



NEWSLETTER No.15

Friday 31st January 2020

OUR VISION: 'Life in all its fullness'

Dear Parents/Carers,

And so farewell to January, which seems to have passed by in a flash. The drizzle, cold and wind this week haven't deterred our outdoor learners, girls' football players and cross country runners from getting stuck in outside on the school field. Meanwhile inside school we have children learning country dances, our Year 4 production ensemble conjuring warmer climates with sessions exploring the world of 'The Jungle Book' (what a joy it is hearing the children all sing the songs together), whilst full classes at both ends of the school have been learning musical instruments together, including violin and xylophone. Tonight sees the PTA Quiz night happening in the school hall; best of luck to everyone taking part. Teamwork and participation are central to our vision at Minchinhampton Academy and it's fantastic to see this reflected so vibrantly: across the breadth of our extra-curricular activities, through events involving the whole school community and in the classrooms each day. We're looking forward to seeing what delights February will have in store for us all.

SCHOOL VISION

QUOTE 14: 'If you focus on people's weaknesses, they lose confidence. At a very basic level it is very hard for us to build self-confidence when we are focused on our weaknesses instead of our strengths.' Rath and Conchie

We are asking children in KS2 to take 'strengths tests.' Having interviewed some of them this week about this and their learning generally, it feels so right to be doing this and certainly fits snugly with our school's vision.

NEWS

WWT Visit: On Friday 24th January a lady came from the WWT (Wildfowl & Wetland Trust) in Slimbridge to explain the story of the Madagascan Pochard and how they were brought back from the brink of extinction. The pochard was extinct for years - then it wasn't! It was said to have been seen on a remote lake on top of a mountain in Madagascar. So a team of Slimbridge scientists went to investigate. On that lake they came across 19 Pochards. They tried so many times to get eggs, but mainly failed because the newly hatched chicks were swept up and eaten by eagles. Finally, they got some eggs. Pochard can only live in Madagascar but now, the population of birds is going up! Hurray! So this lady came to tell us this moving story and told us to spread the word. So here I am spreading the word! "My favourite animal is a Lemur and they live in Madagascar so it was exciting to hear about the Madagascan Pochard," said Hazel. It was an amazing visit. **By Lyra**

Year 3/4 Football: We won three matches and lost one. On the first match we scored 6 goals - it was amazing. The matches were only 10 minutes long so it was quite hard to come back into the game if the opposition scored - notwithstanding we scored 6! The tournament was 3 hours long – what a great way to while away the time! **By Oliver and Mr Moss**

Eco assembly: On the 31st of January our Eco-warriors did an Assembly in the hall. They told the School about how we can recycle and how we need to reuse, recycle and refuse .They also told us how to reuse plastic to make things such as clothes and furniture. They picked some people out of the hall to go find the correct bin for the plastic or other recycling they picked up. Dolly and Max dragged the blue bin from outside. They said that some plastic could not be recycled. Cardboard and plastic can go in the bins in the water garden whereas presently apple cores ,orange peel and bananas skins have to go in the big blue bin. **By Sophie & Lucy**

Yr 6 Netball: On Wednesday, Year 6 girls went to Wycliffe to play netball. It was not a competition, it was a festival, so we got put into groups and played warm up games. We won all of our games. It was really fun!!!!!! When we were playing netball it was hard to get the ball off some of the opposition because they had lots of skills. **By Sophie & Isla**

Sir Willam Romney ICT Trip: Year 6 went on a trip to Sir William Romney to do a day of ICT and learnt how to decode things; how to stop hackers and to learn how to do cool computer tricks. It was really good and we visited where they met some old students from our school. **By Grace**

Year 3/4 Netball: They played 7 matches and 7 teams. They lost 2, won 3 came 4th overall. They made it into the semi-final but lost sadly. They played against lots of local teams. **By Grace**

[ADMIN](#)

Please find the **Free School Meals** information [here](#).

[REMINDERS](#)

Azure class swimming: Please find the letter [here](#), with reply slips needing to be returned by 10th February.

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

Comedy Night Tickets: Please see the message in the PTA section below about ticket collection.

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.

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY:

Tuesday 4th - Year 3 Parent Meeting regarding Viney Hill

Friday 7th - Indoor Netball Stratford Park Leisure Centre

Monday 10th - Basketball TK

Thursday 13th - Basketball Nailsworth

Thursday 13th - Parents Meeting Yr 4 PGL 6pm

Friday 14th - Gymnastics

Friday 14th - Valentines Disco KS1 and KS2

Monday 17th - Half term week starts

Monday 24th - INSET Day

Tuesday 25th - Year 2 Azure Class Swimming starts

[INFO](#)

Term Dates 2020/21: Please see the [calendar for next academic year](#).

Holidays: This month we have had 6 families who have taken a holiday.

Number of people reading the newsletter: Last week's edition had the highest figures yet for the readership of our new-style newsletter. 58.6% of Minchinhampton Academy Parents/Carers opened Newsletter No.14, which is 260 people. The average Open Rate for the education and training industry is 23.42% (Source: <https://mailchimp.com/resources/email-marketing-benchmarks/>).

[PUPILS](#)

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, by Jack

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 scabbling 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. 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. You can read more about it [here](#).

[PTA](#)

Quiz Night (Friday 31st January): Please note tonight's event begins at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

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): Please remember that if you have reserved tickets for Comedy Night, they are now in the school reception waiting for collection and payment. Tickets not collected prior to half term will be reallocated to those on the waiting list. Thank you.

Easter Egg Hunt (Sunday 29th March): There will be two routes to choose from depending on the age of the participants.

**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:

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](#)