



NEWSLETTER No.12

Friday 10th January 2020

OUR VISION: 'Life in all its fullness'

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you've had a good break over the holidays and we'd like to extend happy new year wishes to all. We've quickly got back into the swing of things here at school, with much potential and creative inspiration lying ahead for this new decade. So many of you have been taking part in Walk to School week (prizes to follow!) and spoken word artist Karl Nova has rounded off our first week with an inspirational, vibrant assembly which saw the school hall come to life with language, rhythms, movement and enthusiasm flowing from the children. Through hip-hop style poetry, positive themes were celebrated including gathering knowledge, drinking up learning and reaching out for our very best outcomes. Seeing our whole school community, from Reception to Year 6, start the year together in this way (including teachers joining in the dance moves too!) was a really promising start to the year ahead.

Please note the Parent Calendar on the school website is kept up to date. It includes information about key events in the description.

SCHOOL VISION

Please look on our website under [Our Vision & Values](#) to view all the lovely films produced by Rob Bradshaw last summer.

QUOTE 11: "Sometimes the so-called 'facts of a situation' actually tell us little or nothing about the heart of an experience...If we were to describe our life strictly in terms of its factual truth, most of its interesting, complex and surprising dimensions would remain unmentioned." John O'Donahue 2003

Our education system often seems bent on measuring more than we need and measuring mainly only the 'easily measurable', which doesn't always correlate with 'most important'...the price we pay for bureaucracy. Learning is jolly hard to measure, progress too. Among other things, learning is without doubt a relational, emotional thing, which is, without doubt, hard to measure.

NEWS

Karl Nova, the Hip Hop artist, author and poet was in school today: He is the winner of CLIPPA 2018 for Rhythm and Poetry, his first published collection. 'In his award winning debut book Rhythm and Poetry, the beauty of rap lyricism and Hip Hop influenced poetry is displayed with wit, humour and positivity. His approach is to meet young people where they are and engage them with the style and attitude they are familiar with while keeping his content wholesome, inspirational but still very real. This collection reflects on his journey of growth from childhood to adulthood through the lens of hip hop culture with a great freshness, sincerity and realism. A lot of the verses have already impacted many lives as he travels and delivers them with his unique and energetic style.'

Ella said, 'We gave him 7 random words for him to make a rap out of on the spot. He said that poetry is like cooking because it has ingredients.'

Lily and Esme said, 'We did an acrostic poem with Karl about truth. We gave him words about the classroom and he made a rap about that- it was very funny. We got to ask lots of questions.'

Archie wrote:

Karl Nova really inspired me
That I should write some poetry
My very own rap
The words came out
As if from a tap
I think Karl is very cool

Teachers' 'Carolling': As always the teachers sang 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' on the last day of term. It was a sensation, with children of all ages bobbing up and down with the tune. How it works is the teachers have three different bits to sing and the children in their classes have to do the same ones. If your child was in Year 5/6 then they did the 3 French hens, 7 swimming swans and 10 leaping lords. Each part came with a little dance or action. It was really funny watching the younger children twirling around with their teachers and singing. 'And a partridge in a pear tree.'

Walk to School week: Thank you to everyone who walked to school this week. On Monday we will be drawing two winners from the many lists of names we have collected and this time they will be awarded a watch pedometer each.

By Lydia

ADMIN

Traffic: The Police have sent out 30 letters to people who have parked on zig zag lines.

Bell Lane Car Park Works: The second phase of resurfacing works to the rest of the Bell Lane car park are currently being organised to happen at some point in the Spring. We will keep you informed once we have the dates confirmed from the Parish Council.

Driving Speeds: During Walk to School Week, it has been suggested it could be a good time to flag up keeping safe with speeds whilst driving around the school area, with particular attention to Butt Street.

Food Bank Donation: As a school at the end of last term, we collected and donated 35kg of food to the [Stroud District Food Bank](#), which went directly to help people across the Stroud District over the Christmas period.

REMINDERS

Nits: There has been a recent outbreak. Please see [here](#) guidance for parents.

Clubs: Please note Chatterbooks after-school club will not be running this term. Also, Basketball and Netball clubs have now been split into two, with Year 3/4 on Wednesdays and Year 5/6 Thursdays.

COMING UP:

Maths Curriculum Evening for Year 3/4 parents and children on the evening of 15th January at 6pm. Please see letter sent [here](#).

