



## NEWSLETTER No.18

*Friday 28th February 2020*

**OUR VISION: 'Life in all its fullness'**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of February, and here's wishing everyone a Happy Leap Year Day tomorrow. The 29th February is a rare and special day; it takes three springs to make one leap year and the day itself is a time where 'this time last year' and 'this time next year' don't apply. Maybe then, it might offer us an ideal opportunity to remember, in amongst all the diarising and planning we all have to do all the time, to simply be in the moment, just for the day.

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### **SCHOOL VISION**

**QUOTE 17 & 18:**

'be an example ..... with your words, your actions, your love, your faith and your pure life.' **(1 Timothy 12:4)**

'We begin with the hypothesis that any subject can be taught effectively in some intellectually honest form to any child at any stage of development.' **J Bruner**

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### **NEWS**

**Gym Competition:** On February the 14th some Year 5/6 pupils went to a gymnastic competition: Iris, Cora, Lyra and Tess. There were six other teams competing against us. We did a vault routine and a floor routine. Our team got 53 points in total. All the other teams had six or seven players so I think we did well considering we only had four players. The mats for the floor routine were approximately six by eight

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meters and the vault was approximately 45cm high. "My routine was: double cartwheels, backwards roll into straddle, a round off, a handstand, a forward roll, a half turn jump then the bridge." **By Iris**

**E-safety Assembly:** This Friday Mrs Bugg did an e-safety assembly and showed us how to stay safe online. Mrs Bugg showed us some films that some schools made about how the internet can take up people's lives. Another video that we watched was about how a hurtful comment could upset people and hurt their feelings. She told us how to keep our personal information safe so other people cannot learn things about us that we don't want them to know. The most vital pieces of information we must keep to ourselves are things like our name, our address, our phone number, our date of birth, our school and family information. We also learnt to never send people a photo of yourself if you don't know them because they can recognise you from somewhere else. We learnt the SMART rules for online safety:

**S** is for safe, keep safe and don't share your personal details

**M** is for meet, meeting someone you only have messaged and not met is a bad idea.

**A** is for accepting, accepting messages, calls or opening files from people you don't know can lead to getting you in trouble.

**R** is for reliable, not everything online is always true if you see something suspicious don't just go along with it

**T** is for tell, if you don't like something on a screen that you've seen tell someone.

**By Alisha and Fergus**

**The Valentines Disco:** Well well well where to begin... Lula-Rose says that it was very fun and a treat to go to- literally. It was brilliant and the music was great. Unfortunately some people couldn't make it but hopefully they will come next year. If I made it into a recipe, I would put in: Fun, happiness, joy, dance, sweets, crisps and friendship.

**By Mimi & Lula Rose**

**INSET Day:** On Monday the staff had a shared INSET with all other 17 DGAT schools. We focused on reading and the curriculum generally with talks by some high profile educationalists including Dame Alison Peacock (Chief Executive, Chartered College of Teaching), Jane Considine (author of The Write Stuff and Hooked on Books) and Mary Myatt (education adviser, writer and speaker). The Trust is growing, this is the most impressive line up we have had at a joint INSET so far and we continue to work closely with the other schools to help us continue learning and improving what we do.

**Cross country running:** A couple of days ago a few children from Years 4,5 and 6 had a perilous run

through the most awful conditions and the muddiest of tracks, but luckily they were up to the test. Fortunately for them, though the weather became chilly, it did not get any more wet and damp. Unfortunately for the Year 4's they had to race against Year 5's as well, in their gender group. The 1 mile track was a tough journey but everyone made it and, like Shackelton, showed copious reserves of endurance. Uphill slopes didn't bother the runners but did test them to their limits. People who weren't running then or who weren't running at all cheered on teammates and others. Runners who made it in the top ten of each race made it into the county race on Saturday and the top three won a medal for their position. Quite a few of our Minch runners got into the top ten and some even made the top three but those who didn't should be proud of their scores because they conquered such a perilous run. After the results on Saturday the top 12 will make it through into a 'race of champions' against Leicestershire and other counties. [By Isaac](#)

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### ADMIN

***Azure Swimming Parent Helpers Needed:*** We still need one more volunteer helper for Azure Swimming on Tuesday 3rd March. It involves arriving at school to sign in at 12.25pm and then the coach departs at 12.30pm. Return to school will be around 3pm. Please contact the office on Monday 2nd March if you are able to help. We then also need two more volunteer helpers on Tues 17th, 24th and 31st March (same timings as above). Again, we'd be very grateful if you are able to help and could let the office know.

***Lates:*** When arriving at the school office reception area on any day that you are late to school, please kindly wait in the queue leading up to the hatch, and wait with your child(ren) if possible so they can sign in at the hatch, give their lunch choice and then be given access into the school. In order to uphold our safeguarding procedures and legal obligations around registering children properly, please kindly avoid bypassing the queue or encouraging children to go in before they have waited and signed in properly. We do appreciate the mornings can be tight for time, and when we can on a busy day we will endeavour to have an extra member of office staff to do the signing in, but this isn't always possible. With thanks for your understanding and co-operation.

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### REMINDERS

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

***Parents Evenings:*** These will be on Tuesday 10th March and Thursday 12th March. Information and bookings instructions to follow next week.

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**Year 3/4 Production:** Please can all ticket requests be in by Wednesday 4th March.

