and games and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was a wonderful experience for us all*.---Kyra*  **Film Club**  Film club is really amazing because we always have a movie to film. We have lots of freedom to film whatever we want. We now need to get a tripod.---- *Elizabeth*  **Debating**  On Monday the debating club went to TK to take part in a debating match against Year 7’s and 8’s. It was really fun even though TK won- narrowly by 2 points. The topic was ‘this house believes chocolate biscuits are the best kinds of biscuits.’ |
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**New Staff**

We have boosted out Year 5/6 team recently with some new members of staff. Ruth Howell and Amanda Saunders have joined us part time to team teach with our existing staff and give them greater flexibility in the way they respond to pupil needs. Also new to the team is Jordan Tavier who has joined us as a TA in Turquoise class.

**Working Party**

Just to remind you we have a working party looking at relationships (this on the back end of the development of our Relationships Policy). The working party is made up of parents, governors and staff. You may well receive a survey in the next couple of weeks seeking your views.

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| TEXTS*: ‘I can count 11 with my dice- I was filmed doing it……I like writing…*  *I love describing things in my writing- I know my reading helps me….*  *using your imagination is pleasing…‘I am thinking more in my maths- it feels right… I nailed the suspense in my writing..I had them hooked.’* |

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| **COMMUNICATION**  **-Please check class assemblies on school calendar—a couple were not on the parent calendar.**  -Year dates for next year—have been finalised and will be available as of next week. |

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| POETS CORNER |
| **Stag on the Mountain**  It senses and sees  The early chill of January as it creeps  forward,  The crackle of fire as it burns,  Pheasant running heedlessly,  Ivy climbing, finding its way,  The icy frost glistening under the sun,  Old leaves falling to their end,  Footsteps stomping,  The quiet trickle of water, a flutter  Of bird wings and the silent strike of  light,  The feeling of guilt, the click of a trigger,  A whistle of air.  **Snow**  One morning in winter I opened my door,  I was surprised to find snow on the floor,  It was fluffy and white but very cold too,  I got dressed very quickly to build an igloo,  I wrapped up warm from my head to my toe,  To keep me from getting cold in the snow,  I wore my snow trousers, my coat and my hat,  My special snow boots so I didn’t go splat,  First we went out for some snowball fun,  And snowballs were flying as if from a gun,  Next we went sledging, we went over so fast,  I was sometimes the first and sometimes the  last,  I made a snow den out of lots of snowballs,  It was ever so strong and had very thick walls,  The weather gets warmer, the snow starts to  melt,  I can’t explain the sadness I felt. |

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| **Governor Visit** |
| On the 17th January two of the Governors completed a visit to the academy to assure ourselves of the links between strategy, planning and children in the area of reading. We walked through the school with Mr Moss, visiting 3 classes and observing teaching and learning in these classes, as well as in the informal learning spaces dotted throughout the school. One of the things that struck us as we walked is how engaged pupils of all ages were in a range of different types of books in a range of different ways. We heard from teachers and pupils about their reading and were impressed with range of innovative approaches to develop a love of reading amongst the whole school community and to then use this as a basis on which to build learning about reading. Mr Moss and the teachers explained how Love of Reading was being prioritised in order to provide a foundation on which to build reading abilities and skills. This added to structured learning such as Book Talk, Guided Reading, as well as building the pupils’ skills for reading and encouraging a range of reading through ‘genre enrichment’ where pupils are encouraged to try different genres of writing. Two of the pupils explained to us what books they were reading at the moment and how they were learning more about getting the most from their reading.  --Mark Catt & Kenny Lynch |

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| **LEARNING** |
| **Mindfulness**  Every Wednesday lunchtime in Aqua class we are running a mindfulness session for pupils. We are also starting a session up for staff each week.  Lunchtimes have become rather busy inside because of the number of children reading in the library. We are aiming to create quieter spaces and quieter times for those who would like a little peace. |

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| **REQUESTS-:** Please remember previous**:::no pens ::no nuts :::**  **Allergies**  Hopefully you are all aware that we have a child in school that is allergic to certain chemicals in some felt tips, highlighters and cleaners.  When she comes into contact with them she has an allergic reaction, which could potentially result in her having an anaphylactic reaction.  In order to keep her safe we only have a specific brand of pens in school that we know are safe - to help us we ask that no pens/highlighters/felt tips are brought into school.  We are concerned that could be creeping back in and are causing problems for our pupil.  **Reading**  Please continue to make reading a regular, daily occurrence for your children.  Recal please that any reading will do—reading to them; reading alongside them; them reading to you; reading to the dog, in the car, upside down, in a cupboard; reading picture books, magazines, recipes, poetry, novels, short stories, plays, scheme books—I don’t care—just so long as it’s a regular, enjoyable, meaningful event.  Oh- and please, to save us the time and worry, write it all down in their reading records. It’s not that we don’t trust you but what other way do we have! |