Year 5/6 Trip to the Living Rainforest: Thursday 16th January 2020, FINAL REMINDER, all permission slips and payments for the trip need to be in by this afternoon (Friday 10th) at the latest! You can give permission and sign up for this via the Schoolcomms app or please pop into the office to collect a paper copy.

Year 2 Indigo Class Swimming: Every Tuesday up until February 11th. We still need 2 parent helpers for January 21st and 1 parent helper for January 28th. If you would like to help out please contact the School Office. You will need to be at the School for 12:30pm and you will be returning to School for 3pm.

INFO

Sweets for birthdays: While it's very sweet that the children all bring sweets in for their classmates when it's their birthday, 30 birthdays later some parents and children (well, maybe not the children) are feeling a little 'sweetered out.' While we need to be careful not to get too puritanical in the face of emerging health and environmental crises, again the situation (as with the presents for staff at Christmas) calls for moderation, both to save children's teeth and parents' pockets. We will explore other ways in school that children can 'share' their birthdays with their classmates, while not guaranteeing anything here in the place of sweets given the crushing pressure as always on time.

Drop Off Zone: The Traffic Committee met yesterday to finalise the School Travel Plan. One area of concern we discussed was the congestion in the car park on the Common. We have a theory about this: that the greater congestion started when Reception and Year 1 classes were brought together and it became the car park of choice for those parents dropping their children off at the younger classes.

We would like to trial one possible solution to a lack of spaces next week. After morning drop off each day, we will move the cones to the pavement and in the afternoon, parents will be able to park on the drop off zone. This will only be a one week trial. The children wrote, 'We believe that protecting our school is vital and that everyone should be able to get to school safely without being injured. A handful of adults are trying to help this happen. In particular right now we are trying to stop cars parking on the yellow zig zags around school.'

Outdoor Spaces: You may have noticed some additions to our outdoor space this week: a new shelter at the far end of the field and the willow area has been wood chipped. The shelter is not permanently fixed, although we hope it withstands the weather. We want this to be a learning space rather than a play space so will be reminding the children that we would like the log seats to stay put, along with the sawing bench and any other furniture/equipment which has been placed there. Likewise, the log seats in the willow area are sat on the earth, amongst the wood-chips, so need to stay as they have been placed. And, in the not too distant future, the raised beds will be planted out so will need to be treated as gardens, not digging pits. While we are happy for you to stay on site with your children, under your supervision, at the end of the day or perhaps during sporting events at the weekend, we are keen that the children stick to the same rules and expectations regarding the use of the outdoor space; we want them to show the same respect, regardless of when they are at school. Indeed, we would hope that this would extend to the whole community as we aware, from the litter that is left behind at weekends, that older children, perhaps even those who once attended the school, make use of the field and resources, which of course are intended for learning, not places to gather and socialise at the weekend.

School Meals: On Thursday 16th January we will have a change in the menu; please see the menu for that day [here](#). Also, school meal prices have now gone down to £2.32.

Just Giving Total: Thank you so very much to everyone for their kind generosity. The present total is £825.

Number of people reading the newsletter: 51.4% of Minchinhampton Academy Parents/Carers opened Newsletter No.11 on the last week before the holidays, which is 228 people. The average Open Rate for the

education and training industry is 23.42% (Source: <https://mailchimp.com/resources/email-marketing-benchmarks/>).

Holidays: In our first week back in school, we have had a total of 4 Families / 5 Children who have taken a holiday. This totals to 3 weeks and 2 days missed in the first week back.

PUPILS

School Council: One of the School Council's projects this term will be working with the school cook to try to increase the numbers of pupils having a school dinner. They have invited the cook to their next meeting and will be discussing school meals with their classes. They are also intent on inviting into school a local leader of the Green Party to talk about local issues and the state of the planet. In this vein they are also meeting with Gary Thomas of Ecotricity to discuss how we could make the school more sustainable as an institution. They will be doing this alongside some of our Ecowarriors. 2 school counsellors will be attending the leadership meeting on the 20th January and 3 more will be attending the governor meeting on the 23rd.

Poetry Blog: Please read new poems [here](#) by Hugo, Jack and Tess. We would really appreciate your comments on the blog.

Here find a taster from Jack:

Hunted

I can see it slinking silently through the woods after its next victim,

The forest growing round it disguises it from sight,

SNAP

The fox reveals itself,

Its prey turns round, it runs

Neither ever slowing

The rabbit dives into its home,

The fox scrabbling at the dirt around, trying to follow,

The rabbit is out, behind a lump of dirt, runs.