**Reception & Year 1:** A quick reminder to please bring wellies and PE kits back into school. Aqua Class are requesting Egg Boxes, Wood and Unwanted Paint. Please can we also request donations of dried beans, lentils and peas. They don't need to be in date as they will be being used for their topics and they won't be eating them... hopefully! Finally, just a quick reminder to please bring in any donations of socks and boys' and girls' underwear, suitable for children ages 4 - 6. Many thanks for any donations you are able to make.

#### COMING UP:

**World Book Day (Thurs 5th March):** Please see [here](#) for all the information about dressing up, activities including a sponsored read, and some fun family follow-up.

**Sport Relief Day (Fri 13th March):** Dress up as your favourite sport or wear your PE kit to school. Please bring a donation of £1 in aid of Sport Relief. All children will run a mile (roughly 3 laps of the school track) during the day, meaning we'll cover up to 340 miles all together! Mr Tovey will also be setting up some other sports activities at lunchtime. <https://www.sportrelief.com/>

**Orchestra Playing in Assembly (Fri 20th March):** Rendcomb College is soon to host an Orchestral Day for pupils in years 5 to 8 who play string, woodwind and brass instruments between grades 1 and 5. Our orchestra will then perform the programme back at school, during our 9 o'clock school assembly on Friday 20th March. Parents of all our orchestra children will be very welcome to join us.

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#### INFO

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

**Coronavirus Guidance:** Following a number of enquiries regarding the Coronavirus issue, the latest government advice is here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>. It contains the information about what to do if someone is returning from an affected area. There is also this guidance, specific to educational settings, available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>. This will be regularly updated. The key message is for people to call 111 with any queries about the advice. Please note, unless pupils are symptomatic there is no need for self-isolation. If children or parents do show flu-like symptoms they should self-isolate. Thank you.

**Social Media:** I need to put a slightly desperate and vehement plea out to everyone in the school community to be very wary about starting and/or engaging in conversations about school on social media and especially Facebook. In the last 24 hours two such 'conversations' involving a good number of people within our school community have resulted in upset for some staff and parents alike. I know those who took part in the conversation well and certainly well enough to know that they would be mortified if they knew their words/ the conversation had got back to those being spoken about. It's one of those things; once upon a time a conversation between a few people, expressing some frustration or stress, would have gone no further than those few people. Instead, on a social media platform, opinions are catapulted into the public domain and reach a much wider audience, where they have a much greater impact, including the significant risk that they also reach the very people being spoken about. When such conversations get out there, it is as if someone has printed them off Facebook and pinned them up on the front door of the school for all to see. I'm sure you can all appreciate how dispiriting this might be. If nothing else, my job is to try to keep relationships positive, keep spirits up and keep everyone doing the best they can for the children. It is a shame that social media, given all the good it has to offer, sometimes frustrates our efforts. So please, please respect the plea and be very wary about starting and/or engaging in conversations about school on social media and especially Facebook. With thanks.

**Number of people reading the newsletter:** 55.5% of Minchinhampton Academy Parents/Carers opened Newsletter No.17, which is 241 people. The average Open Rate for the education and training industry is 23.42% (Source: <https://mailchimp.com/resources/email-marketing-benchmarks/>)

**Holidays:** Last term we had a total of 9 families who had taken a holiday.

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## PTA

### ***Dates for your Diary:***

**Next PTA Meeting (Thurs 5th March):** 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 Thursday 5th March at 8pm. We would love to see you there.

**Parent Social at The Crown Inn (Thurs 12th March):** We have a pub.....come and have a drink or two and a chat! Come and meet some other parents at a Parent Social on Thursday 12th March from 7.30pm at The Crown.

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

**Summer Fair (Sat 20th June):** Plans for the Summer Fair on Saturday 20th June are well underway. There is an exciting theme in mind, but to make it happen, there is a need for a big tent. If anyone has a marquee, or a lead on a marquee that could be borrowed, please let Jennifer Jones Thorne know as soon as possible.

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**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**

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### **DIARY DATES:**

**Mon 2nd Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Cobalt)

**Tue 3rd Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Year 1)

**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:** World Book Day

**Thurs 5th Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Reception)

**Thurs 5th Mar:** Viney Hill Meeting (Current Year 5)

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

**Fri 6th Mar:** PTA Comedy Night

**Mon 9th Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Royal)

**Tue 10th Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Year 1)

**Tue 10th Mar:** Azure class swimming

**Tue 10th Mar:** Parents Evening 1

**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:** Outdoor Learning (Reception)

**Thurs 12th Mar:** Parents Evening 2

**Thurs 12th Mar:** Parent Social at The Crown Inn (7.30pm)

**Fri 13th Mar:** Azure Class Assembly

**Fri 13th Mar:** Sport Relief Day

**Mon 16th Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Sky)  
**Tue 17th Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Year 1)  
**Tue 17th Mar:** Azure class swimming  
**Thurs 19th Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Reception)  
**Fri 20th Mar:** Orchestra Assembly  
**Fri 20th Mar:** Infants Multiskills at Stratford Park LC

**Mon 23rd Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Cyan)  
**Mon 23rd Mar:** KS1 Cross Country Festival  
**Tue 24th Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Year 1)  
**Tue 24th Mar:** Azure class swimming  
**Tue 24th Mar:** PATES Open Morning  
**Thurs 26th Mar:** Outdoor Learning (Reception)  
**Fri 27th Mar:** Pentathlon at Stratford Park LC

[Go to PARENT CALENDAR](#)

### LETTERS:

#### **ALL**

World Book Day  
Information

[Go to LETTERS](#)



