



NEWSLETTER No.16

Friday 7th February 2020

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first school newsletter for the month of February, sent out to you all on 'National Send a Card to a Friend Day'. Friendship is a huge aspect of school life that we all share in here at Minchinhampton Primary, both within our student cohort as well as amongst staff and parents/carers alike. Our Year 3/4 classes have been finding fun together this week by showcasing their linguistic skills in class teams, in a friendly bid to out-banter one another in the shape of a Shakespeare and Karl Nova inspired live rap battle. The session began with children performing some 'Henry V', an amazing display of their growing love and command of language and the spoken word. This was wonderful to witness, with "Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more;" coming boldly out of the children with their gusto and enthusiasm filling the hall. Check out the news section below too, to read all about some of our very own Minchinhampton bards, recently recognised by Stroud Book Festival for their talents and enjoyment of the written word. We hope you enjoy a relaxing and rejuvenating weekend, and maybe sharing a story or two with family and friends.

[SCHOOL VISION](#)

QUOTE 15: "It's not how smart you are that matters, what really counts is how you are smart." Howard Gardner

[NEWS](#)

Stroud Book Festival Children's Writing Competition: Congratulations are due to our Minchinhampton Primary Academy writers, who enthusiastically created imaginative pieces full of impact, vivid language and detailed observation, and whose entries faired fantastically

well in the recent Stroud Book Festival competition. First prize went to Elizabeth C (Year 4, Cyan), joint second prize was shared by Hazel A (Year 5, Turquoise) and Lyra M (Year 5, Cobalt) and third prize was awarded to Millie H (Year 5, Cobalt). Paul McLaughlin, Director of Stroud Book Festival said "All three KS2 prizes are going to Minchinhampton Primary! Well done all. Our only KS1 entry also came from Minchinhampton - Elsie Hewitt. So a good haul for the school!" John Dougherty will be visiting the school soon to present the prizes.

Battle of the Raps: In assembly on Wednesday, Sapphire, Cyan and Royal all had a rap battle which ended up with Cyan not insulting us but saying that we were like scientists and we were beautiful, that Royal shone like tin foil and that they were loyal. We paid them back by saying that Royal were not in our league and that they would have to leave, and we said that Cyan thought they were the one and only Cyan, but "when we were done with them they would be leaving here crying". We also had a battle between Sapphire and Royal class and we got Mr Moss to judge. Mr Moss said that Sapphire won because we had more sass, but the other class Mr Moss said had more attitude and they worked together better as a team, so in some ways they had won, but each class had a bit to work on. **By Ned**

Eco Warrior Assembly: In assembly the Eco Warriors in Turquoise class did an assembly all about where our crisp packets are going when we put them in Crispin Munch. They also showed us a video on YouTube that told us what they were made in to: benches, plant pots, tables and containers. They got people to come up and play a game where they were given a piece of plastic and they had to pick the bin that it went in. They gave them stuff like hard plastic, pens, orange peel, apple core and thin plastic bags. It was very disappointing when we were told that thin flexible plastic cannot be recycled. **By Iris**

The Governors Visit: Early in the morning we had to collect our books together and we were told that we were going to speak to the governors. Throughout the day I was called in to speak to them about the school subjects and I found this great (not just because we missed lessons). I found it interesting because we were able to speak freely about our learning to someone who was actually listening. I was able to express my feelings and pinpoint the things that I think make lessons more enjoyable. Speaking to the governors was a great experience because we were given challenging questions that really made us think. At first I felt scared of the governors, however, their kind faces and encouraging words made me feel a lot better. They were able to help us to think deeply and express our feelings without worrying about what they would think of us. I felt unpressurised and in the end I felt as if I could have been explaining my favourite parts of school to my parents - it was so comfortable. It was great that the governors wanted to interact with me by trying my pinhole camera and exploring my Aztec box. I felt it was easy to explain my learning because the governors were so interested in it and complimented me on my work regularly. When we were in a larger group of children it was amazing to hear what other people found interesting

about school. These sessions helped me to think about the other things in school in a good way. Being in Year 6 it has been a few years since Year 3 and 4 and this means I had forgotten some of the things we did. Hearing about their experiences sparked my memory of all of the good times I had in those years. Over all I found the experience great. **By Jess**

FGR Football Visit: This week we were lucky enough that the current team captain of Forest Green Rovers came in to see us. His name is Joseph Mills. We got to ask him a series of questions in an hour-long Q&A session. Currently, our Forest Green Rover representative for our school is Alfie Adams. As a representative you need to go to at least 10 home matches and 1 away match. You also need to keep a scrapbook of the football team for the next representative to continue. To become a representative you need to write a short essay about why you should get the place. It is available for next year. We learned that Forest Green Rovers is a fully vegan football club; no meat is available on the grounds. This visit was very inspirational and lots of the children were very impressed by Joseph Mills. We had some random questions like 'What is your Fifa score?' That question came with a response of 66. We asked him questions like 'If you could give a child who wanted to become a footballer a tip, what would it be?' We got the answer of 'just enjoy it and have fun.' We also found out that the amazing team captain also has a brother in the team. The visit was loved by all the children and we hope that the FGR team will come and see us again. We hope that after this visit/talk that more people will go and spectate one of the matches at the Forest Green Rovers stadium. We wish all the best for the rest of this football season and hope that Forest Green Rovers win all of our matches. **By Alisha**

