



# CHARLTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2016/17 Issue 4

March 2017



Dear Parents and Pupils,

As you will read there has been lots of excitement in school this term as teachers and support staff ensure that pupils receive a rich and varied curriculum. World Book Day was a particular high point with lots of interesting costumes and outfits. As part of World Book Day celebrations the following day we welcomed Cas Lester (author of the “*Nixie, the Bad, Bad Fairy*” series, the “*Harvey Drew*” series and “*Wilfred the (Un)Wise*”). Cas undertook a number of fun and enjoyable workshops with classes across the school.

Thank you for your patience recently with the difficulties we have experienced in the school kitchen. A frustrating time for all whilst trying to locate the fault which the engineers did manage (eventually). Thankfully we are now back on track.

Finally, thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete our survey this year during parent discussion evenings. Your opinions are very important to us and the governors will be analysing these results to look at ways in which we can continue to improve.

Many thanks,

**Steven Rose**  
**Headteacher**

## Key Dates

**Friday 31st March** - School finishes 12:00

**Tuesday 18th April** - School opens for term five.

**Friday 21st April** - Swimming week one, Mrs Witney and Miss Caudle

**Wednesday 26th April** - Class photos

**Saturday 20th May** - May Fayre

**Tuesday 23rd May** - Year Five performance 1:30

**Wednesday 24th May** - Year Five performance 6:30

**Friday 26th May** - School closes 3:15

# CREATIVE CURRICULUM

**Foundation** - This term our 'Land of Make Believe' topic was launched after Mrs Batten discovered some mystery eggs. We brought the eggs back to Foundation Stage to look after them and to try and work out what creature had left them. There was lots of discussion about what might be in the eggs. The



Mrs Batten showing the children the eggs she discovered.



The children examining the eggs.

children made nests, looked at a variety of different eggs, measured them and looked at non-fiction books to find out all about eggs and what animals hatch from eggs. After some research, Mrs Batten returned to inform us that they were in fact dragon eggs! Since then, the children have been designing dragons, making up stories and role playing as knights... and dragons! Imaginative play and creative ideas will hopefully continue throughout the term!

**Year One** - We have been busy bees since coming back from half term. We have started our Fairytale Farms topic and the children have been producing beautiful farmyard patchwork in art. The Gingerbread Man paid us a visit when we iced our own gingerbread men and have just finished our third big write - this time retelling the story of the Gingerbread Man. Year One had a lovely World Book Day, too, enjoying reading with the Year Fours during the morning. Something magical had happened overnight - Elder class' teacher became Cat in the Hat and Holly class came in to discover their teacher had turned into Little Red Riding Hood! Much to our surprise, we even saw the Big Bad Wolf too!



Decorating our own gingerbread men.



Our life-sized gingerbread man.

**Year Two** - We ended term three with a visit from a very famous person, or rather, two famous people! Did you know that Willy Wonka had a twin brother? The Willy Wonka twins spent the morning with each class, answering questions, judging the chocolate bar wrapper competition and tasting chocolate! The children also did some amazing



Bobby and Alfie feeling a snake.



Ryan with an alligator.

sketches while the characters posed; you can see some on display in the Rainbow Room. Term four began with another exciting event, a trip to Crocodiles of the

World! We had the most amazing day and were so well supported by staff at the zoo who had planned a range of exciting activities for us. The children are currently learning about the features of an effective recount and will be writing an article about their amazing day.

**Year Three** - Before half term, we performed our play, Treasure Island. After lots of rehearsals, including a dress rehearsal in front of the school, we showed our best dramatics to



Our amazing TAs built a boat for the play!



Year Three learning Yoga.

parents in two full performances. This term, we visited a Hindu temple in Swindon on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March as part of our topic on Hinduism. We learnt about Hindu gods and beliefs. We got to try meditation, yoga and some Indian food too.

**Year Four** - As part of this term's topic "Water, Water Everywhere!" we visited the Didcot Sewage Treatment Works. We had a guided tour and learned how the water from the surrounding area is



Year Four learning about sewage works.

animal fat) down the loo and down the sink causes problems for Thames Water.

