



NEWSLETTER No.14

Friday 24th January 2020

[OUR VISION: 'Life in all its fullness'](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another busy week at Minchinhampton Primary comes to a close. Please can we wish you all a lovely weekend ahead.

SCHOOL VISION

QUOTE 13: 'The human mind seems exquisitely tuned to understand and remember stories- so much so that psychologist sometimes refer to stories as psychologically privileged, in that stories are treated differently in the memory compared with other types of material.' – Willingham 2004

At Minchinhampton we recognise the importance of stories. Later this year we will be holding a storytelling festival with one of the country's foremost storytellers.

NEWS

Staff INSET Day: On Monday the teachers had a day off, which sounds a bit indulgent and unusual. We, the pupils watched our older siblings leave the house while smiling smugly at them. Then we closed our eyes and relaxed at home lying down, sleeping in and watching rubbish on the TV! Actually a few of us went outside, bouncing on trampolines, kicked footballs and shot into hoops; some of us had play-dates and went on muddy walks. While all this was all going the teachers were hard at work, learning all about 'Restorative Practice.' It was all about how to re-build relationships when things go wrong; about trying to understand other people's feelings and our own, as well as helping to make our school even more devoted to fostering happy healthy people. **By Erin & Mr Moss**

Outdoor Learning: We had the hammocks out and I liked how we got to make animal homes. We were cooking hot apple juice on the fire. We had the slack line out. Mr Meadows put a Christmas tree outside and we could pull

some leaves off to disguise our shelters. Some people got worms in theirs. Some people put trees as their shelters to make it look more 'royal.' To make the tree we got a giant log and we stuck Christmas tree leaves into the chasms. In the apple juice there were little bits of black which were ashes from the fire. The reason we built the shelters was because it was a very frosty day that day as it was blue Monday. Mr Meadows read us a story that was called, 'The King of Tiny Things'. The apple juice didn't taste like normal apple juice. Some people used leaves, sticks and little and big stones. We picked up our worms with leaves so they weren't hurt. One girl named Minnie picked up a stone with two worms underneath. Some people were talking about maths; some people spat their apple juice out; some people fell over on the slack line because it was hard to balance. Someone found a fossil! At home time we got our book bags and coats and went home. **Reported by Cici**

ADMIN

Year 3 Parents Meeting re 2021 Residential: Please note this meeting has been postponed for one week and will now happen on Tuesday 4th February at 6.00pm.

Free School Meals: Please click [here](#) for information on Free School Meals.

REMINDERS

INSET Day: Please note that Monday 24th February is an INSET day.

48 hrs sickness (all school): Just to remind parents/carers, please could you ensure your child has 48 hours free from sickness and/or diarrhoea before they return to school. We seem to have a bug in school at the moment and we are trying to minimise the infection. Thank you for your understanding.

Break-time Snack: Please can we encourage that your child brings with them a break-time snack everyday as some children who are having hot dinners get hungry at break-time and unfortunately within the older years we are unable to provide them with a snack. Please can we ask if you do provide your child with a snack that it is fruit or veg.

COMING UP:

Year 2 Azure Class Swimming: This will be starting on Tues 25th Feb and will happen weekly until Tues 31st Mar.

FGR Football at Rednock (Years 3-6): This fixture is on Mon 27th Jan.

Year 6 ICT Trip to Sir William Romney: This will be happening on Mon 27th Jan.

Height and Weights Measuring: These will be on Tuesday 28th January for Year 6 children and Wednesday 29th January for Reception children.

Upcoming Netball Fixtures: Indoor Netball (Year 3/4) on Mon 27th Jan, Girls Netball (Year 6) on Thurs 30th Jan and Indoor Netball (Year 5/6) on Fri 7th Feb, all at Stratford Park Leisure Centre.

INFO

Bell Lane Car Park Works: The parish council have now commissioned the surface improvements work to Bell Lane car park. First of all, the tarmac roundabout will be relaid, with this first phase of work commencing Monday 17th February and lasting throughout the half term week. Following this, the resurfacing of the car park itself will proceed. This is likely to last another week or two, once we are back after half term, and is also weather dependent. Disruption will be kept to the minimum possible, but inconvenience is inevitable throughout these works. Please make alternative arrangements for access such as parking further afield and walking in, for example Dr Browns Road. If you have any queries, please do get in touch; the parish council are mindful to keep us informed and to minimise the disruption to school access as far as is possible.

Parents Evenings: These will be on Tuesday 10th March and Thursday 12th March.

