



Bampton Church of England School Newsletter | 4th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Things have continued to move at pace since the start of the term and the children are certainly being kept busy in class with lots of fantastic learning on their new topics.

As you will be aware, unfortunately we have had a high number of cases of COVID in school in recent weeks, including several members of staff who have needed to self isolate. It has been extremely difficult to keep the school open with so many members of staff not in school, so I would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to all members of staff in school for their tremendous hard work and flexibility with regard to timetabling in order to ensure that your child's education was disrupted as little as possible. Thank you parents and carers as well for continuing to wear face coverings whilst on school grounds and helping to keep our community as safe as possible. Although there have been recent changes to government guidance, our experience of the last few weeks has led us **not** to change our risk assessment at this point. All other remaining protective measures in school, as outlined in our risk assessment, remain in place and under constant review.

A reminder also, as mentioned in my last newsletter, an overview of key information regarding the learning that will be happening in your child's class was sent to you at the start of term. Once again I would encourage



Dates for your diary

After School Clubs: J Club -
Mondays - KS2
3.30pm to 4.30pm

P.E.Club –
Tuesdays - KS2
3.30pm to 4.30pm

Lego Church -Thursday 24th
February at Bampton
Community Hall
2pm to 3.30pm

Half Term
21st to 25th February –

Last day of term
8th April 2022

you to take a look if you haven't yet had a chance to do so. Following which, should you have any concerns or queries about your child or their learning, please do arrange a time to discuss these with your child's class teacher by contacting them via the school email address or by telephoning the school office to arrange a telephone appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Last week we welcomed a party from the Jubilee Centre in Birmingham to showcase the work that your children have been carrying out in class regarding Character Education. The team were very impressed with the work on Character Education across the school and how well the children were able to talk about their learning, using both their chromebooks and bespoke exercise books to support this.

Once again, a big thank you to the parents who have joined me on the **tour of the school** before Christmas to show you what the children have been doing in school, explaining how the School Improvement Plan is positively having an impact on the children's learning and various aspects of school life. Feedback from parents was fantastic and more ideas around opportunities for parents to get involved in school life through volunteering were uncovered. Once the COVID cases decrease I will be looking at continuing these tours around the school. If you have not yet signed up for a parent tour please contact Marlene in the school office to find out the next available dates and times.

For other **key dates** coming up in school soon, please see the '**Dates for your diary**' section on the front page of this newsletter, so you don't miss out.

Have a lovely week everyone,



Mr Bladon

Headteacher.

Here are the learning, activities and events that have been happening in school over the past fortnight.

Our School Values Focus this term



Our Character Education Focus Virtues this term

Critical Thinking

Justice

Neighbourliness

Resilience

Academic

Hedgehog Class have continued their Starry Night topic. In Literacy they have recycled the story Whatever Next! and created a new rhyme to retell the story. They then used this rhyme to write their own version of their class story. In Maths they have been practising their subitising skills. They are getting much more confident in saying the amount instead of counting. You can support your child at home with this by playing lots of dice games.

Squirrel Class have continued to work with great interest on their Movers and Shakers topic. They have researched the nurses Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and thought about what they did to improve nursing conditions. In English, the children have started working on their new class text: We are Water Protectors. They have also been researching different world habitats.

Otter Class have been finishing their riddles about heroes. They have also been thinking about how writer's choose language carefully to create vivid pictures in the reader's mind. In maths they have shown lots of **resilience** towards a range of problem solving tasks.

Fox Class have been learning about the life of Spartacus and what it meant to be a Gladiator in Roman times. They have learnt how to infer meaning from texts and have written character descriptions of Spartacus looking beyond his strength and bravery to his compassion and resilience within.

Stag class have been researching lots of space related topics such as the Solar System and how the parts all move around each other, the Moon and the International Space Station. They are looking forward to using the vocabulary and understanding gained in their story writing. They have also been looking at the **inspiring changemakers**, Newton and Galileo, testing some of their theories.



Community

Hedgehog class have been learning about who their neighbours are at school and how they can be neighbourly. This week they have made bird feeders as an act of kindness to provide food for their bird neighbours in their outside area. They were also keen to find out who they share their Woodland School area with and were delighted to capture video footage of lots of pheasants and a fox. Check out the School Twitter feed to see their fox at night video.

Squirrel Class have been researching the nurses Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. The children thought about how these nurses helped others and linked this to how they feel they can help others.

Otter Class have been thinking about problems in different communities and how they could be solved. They will use their ideas to inspire their designs for their engineering enrichment sessions this term.

Fox Class have been considering how they can draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings from what they read. They have considered how Spartacus might have felt when captured and sold as a slave and related this to their rich communities and families that they have around them today to offer support.

Stag Class - have been looking at the changes in the Highway Code and how it effects them as part of the community.