**Year Five** - As part of our topic on Poverty in Britain we carried out research on Victorian and Tudor pie designs and recipes. Then we practised some designs using play dough. The Vale and Downland Museum came



Magnus was interviewed to be a cook's assistant.



Making pies.

in and did some workshops on handling Victorian artefacts and drama session with Lady Wantage with Year Five, where we were interviewed for jobs. Later, we made our own pies.

**Year Six** - To tie in with our topic, which is centred around Guatemala, we visited Marwell Zoo. Whilst at the zoo, the children looked carefully at the information about the animals to find out their scientific names (something which we have been learning about in Science) as well as looking at information about their habitats and where in the world the animals could be found. After lunch, all children took part in a rainforest workshop where they were able to meet some animals up close and personal. As part of this workshop, children also learnt about endangered animals and what we can do to protect the rainforest and the animals that live in it. During the afternoon, there were several stops at play areas (!) and the chance to do some drawings of animals and plants around the zoo to link in with this term's Art on animals. Overall, we had a lovely day and were able to enjoy the spring sunshine too!



Year Six children meeting a snake.

## Sports News

Year Five have been supported by Mr Chadwick in their interclass rugby matches. They have learned lots of new skills and had a great time.



Year Five ready for rugby.

## Wantage Schools Netball competition

Mrs Irwin took two teams to this interschool competition on 24th February. Our A team came second overall, meaning that they qualified for the finals (see below). Mrs Irwin told us that both teams played brilliantly, showing one of our school values of co-operation, and we are very proud of their achievement.



Netball teams A and B.

**Finals** - The A team then took part in the netball tournament on Tuesday 14th March at Larkmead School, Abingdon. The pupils involved were: Lilia Clark, Jessie Allday, Ella Thompson, Fay Sansum -Wall, Stan Parry, Jefferey Nilen, Brandon Nilen and reserve: Emma Sansum-Wall. The team were accompanied by Mrs Irwin and Mrs Parry, and lots of parents came along to support us. Overall, our team came fourth out of 54 teams in the Vale area.



Our netball team.



## WORLD BOOK DAY



On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March we celebrated *World Book Day* by dressing up as characters from some of our favourite books; there were a large variety of costumes from Oompa Loompas to the Cat in the Hat. At the beginning of the day, we had a special assembly where we wrote our own story together using characters that people were dressed up as. Throughout the day a bell would ring sending a message to stop working, pick up a book and read.

During the afternoon, we went to other classes and read our books in pairs. We also had the opportunity to hear the other person read their own books to us which were very interesting to hear. Madison Newcombe (Year Six) commented "I really enjoyed reading to the Year Threes. The book I read was *Gangsta Granny* by David Walliams, it's one of my favourites!"

If you celebrated World Book Day I can assure you it would have been nowhere near as exciting as our one!

The next day, we were lucky enough to have an author visit; the author who came to see us was called Cas Lester, who presented an assembly for Foundation and Year One, Years Two and Three, another for Years Four and Five and one for Year 6. These all had different topics. For example, in Year Six the topic was about how to write a potion. Cas Lester has nine books out for sale and she brought seven of them to our school: the *Harvey Drew* books (for 7-9 year olds), *Nixie The Bad, Bad Fairy* (for 5-8 year olds) and *Wilfred The (Un)wise*. At the end of the day, Cas went down to the Rainbow Room to sell and sign her books. By 3.30pm all of her books were sold out so she had to order some more and come back the following week! In our library, we were lucky enough to buy three of her amazing books (thanks to Mrs Gill, our librarian) and Cas was kind enough to give us two more books for FREE –they were all signed - we chose *Nixie, Fizzy Firework Fun, Nixie the Bad, Bad Fairy, Harvey Drew* and the *Bin Men from Outer Space, Harvey Drew* and the *Bling Bots*, and *Wilfred the (Un)wise*.