Walk to School Week: Well done to our school community for trying so hard to change travel to school habits on Walk to School Week. A very large number of people walked to school during this week and most important, many people travelled in a way that they do not habitually travel. This is, of course, the challenge going forward. I am aiming to cycle more often.

Affording our pastoral provision: I am aware it has been some time since I last communicated with you about our pastoral provision and how we might afford it, in the face of the limited funds available to us. All I offer here is reassurance that we are still exploring options and we will let you know in due course.

Number of people reading the newsletter: 50.7% of Minchinhampton Academy Parents/Carers opened Newsletter No.13, which is 225 people. The average Open Rate for the education and training industry is 23.42% (Source: <https://mailchimp.com/resources/email-marketing-benchmarks/>).

Holidays: We have had 60 days of school missed due to holidays since September.

PUPILS

'The Imprisoned Elephant'

by Ned

A free elephant sends fireworks of

Water raining down on everyone
Then bathes in a coat of brown,
Sticky mud, then stampedes through
The African plain and trumpets of celebration
Echo back to them in a sandstorm of cheers and hope.

But an elephant that stalks down her confined space
Can seldom be heard from her miniature cage her ears are,
Clipped and clompy feet are tethered so she cries her mournful song,

The caged elephant sings with a mournful cry
Of things unheard of but dreamt for still and her
Cries are heard on the distant plains beyond for the dying
Elephant sings for freedom and life

The free elephant trumpets of another
Plane and trade winds, soft through the dancing
Trees, and the mound of mud waiting in a bright blue
Lake and names the land her own-

But the caged elephant stands on the grave of hope,
Her soul shouts on a nightmare birth her ears are clipped,
And her feet are tethered so she cries her mournful song,

The caged elephant sings with a mournful cry of
Things unheard of but dreamt for still and her cries
Are heard on the distant plain beyond for the dying elephant
Cries for hope and life.

PTA

Dates for your Diary:

Quiz Night (Friday 31st January): Information has now gone out to the teams who have registered so far via the e-mail contact provided. So your team 'organiser' should have all the information on timings etc. There are still spaces for 2 more teams. Please 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): This event is now sold out and tickets are ready for collection from the school office.

**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 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: Heights and weights measuring (Year 6)

Tue 28th Jan: Indigo class swimming

Tue 28th Jan: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Weds 29th Jan: Heights and weights measuring
(Reception)

Weds 29th Jan: Year 6 Girls Netball at Wycliffe

Thurs 30th Jan: Outdoor Learning (Reception)

Fri 31st Jan: PTA Quiz Night

Tue 4th Feb: Yr 3 Parents Meeting - 2021 Residential
(6pm)

Tue 4th Feb: Indigo class swimming

Tue 4th Feb: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Tue 4th Feb: FGR Footballer Visit (Year 5/6)

Thurs 6th Feb: Outdoor Learning (Reception)

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

Mon 10th Feb: Azure class Outdoor Learning

Mon 10th Feb: Basketball at Thomas Keble

Tue 11th Feb: Indigo class swimming

Tue 11th Feb: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

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

Thurs 13th Feb: PGL 2020 Meeting (6pm)

Thurs 13th Feb: Outdoor Learning (Reception)

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

Fri 14th Feb: Valentines Discos

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

Mon 24th Feb: INSET Day

Tue 25th Feb: Azure class swimming

Tue 25th Feb: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Thurs 27th Feb: Outdoor Learning (Reception)

Fri 28th Feb: Intermediate Gymnastics at Stratford Park
LC

Mon 2nd Mar: Cobalt Outdoor Learning

Tue 3rd Mar: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Tue 3rd Mar: Azure class swimming

Tue 3rd Mar: PATES Open Morning

Weds 4th Mar: Quick Sticks Hockey at Stratford Park LC

Thurs 5th Mar: Outdoor Learning (Reception)

Thurs 5th Mar: PTA Meeting at Cotswold Club (8pm)

Fri 6th Mar: PTA Comedy Night

Mon 9th Mar: Royal Outdoor Learning

Mon 9th Mar: KS2 CC Qualifiers at Stratford Park LC

Tue 10th Mar: Year 1 Outdoor Learning

Tue 10th Mar: Azure class swimming

Tue 10th Mar: Parents Evening

Weds 11th Mar: Rendcomb Orchestra Day (Year 5/6)

Weds 11th Mar: Football at Beaudesert

Thurs 12th Mar: Parent Social at The Crown Inn

Thurs 12th Mar: Parents Evening

[Go to PARENT CALENDAR](#)