

MINCHINHAMPTON ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Carers

Here we are again at the end of another busy and extraordinary term. The pace and creativity of this place slightly takes your breath away; all fuelled by your glorious children and very ably marshalled and spurred on by staff and parents alike: long may it continue. The school feels like a happy place and I, for one, come in each morning not just willingly but relishing the day ahead. Working in and for this school community is a privilege. Have a wonderful Christmas everyone!

Mr Moss

KS2 COMMITTEES

Why we do committees

We want our children to be caring, collaborative, critical, creative thinkers and problem solvers. We want to give children a range of opportunities to take responsibility for others and for initiatives that help others. The committees are all about reaching out to others and often reaching out for those beyond the school. Our vision is for the children to be strong learners who care about others. In a very real sense, the committees epitomise our values and our vision.

-Mr Moss

News reporters

'In news reporters we write about things that are happening in the school, and we sometimes help write the newsletter. Recently, we have been talking to the Reception class about how they have been getting on at school. I really like using the computers to write.'

Eco Warriors

'In our committee we try to save the world from pollution and we get to help animals. We do all sorts of things like litter picking, animal shelter building and making posters. '

Play leaders

'It is important for children to co-operate and to learn to think about others. Play leaders work with children younger than themselves: it is really nice to have a connection running through the different

age groups in school. We think about including everyone in our games. We are trying to design a game that everyone can play and enjoy. Mr Jansen does this committee because he wants us to learn to communicate with children in the nicest possible way.'

Links

'Links committee is all about the world and our place in it. We have been learning about Christmas traditions across the world and we have been labelling places on maps whilst learning about that country. I like links because we get to learn about the world,' said Freya

Charity

'We make posters to show everyone the prices and what is happening at our next event. We do assemblies to provide more information. I like helping others because it makes me feel kind and others gain from it. We are thinking about an assembly for Comic Relief/Red Nose Day, and what we plan to do to raise money - dressing up, having a cake sale etc. So far the charity committee has raised £850 for Children In Need, and we are hoping to raise an equal amount for Red Nose Day!' - Amber

'It is very, very, very fun because we get to make posters and write things about our events. We have done work for Children In Need, Remembrance and we are going to do Red Nose Day soon. This will include an assembly and we are going to buy 8 boxes of 40 red noses to sell to the school. I like everything about Charity Committee!' - Archie

Librarians

'Librarian's is a good way to get all the librarians together and chat about books and ideas, and make displays for the library,' said Mrs Webb. 'I like librarians because it is fun and it is all about books,' said Sophie. 'In librarians we sort out the books, keep the library tidy and make things for the library,' said Ben. 'I love librarians, because I love reading and I even went to see Michael Morpurgo, which was really fun and exciting, because he spoke about the snowman because it is 40 years since Raymond Briggs first wrote it,' said Tess. 'What I like about the librarians is everything!' said Rosa. 'I like the fact that you get to do crafts and look after the books,' said Hazel. 'I like the fact that you get to sort out the books and it is fun to see all the new ones,' said Reuben.

KS1 NATIVITY

This year the KS1 production was one of the best, with the Year 2's narrating the story. Every single class got the chance to sing a song that helped to tell the story as well as many whole KS1 performances. They got us all smiling, and we had so much fun watching their nativity. Thanks to all the teachers who designed the costumes and helped out. Our KS1 is certainly incredibly talented. The collection for Allsorts raised £232.19.

CURRICULUM BOX

Azure- Year 2- Mrs Hugginson

In English we have been writing our chapter for the book which is set in Paris. In Maths we have learnt about days of the week and months of the year. In Art we have been learning about a French artist called Henri Matisse. In Science we have tried to make a waterproof coat for a teddy bear.

Sapphire- Year 3/ 4- Miss Tonner

In English we have been writing our chapter which is nearly finished and it is set in Japan. In Maths we are doing triangles- including, scalene, right angle, equilateral and isosceles. In Art we are doing artwork for our chapter with Galina Gardener about a blossom field and mount Fuji erupting. Science has included making shadow puppets. In outside P.E we have been playing netball and been focusing on shooting and the rules; in indoor P.E we are doing gymnastics and next time we are going to do it on the apparatus.

CLUB BOX

P4C CLUB

'P4C club was very interesting, and it was really nice to see all the children developing such amazing thinking skills and learning to be respectful of one another,' said Mr Ricketts. First we always do a few warm ups like the number one. In this game someone in the group has to say the next number and you are not allowed to say the number at the same time as somebody else. Then we do a discussion about either a film a song or a picture. 'I like P4C club because I like discussing things with others and seeing what their opinions are,' said Isobel. 'I like P4C club because I get to talk about things that I wouldn't normally talk about,' said Holly.

LEARNING REFLECTIONS in reflection journals

by individual pupils

In science we watched a video of an experiment. The idea was that a bowling ball and a feather would drop at the same speed if they were in a vacuum with no air resistance. First it seemed it might be true but then I thought- don't large objects gravitate towards each other and since the ball is bigger (and it has more mass than the feathers), it would therefore travel towards the planet quicker. So does it actually fall a bit quicker? I still need this to be proved to me.

I found it hard to understand the rules of tag rugby but my teammates helped me and I soon understood. I had to concentrate because I was finding it hard to get my head around passing backwards.

KS1 AT CECILY COURT

On Monday 17th December, the KS1 choir sang at Cecily Court. 'The residents and the children get so much out of these events. The afternoon was full of Christmas cheer and the choir were very enthusiastic and angelic,' said Mr Moss.