Character Education

Hedgehog Class have shown great resilience over the last two weeks, adapting to change. Reverend Kevin also joined their class for a small collective worship where they thought about belonging and prayed for their friends and neighbours who were ill. They also enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year, tried Chinese food, carefully handled Chinese objects and listened to each others' experiences of celebrating. They enjoyed celebrating their friends returning to school after illness and being together again.

Squirrel Class have reflected on the character virtue of resilience, inspired by the story 'How to catch a star.' The children discussed how the boy in the story showed resilience and how they all show resilience in their day to day lives.

Otter Class have enjoyed learning about the virtue of **Critical Thinking**. They considered why reasoning is important in their learning and how to be convincing with their explanations. They also thought about how to challenge and debate ideas in a positive way.

Fox Class have related heavily to the character virtue of resilience these past few weeks as they have bravely overcome illness and adapted to changes in their routines and even studied from home.

Stag Class: have been considering where they have seen character virtues in previous topics. Justice was a familiar theme in their Tudor topic and Stag class had some very interesting views on how the world has changed for the better since then.

Innovation

Stag Class met up with Clinton school via Google Meet to quiz each other on previous topics, as well as share how their character virtues feature within them.

The School Council had the exciting opportunity to have a Zoom call with a classroom in Uganda this week through our work with Edukid. The children in both schools were able to ask each other questions and they learned a lot about their interests and what school life is like in Uganda.

Inspiring Changemakers

Our **Inspiring Learners** over the last two weeks are:

William in Hedgehog Class

For demonstrating the character virtue of **friendliness**.

William remained cheerful and happy, bursting through the door every morning with a smile on his face despite every day being very different to usual in school. He has certainly made all of us smile and contributed to keeping our class a **friendly** and **welcoming** place to be.



Gully in Hedgehog Class

For demonstrating the character virtues of **motivation** and **curiosity**.

We have been impressed with how you have been asking lots of questions and showing great interest in our new topic Starry Night. It has been really lovely to see your excitement in setting up the wildlife camera and hearing the knowledge and vocabulary you have acquired from your learning on this topic.

Martha in Squirrel Class

For demonstrating our school value of **Aiming High**.

Martha has been working so hard on all her Maths skills, especially her adding and subtracting. She has shown great resilience when dealing with difficult calculations and she has been very kind with how she has helped others.



Annabelle in Squirrel Class

For demonstrating our school value of **Aiming High** and our character virtue of **motivation**. Annabelle has been working so hard on all her writing skills. She has used brilliant, accurate punctuation and she has made sure that all her work has been beautifully presented.



William in Otter Class

For demonstrating the school value of **Aiming High** and our character virtue of **critical thinking**. William always goes above and beyond with his learning. He really impressed Miss Lawrence with the questions that he came up with that showed a deep level of thinking.

Kodi in Otter Class

For demonstrating the school value of **Kindness** and our character virtue of **helpfulness**. Kodi is such a helpful member of the class, always offering to do jobs without being asked. He has also shown excellent **motivation** towards all of his learning.

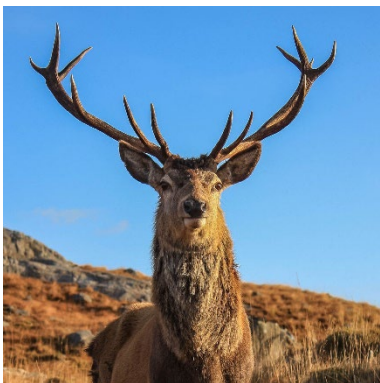


Millie in Fox Class

For demonstrating our school value of **Aiming High** and our new character virtue of **Resilience**. Millie worked hard with Mr McCutcheon on her solar system project and impressed him with her attitude and diligence.

Eben in Fox Class

Eben has shown **motivation** whilst working from home on his tasks set on Seesaw. It was wonderful to see him generate some independent learning projects, creating a wonderful set of his own Top Trumps with a nature theme.



Sophie in Stag Class

Sophie has shown fantastic **motivation** with her writing. She is writing all the time and is currently writing a playscript for the class to perform at a later date. She also showed **resilience** by coming in every day, despite class-mates and family falling ill. Well done Sophie!

Holly in Stag Class

Holly has been working very hard in all areas of the curriculum showing high levels of **motivation**. She always produces her best and also works efficiently whilst keeping up her high levels of presentation. Well done Holly, keep it up!

Well done Everybody!

Message from the School Office

School Pick-up - Should you need to change plans regarding collection from school, could you please advise of any change of pick-up details before 2.00pm on the day, so that we can ensure the message reaches the relevant staff in good time.

School Meals - Thank you to all those parents who continue to take the time and trouble to book their child/ren's meals in advance. Unfortunately, until more parents get into the habit of doing this our kitchen manager is having to guess how many supplies she needs to order for each menu. The knock on effect of this is that there will be slight last minute changes to the menus to accommodate those late meal bookings.