Written by Eve Harmsworth (Year Six) and Melissa Wagg (Year Six)





# Key Stage 2 SATs

## What are SATs?

These are compulsory standardised tests required by the Department for Education and administered by primary schools. Children take them at the end of Year Two (Key Stage One) and Year Six (Key Stage Two), although in Year Two the children will be largely unaware they are being tested, and the tests are only one piece of evidence, as well as teacher assessments. In Year Six the children are old enough to understand the testing process, and the setting for the tests is much more formal. The SATs are part of the information passed on to your child's secondary school to help them understand where your child is, academically. The children are tested on the curriculum they have been learning in school, and Year Six children will have had the opportunity to work through plenty of practice papers in the months leading up to test week.

This year the Key Stage Two SATs will be running from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May until Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. The children will have one or two tests each day; the papers vary in length from about 20 minutes for the spelling paper, to an hour for the reading comprehension paper. They are tested in reading comprehension, spelling, punctuation and grammar (often referred to as SPAG) and maths.

## When are the Year Six SATS?

Date	Activity
Mon 8th May	Reading comprehension
Tues 9th May	Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1: questions Paper 2: spelling
Wed 10th May	Maths Paper 1: arithmetic Maths Paper 2: reasoning
Thurs 11th May	Maths Paper 3: reasoning

## How are the papers marked and what do the results mean?

KS2 SATs are sent to external examiners in order that the marking is standardised across the country. The results are returned to schools around the beginning of July. For each subject, the results will be given as a raw score (ie the actual number of marks your child obtained in the paper) and a scaled score. A scaled score of 100 is the expected standard. A score of 99 or less means the child has not met the government's expected standard in that subject. A score of more than 100 means your child has exceeded the expected standard.

## What can parents do to help children with SATs?

This varies depending on the child. For some children, the SATs can feel very stressful, in which case working on minimising their stress and perhaps teaching them relaxation techniques will be very important. Some children might feel more confident if they have a chance to look at practice papers at home, and there is a wealth of SAT preparation material available in this case, both online and in bookstores. Something we have found particularly helpful is ensuring that children have as little as possible planned just before and during the SATs, and to try to make sure they get plenty of sleep, and arrive at school well rested and with a healthy breakfast inside them. To help with this, we will again be offering a breakfast at school - we have found that this is something the children really enjoy.

## What happens after SATs?

After the SATs, the children will still continue with their learning. A vital component of the information that we send to KAs is teacher-assessed writing, and this is a key focus after the SATs. At least one of the pieces of writing they undertake in this term is passed directly to their secondary school as evidence of their achievement and ability. As well as the academic side of the curriculum, we also have lots of other fun activities planned. The children will be looking forward to their residential trip to Condoover Hall. This is an activity-packed trip, and we always find that even the most nervous children have a brilliant time being away from home with their friends and peers. Another focus at this time of year is the traditional Year Six Leavers' Assembly. This is a chance for the children to share their memories of Charlton with the rest of the school and with their parents and is always entertaining and emotional.

We also work very closely with KAs to help ensure that the transition from Primary school to Secondary school goes as smoothly as possible. This involves visits from key members of staff from KAs, visits to the school by our children, and lots of opportunities for our children to ask questions about what "Big School" will be like. For children attending other secondary schools, those schools will organise their own visits, and Charlton will support their attendance on these important transition days.

## **Parent Evenings.**

If you weren't able to make your consultation this time please remember that these appointments offer an important opportunity to receive an update on your child's progress through the year so far and ways to support them at home. Contact the school office to arrange another appointment.

## **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers 2017**

Vouchers can be collected in store and online at Sainsbury's from 25th January until 2nd May. Collecting for Active Kids is a great way for parents, kids and communities to support the school- so if you haven't already please start collecting! A collection box is in the school reception. Thank you.

## **Growing Up Digital**

The Children's Commissioner published a report recently called 'Growing Up Digital'. The report makes interesting reading, but one aspect particularly caught media attention; around half of 8 - 15 year olds use Instagram.

