

A NOTE FROM MRS HEFFER

This week's virtue has been TOLERANCE

"Tolerance is giving to every other human being every right that you claim for yourself." Robert Green Ingersoll

USE OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH – As you are aware, a letter went home to all Key Stage 2 parents asking for their thoughts about the continued use of the Village Church for our Key Stage 2 Christmas Show. Many thanks for returning your slips and for providing us with some very constructive feedback which is always helpful for the school to make the right decision to suit the majority. We received 29 return slips. 14 parents felt that the church should not be used for the Christmas Show mainly due to the limited space for children to perform and be seen clearly, although several of these parents did also suggest that it could be used for a daytime carol concert rather than a Christmas play. 11 felt it should continue. 4 parents did not have a preference. I was pleased to read from many comments that a large number of parents felt the school's links with the village church are important to maintain and parents' suggestions on how this could continue effectively have been welcomed. Based on the feedback we have received, in December 2015, the Christmas Play will be held in the school where the children can be seen clearly and have the space they need to perform. Many families can walk to the school and those that need to park can use the village hall carpark as well as the road leading up to the school. The school will continue to actively promote the Christingle Service at the church, which is very much a child centred service and where we hope we will still have the privilege of hearing the bell ringers and have the chance to sing along with the church organ. Once again, I thank you for your positive and constructive feedback to help us to ensure our school continues to improve for the benefit of the children.

SEAL OF APPROVAL FOLLOWING OUR HEALTH AND SAFETY VISIT – This week, Karen Partridge (our Health and Safety governor) with Kelvin Barbery (our PFI premises inspector) walked around the school to conduct their termly Health and Safety Premises check. Several items that had been picked up previously had been dealt with and the few items that were highlighted as in need of attention were minor. I would like to thank Karen for her continued support in her role as parent governor and for providing a detailed and updated Health and Safety Premises report to our governing body.

SAD NEWS FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT – Every year our playground equipment has its annual safety check. Sadly, our KS2 equipment continues to be out of bounds for our pupils due to the condition of the wood, which over the years has started to deteriorate. This is mainly due to it being located on the lower side of the school grounds where the main wooden pillars are set directly into the soil. The safety inspector has found a fungus in the wooden frame that is causing the wood to rot in several places. Although this is only present in some areas of the climbing frame, as each section is linked together, we do not feel it is safe for the children to use this structure. We would therefore like to ask all parents to ensure they do not allow their children to use this climbing frame before or after school. We wait to hear what can be done in due course. Thank you for your support in this matter.

PUFFINS SHOW THEY KNOW IT ALL – In assembly this week, the Puffins shared their extensive knowledge about mini-beasts. With big voices and smiling faces, they impressed the audience with their collection of facts about butterflies, spiders, worms and many more. Mr Anderson also delighted the audience with sharing his class' caterpillar pot on the visualiser. The children will have the opportunity to see the caterpillars change into butterflies. The Puffins are very proud of their lovely colourful classroom displays about mini-beasts and have their own mini-beast investigation lab where the children can choose to find out more about this fascinating topic - an exciting learning environment for our pupils. Well done Puffins.

ROBINS IMPRESS PARENTS ON THEIR VISIT TO THE MARITIME MUSEUM – This week, the Robins took a day out of school to visit the Maritime Museum as part of their topic on ‘Oceans and Seas’. They had a wonderful day, learning all about Sir Francis Drake, the Queen’s Pirate. The children used a range of original and replica artefacts, portraits, models and maps to discover more about why Sir Francis Drake is such a significant individual in history. They even met Queen Elizabeth I. Having followed Drake’s voyage around the world using an old map, the children also experienced smelling spices, feeling gold, precious jewels and soft silks as Drake discovered them in new and undiscovered countries. Finally, they learnt about life on board a Tudor ship and made their own Tudor ship to sail across the large boat pool on the ground floor of the Maritime Museum. Visit the ‘our classes’ section on the school website to see some pictures of what the Robins got up to! The children’s behaviour was exemplary, which ensured everyone involved had a wonderful time, as outlined in an email from a parent which included a lovely little poem about the day.

I had an amazing time with the children at the Maritime Museum. It was my first visit there and I was surprised to see so many things for the children to get involved with. I was very impressed by how well behaved the children were. My little group were all really good listeners and really got stuck into many of the exhibits. It was a terrific day.

I just wrote a poem, of sorts, this morning to say thank you.

Thank you Robins

*I'm off with the Robins
For a wonderful trip
All board the coach with a hop and a skip*

*The Maritime Museum
A surprise to me,
Lots to do,
Lots to see,*

*Sir Francis Drake
And ships to make
Lots of boat races
And smiling faces*

*So well behaved
Well done Robins
Back home in time for tea,
Thanks to Mrs Brooks, Beth and of course Mrs Lea.*

We are very grateful to our parents for their continued support. Well done Robins.

TAG RUGBY Club – has now finished (as the end of season tournament was played today – match report to follow).

URGENT NOTE RE SCHOOL LUNCH MONEY. Please help Mrs Reeves by remembering that the procedure is and has always been to send lunch money in on the first day of the week – not daily. Dealing with odds and ends of late payments, and chasing non payments is very time consuming. You may of course pay for several weeks / months in advance if you prefer. Cheques to Eden Foodservices please. Your help will be very much appreciated.

A message from school council

All classes can take part in our poster competition to design a poster to encourage habits which will help improve our school environment. The winning entry from each category will be displayed in classrooms and the designers will receive 10 team points!

Children can design a poster to encourage others to:

- 1) Turn off the lights when they leave the room
- 2) Put rubbish in the bin
- 3) Remember use the class recycling bin for paper waste

Only one entry per person please. The poster needs to fulfil the following criteria...

A4 paper (either landscape or portrait), name and class on the back, choose one of the 3 messages, colourful, clear message and photocopyable (ie not 3D)

Last entry date: Friday May 8th to your school council folder please.

We look forward to seeing all the entries!

Mr Head and Mrs Pallôt

We all wish you a wonderful Bank Holiday Weekend and look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday, 5th May.

Next week's virtue is KINDNESS.

Celebration Assembly:

Oliver Ward and Carlo Bronold received their Bronze, Jude Marven, Chloe Saayman and Eddie Legge, Silver and Leah Hennessy, Eleanor Bray, Dylan Barker, Amelie Grose, Sophie Ratcliff, Samuel Hatcher-Teodulo, Jack Wilkes, Toby Piper, Isla McCandless, Liberty Dingle, Archie Thomas and Jack Bailey their Gold certificates. Rebecca Nelson and Giselle Tyler-Scott received their Medal. Very well done to you all.

The Virtue award will be presented by Mrs Heffer upon her return on Tuesday.