I drop down,

I can see the fox's livid red coat, coal black eyes, its tail swinging hungrily

The rabbit's timid brown coat, the white of its tail, its eyes pierced with fear

further and further into the undergrowth, they chase

I soar with the updraft free from

RUNNING...

Running...

Running...

Running to the end...

Strengths Surveys: We are presently planning to trial giving pupils 'strengths surveys' which have been developed by Martin Seligman and his colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania. The survey is designed to reveal your top 5 strengths - please follow this [link](#) for more information. Our school vision looks for us to build on people's strengths; for us to be able to accept/appreciate ourselves and all we have to offer and also hence be able to accept/appreciate others and all they have to offer. We are hoping this survey provides another tool for us to be able to do just this. If you would like to find out more, please get in touch.

[PTA](#)

Next PTA Meeting: Every parent in the school is automatically a member of the PTA. Therefore PTA meetings are open to everyone who has a child in the school. The next meeting will be held at the Cotswold Club on 14th January at 8pm. We would love to see you there.

Secondhand Uniform Sale: This will run each day in the school foyer from Tuesday 14th Jan to Monday 20th Jan. 50p an item, please pay at the school office.

[Dates for your Diary:](#)

Quiz Night (Friday 31st January): Full details to follow, but it is time to start getting your team (of up to 8 people) together, and adding Trivial Pursuit to your Christmas list! E-mail minchpta@hotmail.co.uk to register your team.

Valentines Disco (Friday 14th February): KS1 will be from 4.30 to 5.30pm and KS2 from 5.45 to 6.45pm.

Comedy Night (Friday 6th March): E-mail comedy2020@hotmail.com or message Sophie Muir through Facebook for your tickets.

**We hope you find this newsletter helpful and we would welcome any feedback.
With very best wishes from all at Minchinhampton C of E Primary Academy**

DIARY DATES:

Mon 13th Jan: INSET day

Mon 13th Jan: Hockey Tournament at Inside Football

Tue 14th Jan: Clubs begin

Tue 14th Jan: PTA Second Hand Uniform sale begins

Tue 14th Jan: Indigo class swimming

Tue 14th Jan: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Weds 15th Jan: Year 3/4 Maths Curriculum Evening

Thurs 16th Jan: Year 5/6 Living Rainforest Trip

Thurs 16th Jan: Outdoor Learning (Reception)

Mon 20th Jan: Indigo class Outdoor Learning

Tue 21st Jan: Young Voices Trip

Tue 21st Jan: PTA Second Hand Uniform sale – last day

Tue 21st Jan: Indigo class swimming

Tue 21st Jan: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Tue 21st Jan: E-safety Parent Meeting (5.30pm)

Thurs 23rd Jan: Riddiford Shield Inside Football

Thurs 23rd Jan: Outdoor Learning (Reception)

Mon 27th Jan: Year 3/4 Indoor Netball at SPLC

Mon 27th Jan: FGR Football at Rednock School

Mon 27th Jan: Turquoise class Outdoor Learning

Mon 27th Jan: Sir William Romney ICT Trip

Tue 28th Jan: Indigo class swimming

Tue 28th Jan: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Tue 28th Jan: Yr 3 Parents Meeting - 2021 Residential
(6pm)

Thurs 30th Jan: Outdoor Learning (Reception)

Thurs 30th Jan: Year 6 Girls Netball at Wycliffe

Fri 31st Jan: PTA Quiz Night

Tue 4th Feb: Indigo class swimming

Tue 4th Feb: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Fri 7th Feb: Year 5/6 Indoor Netball at Stratford Park LC

Mon 10th Feb: Azure class Outdoor Learning

Tue 11th Feb: Indigo class swimming

Tue 11th Feb: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Weds 12th Feb: Debating at Museum in the Park

Thurs 13th Feb: Basketball at Nailsworth C of E Primary

Thurs 13th Feb: PGL 2020 Meeting at 6pm

Fri 14th Feb: Key Steps Gymnastics at Stratford Park LC

Fri 14th Feb: Valentines Discos

--- HALF TERM (w/c 17th Feb) ---

Tue 25th Feb: Indigo class swimming

Tue 25th Feb: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Thurs 27th Feb: Outdoor Learning (Reception)

Fri 28th Feb: Intermediate Gymnastics at Stratford Park

LC

[Go to PARENT CALENDAR](#)