PTA Quiz: On Friday 31st January, the PTA organised a quiz to help raise money for the school. Lots of parents attended and even the teachers had their own team called 'The Marvellous Mistakes'! The quiz was very challenging and filled with questions covering subjects like music, sport, African countries and ugly animals. It was a fantastic evening enjoyed by everyone, although Miss Griffiths felt gutted that the teachers just missed out on first place! **By Lily**

ADMIN

Fun Club and Breakfast Club Forms for next half term now available from the school office.

Please see [here](#) for the **Year 3/4 production tickets letter for "The Jungle Book"**.

REMINDERS

Please [see here](#) for **Term Dates 2020-21**.

Parents Evenings will be on Tues 10th March and Thurs 12th March.

Aqua Class are requesting Egg Boxes, Wood and Unwanted Paint.

COMING UP:

Mon 10th Feb - Basketball at TK

Mon 10th Feb - Azure Class Outdoor Learning with Mr Meadows

Tues 11th & Thurs 13th Feb - Reception & Year 1 Storytime

Thurs 13th Feb - Basketball at Nailsworth School

Thurs 13th Feb - Parents Meeting Yr 4 PGL 6pm

Fri 14th Feb - Gymnastics at SPLC

Fri 14th Feb - Valentines Discos

Tues 25th Feb - Year 2 Azure Class Swimming starts (weekly until Tues 31st March)

Tues 25th Feb - Cross Country at SPLC

Fri 28th Feb - Intermediate Gymnastics at SPLC

Fri 28th Feb - Tag Rugby at Painswick RFC

Tues 10th March - Girls Football at Inside Football

Fri 13th March - Azure Class assembly 9am

INFO

Mindfulness in School: As you may know, the school has been introducing mindfulness into the classroom for a while now. Nicci Hood/Early and I, Lorraine Smith, have been working with school on the project; Nicci, due to her profession as Clinical Psychologist specialising in mental health, and me, from having completed the Mindfulness in Schools Project (MiSP) course for teaching mindfulness to 7-11 year olds last year (weblink below). Mrs Saeed has also done the MiSP course. One of the things Nicci and I are looking at is how many parents and carers are interested in knowing more about mindfulness, and how this can be turned into a school-community wide project. To that end, if mindfulness is something that interests you and you'd like to get involved but you don't know a thing about it, please do let Nicci and I know. You can DM us, catch us in the playground or e-mail us through niccihood@hotmail.com (Nicci) and lorraine_smith2010@yahoo.co.uk (Lorraine).

Equally, if anyone has their own mindfulness practice already and would like to get involved please do let us know. Should you be interested in reading further about the body of research around mindfulness for both young people and school staff, as well as the course for teaching 7-11 year olds, you can [you can find more information here on the Mindfulness in Schools Project webpage.](#)

Number of people reading the newsletter: 53.7% of Minchinhampton Academy Parents/Carers opened Newsletter No.15, which is 233 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 7 holiday requests already for next term.

Zig-zag Lines: Over a 6 week period since early December, so far 88 instances altogether have been recorded, of cars being parked on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school. Back in December, weeks 1 and 2 respectively saw 18 and 22 instances recorded, but by the last two weeks, most recently, the figures have come down to 14 and then just 5 for the last week in January. A sincere thank you for your co-operation with this project, which does seem to be facilitating a considerable reduction.

PUPILS

My Birthday List

By Tess

Please can I have:

An end to pollution,

A bit of world peace

And maybe a solution

To the plastic problem.

No more cutting down trees.

No more pesticides;

We're killing all the bees

And making global warming.

I know these things are hard to get

So a miracle will do,

But I heard they're quite expensive

So just an answer or two.

[PTA](#)

Next PTA meeting: This will be held on Thursday 5th March at 8pm in the Cotswold Club.

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

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:

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

Tues 11th & Thurs 13th Feb: Rec & Year 1 Storytime

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

Thurs 13th Feb: Yr 4 Parents 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

Tue 25th Feb: Cross Country at SPLC

Thurs 27th Feb: Outdoor Learning (Reception)

Fri 28th Feb: Intermediate Gymnastics at Stratford Park
LC

Fri 28th Feb: Tag Rugby at Painswick RFC

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

Tue 10th Mar: Girls Football at Inside Football

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

Fri 13th Mar: Azure Class Assembly (9am)

[Go to PARENT CALENDAR](#)