

A NOTE FROM MRS HEFFER

This week's virtue has been PATIENCE:

'Patience is not the ability to wait but how you act while you are waiting.' Joyce Meyer

WELL DONE YOU HARD WORKING LOT! - These last two weeks have seen all the children busy completing test papers and impressing us with their writing skills. Last week the Year 6 children were treated to a secret surprise for their hard work an excellent attitude during a very challenging week. The trip to Boscawen Park on a sunny day followed by a very competitive and exciting game of ten pin bowling was just what the doctor ordered to enable the children to unwind and recharge their batteries. This week the rest of the school children have also shown their ability to step up to the challenge of assessments and it is clear that all the teachers have been impressed with the way in which the children have approached it. Well done to all and a big thank you for all the hard work.

CREATIVE INSPIRATION - Last week the Starlings shared their wonderful pictures in assembly inspired by the artist Norman Garstin. These are now proudly displayed on their classroom wall. We are all looking forward to a creative arts week later in the term where every class will be preparing pieces of art for an art gallery that will be on display during our open day. More information on this will be sent out after half term. In assembly this week, the Swifts told the school all about the forthcoming annual Junior Production. This year we will be doing 'Alice in Wonderland'. The Year 6 roles have already been casted and rehearsals have just begun. Just as we did last year, the Starlings and Kingfishers will also be involved in dance, singing and poetry reciting. We are hoping to make use of the village hall this year to enable us to put on fewer performances for a larger audience. We will confirm dates and venue after half term.

YEAR 5 AND 6 CAMP – After half term, Year 5 and 6 will be heading off to the Roseland outdoor centre to enjoy three days of outdoor activities including bush-craft, archery and water sports. Myself, Mrs Pallot, Mr Head and Mr Haywood (Mrs Pallot's Dad) will be accompanying the children on camp this year. We are looking forward to spending time with the children and seeing them flourish throughout the three days. We also hope to get some sleep....as some point!

BEE HAPPY! – This Saturday, there will be a big event taking place at the village hall and also in the village pub to support the good work that bees do. Some classes have completed work that will be on display during the day. Please come and support this event. There will be so many wonderful activities for both adults and children. Many thanks to Jacqueline Davey and Lizzie Archer-Cairns for their enthusiasm.

A VERY WORTHY CAUSE – Today the children took part in a fund raising non-school uniform day to help raise money for the Nepal disaster. Although we had hoped to involve the Year 5 and 6 pupils in fund raising for camp, we felt the Nepal appeal needed to take priority this week. Many thanks to Ben Roberts who suggested this fund raiser idea. He has been the inspiration behind this week's focus, having contributed £15 of his own pocket money to the cause. In total, the children have raised an amazing £234.39. Well done and thank you to all for your donations.

LUNCHTIME BLISS! – Over the last two weeks we have trialled having the children choose their hot meal option at the beginning of the day to enable our chefs to cook to order. This subtle change has had a very positive effect on the speed at which pupils can be served and the noise level in the hall. Indeed, a pleasurable experience is being enjoyed by all.

SAD FAREWELL! – At the end of this term we will be saying a very sad farewell to Mr Prendergast who joined us at the beginning of this academic year. It is not without much consideration that Mr Prendergast has decided to finish his time with us and it is clear he will be very much missed by the pupils and staff. However, Mr Prendergast has decided that the time is right to further his education and complete the Masters degree he has longed to do.

We wish Mr Prendergast all the very best for his future. We hope that he will at times come back and visit us. We will save our formal goodbyes until the end of this term.

Well, that brings us to the end of yet another half term! We wish you a relaxing break and hope the sun will shine for us all. We look forward to beginning the final part of our academic year with you on Monday, 1st June.

Years 3 and 4: On Monday 1st June we will be leaving school for most of the morning to walk around the village. Children will need sensible walking shoes e.g. wellingtons, boots, trainers, a waterproof coat, sun hat and a bag with a spare pair of trousers and socks to change into when we return if necessary. *Mrs Waters and Miss Shaile.*

Recorders: There will be no recorder club on Wednesday 3rd June – Mrs Whomersley will be in on Friday 5th instead.

Puffins: Does anyone have any spare (age 4 /5) underwear that they would be happy to donate to Puffins? Thank you.

Children going to camp on 1st June – please remember to bring a packed lunch with you.

***** **FOPS Update** *****

Half term already! Where does the time go? So, Family Fun Day will soon be upon us. The year six children have been busy designing posters and writing letters to secure us some great raffle prizes. As usual we need your help too! We will start collecting donations for Tombola and Wine to Water (we have lots of water, just need the wine) after the break. A collection point will be placed in reception for you to drop any bits off. Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support.

The next Fops meeting is on Thursday 4th June, 7.00p.m at the school. Please come along with any ideas and offers of help.

We'll watch this space for further details. All that's left to say for now is "Happy Holidays and see you soon". *Mrs Mackrill*