10 Top Tips for Respect Online: INSPIRING CHILDREN TO BUILD A BETTER DIGITAL WORLD

Our ability to communicate with anyone in the world, at any time, via the internet has grown at breakneck speed. For teachers and parents, it can feel impossible to keep up. Worrying about our young people is understandable, and not unjustified: in 2020, for example, one in five 10- to 15-year-olds experienced bullying online. Our tips highlight ways that adults can support young people's positive online behaviours: by adopting and following 'netiquette', we can show them how to avoid getting into difficulty as they learn to negotiate the continually evolving digital landscape.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Just like etiquette is a set of rules which guides and governs our interactions with others in everyday life, netiquette – etiquette on the net – is the framework which helps inform how we communicate with people online. The rules of engagement often aren't the same as a face-to-face meeting, so it's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

1 ACCEPT DIFFERENT RULES

A lot of our interaction with others is helped by non-verbal signals like body language and facial expressions. Online, of course, many of these clues are missing. Talk to your child about why this makes misunderstandings more likely to occur in the digital world and why keeping in mind that online communication is a very different process can help to prevent difficulties from arising.

2 PRESS 'PAUSE'

It's so easy to do things quickly online that most people (adults included) habitually send or respond to messages without considering the consequences. Pushing 'the pause button' buys a young person some time while they ponder the golden rule: "Would I still say this if the other person was right front of me?" You could practise this with your child on some made-up tricky situations.

3 THE INTERNET IS ADDICTIVE

Apps and sites use sophisticated algorithms and clever marketing to keep us engaged, while notifications to our devices are designed to draw us back in. It's no wonder that people continually return to the digital world, sometimes spending long periods of time there. You and your child could trial turning off notifications on certain apps and instead agree a time to check for updates manually.

4 BEWARE THE DARK SIDE

Getting a hurtful or unhelpful comment on social media or in a group chat can make the recipient feel publicly shamed. That's painful for anyone – but especially for a young person whose status in a group is integral to their sense of identity. Encourage your child to think about the best and safest way to send a message: for example, doing it as a private message rather than a public post.

5 HARMFUL INTERACTIONS

Unfortunately, it's very easy to send a hurtful message or to spread gossip and rumours online. We all know this happens regularly. Not having to deal with actually seeing the other person's distress usually doesn't help people to make a positive decision in the moment. It's important that trusted adults help children to visualise the potential consequences and have empathy for others.

6 APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES

We're all built differently; some people are simply more emotionally sensitive than others. Young people can be particularly affected by negative online communication, such as group shaming. Even a single message (which might seem trivial at face value) can cause deep anguish. Trusted adults should be prepared to be patient and listen to any difficulties their child might have had online.

7 ACCENTUATED ANXIETY

Young people's online lives create a lot of anxiety. Messages go into a 'black hole' until someone responds, there are more reasons to compare ourselves negatively, and social media can make us feel like we're missing out. Encourage activities such as sports and hobbies to balance this out, and remember that merely blocking out thoughts (by gaming, for instance) isn't the same as relaxation.

8 PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A huge positive for the internet is how it helps people to feel connected and makes being kind and helpful easy to spread. When young people get involved in pro-social behaviours online, it creates a positive feedback loop which makes them feel good. Show your child examples of when you've done or said something positive online, and praise and encourage them when they do the same.

9 BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

One of the best things we can do as trusted adults is to role model positive online behaviour. Just letting your child see that you know when it's time to put your phone away and do something more productive can set a strong example. Some families set aside particular times of the week (such as mealtimes or a family walk) where digital devices aren't allowed and conversation takes precedence.

10 SHOW COMPASSION

Mistakes can feel much bigger online, because they're so public. If a young person does or says something regrettable on the internet, it's important to support them to forgive themselves, learn any lessons and move forward positively. Even as adults, we can often stumble when learning how things work in the fast-moving digital world, so it's important to have compassion for ourselves, too.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/onlinebullyinginenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>
<https://truecenterpublishing.com/psyber/blackhole.html> | https://www.researchgate.net/publication/8451443_The_Online_Disinhibition_Effect

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Mid & West Devon**

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Are you struggling with fuel costs this winter?

Household Support Fund

This fund is available to people in Mid Devon who have a pre-payment meter and are struggling to afford fuel and food bills this winter.

This fund is available until 31st March 2022.

If you have a pre-payment meter and are struggling with bills or you know someone else who is, we can advise on eligibility and help you to apply. Simply turn over to see all the ways that you can contact us.

If you do not have a pre-payment meter but are also struggling with essential bills and you live in Mid Devon, contact Mid Devon District Council on

01884 255255

or visit
www.middevon.gov.uk



Here are the ways you can contact us

Call our free, local AdviceLine on
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Get advice and webchat via
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