

MINCHINHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

CURRICULUM BOX

Royal class- year 3 /4- Mrs Wilson and Ms McCarron

This term in topic we have been focusing on the Vikings and Romans; we made Roman god top trumps and we discussed in detail the Roman's legacy. During our maths lessons, we have been challenging ourselves with Barvember problems, as we really enjoy a challenge. We have also been learning about multiplication and division. Most of us find multiplying easier because it is simpler to count up than count down. Our chapter in the new school book is set in Uluru- Australia, so in English we have been writing our chapter, which includes dream paintings and a shaman. Science this term has included learning about light and shadows, using torches and CD's to see how light travels.

Cobalt class- year 5/6- Mrs Aldridge and Miss Smith

In English we are writing letters to Theresa May, Iceland, Greenpeace, Clear Cast and Emma Thompson to comment on the issue of deforestation. Orangutans and other innocent animals are losing their homes in our bid to farm for Palm Oil. In our Maths lessons we have been looking at fractions- simplifying, adding, subtracting and multiplying (both improper fractions and mixed numbers). In Science we have been looking at Earth and Space. Recently, we have concentrated on friction. Watch this space for our exciting Space film!. During Topic we have been studying Antarctica. We are now lino cutting. You use a blade to gouge out the lino which you can then print from. We are making lino cuts of penguins for the book. Art has also included using isometric paper to draw 3D shapes. In French we have been practising talking about clothes, colours and numbers. In P.E we have been learning netball and dance.

CLUB BOX

This week we are going to be talking about debating club for Year 6's with Mr Moss. We believe that debating is a really important thing to have a go at and the buzz and feeling that you get when you are standing up and arguing for something that you strongly believe in, is unreal and you can't find it anywhere else. "I go to debating club because I love to express myself and be able to have my own opinion and for it to be respected by others," said Lyra.

PARKING

Please note- do not park in the disabled parking spaces outside the school unless you have a blue badge, we hope you understand this as it is needed by other people.

Also, please avoid turning around on the road by the library in the morning when you are dropping off because the resulting traffic situation is hazardous to pupils and the public.

Please, please use the 'drop-off zone' instead.

LOST PROPERTY

At the moment, we have been trying to sort out the humongous amount of lost property and it is a bit shocking. There is so much stuff and over half of it has not got a name in it. Also a lot of it stays uncollected for so long that you might not remember it. Please do check that all of your child's clothes have their name in it. Every so often the lost property will be put out on a table outside the school so look out for that.

From the lost property sorters: Bella, Isobel, Bretta and Edith.

WOOD DENS

Wood henge, the wooden climbing frame situated between the top and middle playgrounds has started to rot so it has been butchered and now it is a new being entirely. It is now 'Wood dens', which will be used for den building. Please could you bring us some den building materials, such as sheets so that our pupils can enjoy wood dens at its fullest.

ATHLETICS COMPETITION

On Friday 23rd of November, many of our pupils represented our school in a competitive athletics event in Stroud. Some schools competed in the morning, but our school was in the afternoon section. Out of ten schools that took part in the afternoon, we came 4th, taking part in many sporting activities. The top large school and the top small school will represent Stroud, competing in Gloucester in late January or early February. Since our school came 4th, it is likely we will not proceed to this event, but we are all so proud of our pupils still. One pupil that was in the athletics, Bel, commented, "It was a good experience, and has encouraged me to do more running. I tried my hardest, and that was all that mattered."

MINCHINHAMPTON SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

This year the Christmas Fair was better than ever, with extra things that have never been done before like hotdogs and new games and stalls. The fair was a storming success and everybody thoroughly enjoyed it. As always, Santa paid us a visit from the North Pole and spoke to many of the younger children about Christmas and what they wanted, and as always, he was joined by his trusty Year 6 elves. The secret present room was once again a parent free zone, a place where kids could buy good quality presents for their parents, siblings and other special people. Both of our school choirs sang angelically for those who wanted to listen, with Mrs Overthrow accompanying the KS2 choir and Mrs Young conducting both. This year, the PTA put up a newly purchased marquee outside on the middle playground where the teddy tombola, the jazzy jam jar tombola and bottle tombola's were held. There was a book and DVD stand which many people donated to and many people bought from it too. An art and crafts station was set up in the KS1 area and it was highly successful. The Christmas Fair could not have been put on without the fabulous donations and competition entries that everyone put in as well as the hard working PTA who put the whole thing on for us to enjoy. Thank You.

EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS

On 4th December the Yr5/6's went to the local church to take part in 'Experience Christmas'. This is a fun filled time where people from the local Holy Trinity church come in and do a series of stations to help us think about what Christmas is all about. "I enjoyed this time tremendously and hope to do it again in the future," said one participant. All in all the pupils enjoyed their time there and it was all thanks to the ladies who ran it. Another participant said, "I really enjoyed it, and the ladies were so lovely and kind: I think it was a fantastic thing to take part in." Some of the activities we experienced were: ink drawings of what we thought baby Jesus might like; moving Mary and Joseph pictures along a map; asking God to help us with all our troubles.

BASKETBALL

On Thursday the year 5/6 basketball team played basketball against Nailsworth. It was 5 a-side and it lasted 4 quarters of 8 minutes each. Mrs Kettle said, "The boys were brilliant, superb teamwork and great sportsmanship from all players and we won 12-4."

MINCHINHAMPTON YOUTH CLUB

Every Wednesday Minchinhampton Youth Club is on at the youth centre on Tobacconists Road. Each week, we take part in new activities, including crafts and decorating biscuits. We have access to the sports hall and computer room. There is a bar selling sweets, pizza, chips, chocolate and lots more.

DGAT NEWS

The Diocese of Gloucester Academy Trust now has 15 schools and over 3000 children under its wing. We couldn't be more pleased with the way our partnership with the other schools in the Trust is shaping up. We engage in a whole range of joint teaching and learning initiatives including Philosophy for Children and Action Research in schools. The ethos stresses

partnership and autonomy as well as support: as a school, it suits us very well. Please do have a quick read of the leaflet sent around a couple of weeks ago. It is pleasing to see that achievement across the Trust schools is above the National Average and that our school's results are well above.