The 'Growing Up Digital' report authors asked legal firm, Schillings, to look over the 17 pages of Instagram's Terms and Conditions, written at a level that could only be understood by a graduate. Schillings own lawyers simplified the Terms and Conditions to help children (and the rest of us!) understand what they mean.

Here are two of the reader-friendly clauses:

"Officially you own any original pictures and videos you post, but we are allowed to use them, and we can let others use them as well, anywhere around the world. Other people might pay us to use them and we will not pay you for that." (Or put more simply, we can sell the things you upload without asking you or paying you.) "We might send you adverts connected to your interests which we are monitoring. You cannot stop us doing this and it will not always be obvious that it is an advert." (Or put more simply, we can send you information and you won't know it's an advert). Instagram's simplified Terms and Conditions can be found in the report "Growing Up Digital" available at <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/>

**PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE** - A small number of Charlton pupils entered the Mathematical Association's Primary Maths Challenge last November. Of the 16,000 entries from the UK and beyond, a select few, including Sam Kershaw (Year Six), qualified for the Bonus Round recently. For this, Sam worked out the answers to some very tricky questions (the sort that would have lots of adults puzzled), and has earned the Bronze Award from the MA for his fantastic achievement. It is 5 years since our previous winner, so very well done, Sam! <http://www.primarymathschallenge.org.uk/online-pupil-results>



Sam holding his certificate for his amazing achievement. Well done, Sam!

## **Important Term Date Reminder**

A reminder that this year's term dates are different from the term dates published by Oxfordshire County Council. Below are the term dates that we as an Academy will be following.

5th September 2016 - 21st October 2016

2nd November 2016 - 20th December 2016

4th January 2017 - 9th February 2017

20th February 2017 - 31st March 2017

18th April 2017 - 26th May 2017

5th June 2017 - 21st July 2017

# PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL!



Willy Wonka visiting Willow Class.



Archie's chocolate bar was the winner in Willow Class.



Year Three learning about balance in PE.



Year Three trying Indian food at the Hindu temple.



Year Three making a human instruction chain.



Year Five children making Victorian-style pies.



Year Five children practising their Victorian drama.



Year Six children at Marwell Zoo.

## NEWS EXTRA...

A big 'Thank you' to all those that helped at the woodland working party - your help, energy and support is greatly appreciated. Parents: Matt Dillon, Chris Alder, Carl Galvin, Erik Johnson and Steve Trinder (also Wantage's Mayor!), Governors: Martin Gillott (Chair), Alan Mcpherson, James Swaffield. Also Nicky Barnes and family and our very own TA, Marianne Hales.



## Eco News



Here are some of our Eco Reps celebrating the arrival of our Green Flag, following our success in renewing it last year.

Once again we are taking part in The Big Pedal. This annual competition sees us attempting to log the most walking/scooting/cycling miles for children, parents and staff travelling to and from school. The Big Pedal starts on Monday 20th March and runs until the last day of term, Friday 31st March. The more of us who leave our cars at home, the better we will do!

## SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

**Grand Potion Contest** What extraordinary, talented and imaginative pupils we have in this school! They entered all manner of potions to help with everything from Exams to Invisibility, Fire to Mind Reading and Chaos to Pudding Creators. All worthy of the best Wizarding Schools. The winners were: Tallulah Starbuck (Miss Caudle), Felix Potter (Miss Davies), Matthew Hobson (Mrs Irwin) and Charlotte Hailey (Mrs Dunn/Mrs Rose). Well done and have lots of fun choosing a book with your £10 Book Token!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Spring Festival** - On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April, Style Acre and Sustainable Wantage are running a family friendly Spring Festival. The festival returns for another year at the Charlton Centre (Charlton Village Road, Wantage, OX12 7HG). There will be kids' crafts, live music, cream teas, cakes and treats. Also, plants for sale, a bouncy castle, the ever popular Easter Egg Trail and lots more. Gates are open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. £1 for adults, kids go free. Please note there is limited parking on site and no dogs are allowed. Money raised will go towards the Wantage Market Garden Project which creates gardening opportunities for everyone. Come and enjoy the spring flowers and bring a picnic.

**Wantage Junior Chess Tournament 2017** - Once again The Rotary Club of Wantage are sponsoring a tournament for Wantage area schoolchildren who know the basics of chess and like to pay for fun. We are **not** looking for budding grandmasters. The free-to-enter event will be organized by the Wantage Chess Club. This year the tournament is to be held on **Saturday morning 1st April in the St John's rooms at Grove Church**. It is hoped that as in recent years 30 - 40 young players will enjoy a morning's chess and perhaps learn a little more about the game. Players will be organized by age group according to entries received. There will be prizes for section winners and certificates all entrants. Entry forms will be available from local schools, and Grove and Wantage libraries.

## A Letter From the PTA

Dear Parents

The PTA took a new direction this term by organising our first event purely for parents and friends of Charlton school. We agreed a quiz night was topical and as it fell on a Friday and St Patrick's day, we went for an additional fish and chip supper with Guinness! The evening was a huge success and all those who attended gave us some very positive feedback. It was a new environment for us to be in and I am confident that we will be running another similar event in the future.

We have also reviewed our communication methods and have set up a Charlton PTA Facebook page where we can share information on events, funds raised and of course most importantly how we have supported school with the fundraising. We are also in the process of using the website to advertise the same information and we will of course continue to send information out via e-mail.

Our next event is our biggest of the school year and is our May Fayre. [This will be on the 20th May, so please keep this date free.](#) We will be sending out letters with pleas for help in the next few weeks as we rely hugely on parent help. We will be asking the children and staff to get involved as well, so it really is a whole school event.

Thank you all very much for your continued help and support and do look out for updates on what we have raised and how we are spending it.

Kind Regards  
Rachel Hobin  
PTA Chair

## Stars of the Week!



# VALE ACADEMY TRUST RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Wantage CE Primary School

### 2 Full Time Permanent Classroom Teachers

**Closing Date:** Wednesday 19 Apr 2017 (Noon)

**Interview Date(s):** Tuesday 25 Apr 2017

**Job Start Date:** September 2017

**Contract/Hours:** Permanent, Full-time

**Key Stage:** KS1/KS2

**Salary Type:** MPR / UPR

**Hours of Work:** Full Time

**Location of Role:** Wantage CE Primary School

**Contact e-mail address:** [office@wantagece.vale-academy.org](mailto:office@wantagece.vale-academy.org)

#### Job/Person Summary

Are you looking for a wonderful teaching opportunity for September 2017?

Aiming for excellence!

"Use the gifts God has given you!" 1 Peter 4:10.

This is our value statement and it is one that we believe underpins everything we do at our school.

We are a thriving and popular Church of England, co-educational academy and nursery, situated at the base of the Ridgeway and within easy walking distance of Wantage town centre.

#### We are looking for someone who...

- is an inspirational and outstanding teacher
- is committed to raising our already high quality of teaching and learning
- is ambitious and wants to continue their professional development.

#### We offer:

- an inclusive, nurturing ethos which gives everyone access to successful learning
- a supportive and positive school community
- extremely well-behaved, enthusiastic children
- excellent facilities
- a commitment to further professional development

NQTs receive both high quality support and appropriate time for professional development, which enables us to provide an outstanding professional opportunity.

Together we can create a truly outstanding school.

Wantage CE Primary School is a member of the Vale Academy Trust, a local multi-academy trust of schools in the Wantage area comprising King Alfreds Academy, St Nicholas CE Primary School, Charlton Primary School, Millbrook, St James CE Primary School and Wantage CE Primary School. The Vale Academy Trust offers a wide range of opportunities for ambitious teachers and any staff have achieved promotion within the Trust.

Visits to the school are welcome.

#### Application Procedure

Application forms are available on our website.

If you do not have access to the internet an application pack can be obtained from the school office, see contact details above.

Closing date: Wednesday 19th April

Interview date: Tuesday 25th April