



## BENSON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Providing a rich,  
stimulating & enjoyable  
environment, where  
children can begin their  
learning journey &  
prepare for adult life*



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

## Message from Mrs Crolla

### *Value for Term 1: Co-operation*

Dear Parents,

Term 1 seems to have flown by, with so many enjoyable events to remember. The children have put all their energies into their learning, using a growth mindset approach. Thank you for all the support that you have provided, especially with homework and attending parent's evenings. It makes a real difference for your child.



Mrs Crolla  
Head Teacher

Thank you for completing our feedback slips, these are still available in reception. It is your opportunity to say what you are pleased with and make suggestions for improvement.

Christmas Charity Donations - The school does not promote any particular charities but if you wish to put together a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child, using the leaflet, that is a possible option. However, if you would prefer to donate to the Christmas Food Bank then the box will remain in Reception. There is no suggestion that you have to take part in either of these, it is entirely your choice as a family.

Attendance - If you wish to request time out of school for special circumstances, please could you put this in writing, for the attention of myself. Please consult the attendance policy on the school's website for clarification. No holiday is authorised.

Playground - FOBS have raised an enormous amount of money for the children. Their energy and enthusiasm is a real strength of our school. They will be funding some play equipment within the barked area, to enable children a wider choice at playtime. Posters will be displayed in Term 2 so that you can see what this will be like. I would ask your support not to allow children to use any equipment before or after school and to respect the lovely play equipment that FOBS have funded to date. Unfortunately, this is not always the case so I am requesting that you reinforce respect for the school environment at home.

I hope that you all enjoy a wonderful half term break.

Mrs Helen Crolla  
Headteacher



## Key Dates

- **31/10/16 - STAFF INSET DAY**
- **01/11/16** - Beginning of Term 2
- **09/11/16** - Ash Class Trip to Oxfordshire Museum
- **11/11/16** - Chestnut Class Care & Share Assembly @ 2.45pm
- **16/11/16** - Flu Immunisation programme for Years 1, 2 & 3
- **17/11/16** - Sycamore & Hawthorn Class Trip to Didcot Railway Station for WW2
- **18/11/16** - Children in Need Day (Spotacular)
- **23/11/16** - FoBS – Rags2Riches Collection Day
- **25/11/16** - School Council Care & Share Assembly
- **29/11/16** - Sycamore & Hawthorn WW2 Education Museum Workshop
- **06/12/16** - Infant Nativity at 6pm
- **07/12/16** - Infant Nativity at 2pm
- **09/12/16** - FoBS Christmas Shop and FoBS Disco
- **16/12/16** - End of Term 2 at 2.15pm
- **04/01/17** - Beginning of Term 3



## Important News

### Benson CE Primary Trip to Oxford

On September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016, two children from year 6 represented Benson Primary School for the inauguration of the bishop of Oxford. These two children called Isobel Sheppard and Jonty Walker went to Christchurch cathedral for a 2 and a half hour service accompanied by Mrs Helen Crolla and Mrs Hazel Nicholson. They waited for the Bishop's entrance as the church choir sang 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' and many other hymns.



During the service, Bishop Steven Croft gave his speech and showed us his to learner badges and said to everyone that he was still learning to be a better Christian. This inspired us all and made us want to follow his example.

After the service, the four of us went to St. Aldgate's church for the reception. We were greeted by the Bishop and our old companion Revd Graham, who was our temporary vicar, and then we had our photo take with the Bishop of Oxford. At the end of the church there was some food that we could have if we were peckish after the service, there was also some drinks. Overall we think that this was an enjoyable experience for us all.

**By Isobel Sheppard and Jonty Walker**



## Sports News

### **Oxford Half Marathon**

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 22 children and 6 adults completed their half marathon on the event course in Oxford. The weather was very kind to us and the atmosphere was inspiring! Over 8000 runners participated in the run – including our very own Miss Berry and over 300 children took part in the Schools Challenge. The children thoroughly deserved their fabulous medals for their achievement and were a credit to themselves and the school. Hopefully we will enter the challenge again next year, with even more children being inspired to participate! Well done to all the children who went this year, and many thanks to parents and particularly staff who gave up their Sunday morning to support them!

### **Tournaments**

#### **Girls Football**

We took part recently in a Yr5/6 and Yr3/4 Girls Football Tournament, against girls from other schools in the Wallingford area. For some this was their first experience of competitive football, and all the girls proved how much fun this can be. Well done to them all for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship!

#### **Year 5/6 High 5 Netball**

Two teams took part in this local event, with 8 teams altogether. The standard was high and again, this was their first netball tournament for some. Both teams played every week with individual and team strengths, but in the end the exceptional teamwork of our 'A' team brought home the trophy. This team won all their games except for one against our own 'B' team (0-0 draw). Well done to all!

#### **PE Kit**

A reminder that every child should have a full PE kit in school at all times. There is no real need for it to go home mid-term, just at the end of each term for a wash. Please ensure trainers are in school on PE days and black joggers for outdoor PE in the cold weather.

*Girls* – if girls are wearing tights in school, please make sure they keep a pair of socks in their PE bag to wear with trainers. Tights are not appropriate to wear for exercise.

#### **After School Clubs**

*Snacks* – If you feel it necessary to provide a small snack for your child to eat prior to clubs this must be a healthy one – ie. No crisps, sweets or cakes please!

*Parking* – Please do not park in the Staff Car Park when collecting children from clubs. This provides an unnecessary risk to children when cars are moving after signing out.

*Signing out* – a reminder that all children must be signed out at the front of school by reception. Please do not ask to sign your child out on the school field.

Many thanks for your continued support.

**Tania Hadfield**





## FoBS News

You will have received in book bags our fridge notes this week, highlighting all the activity we have going on over the next term. If you have any questions please contact your FoBS class rep, comment on our Facebook page or contact the office. Here is an on-line summary of what is coming up!

### **Child Designed Christmas Cards / Mugs**

Share the joy of your child's artwork at Christmas with your friends and family whilst helping the school raise necessary funds. Order information has been sent home in book bags.

### **Uniform Sale Friday 4th November** School drop off / pick-up Playground

Good quality second hand school uniform at great prices – buy for winter or stock up on spares.

### **Rags2Riches** Collection Drop off from: **Mon 21st until 9.15am on Wed 23rd Nov**

Help FoBS raise funds and clear your house of unwanted clean / dry / reusable clothing, bedding, towels and accessories (shoes, bags belts etc). More details to follow in book bags.

### **Christmas Fayre Saturday 26th November 12 - 4pm** Benson Parish Hall

For an afternoon of magic and sparkle our Christmas Fayre is back! Opening earlier due to demand, come along and enjoy Santa's Craft Workshop and Salon, the famous Magical Grotto with the big man, hot food, mince pies, mulled wine and, of course, Christmas shopping.

### **Nativity Performance Teas**

Can you bake a cake or make some biscuits for the event?

### **Annual Christmas Disco Friday 9th December** Reception & KS1 6 - 7pm - KS2 7 - 8:15pm

Calling all children to dress to impress and put on their dancing shoes! The Annual Christmas Disco is just around the corner. Try your luck in our Christmas Raffle with great prizes donated by local businesses! £2.00 per child to include drink & crisps. More details to follow in book bags.

### **School Christmas Shop OPEN Friday 9th December**

During school hours. Please provide £1.00 per child to purchase a gift for you in the School Christmas Shop and look forward to seeing their excitement on Christmas morning as you open their gift! If you have any extra gifts to donate please bring them into school before **Friday 2nd December** – thank you.

**Nativity DVD** Your chance to buy a copy of the School Nativity performance (£5 per DVD) – they make great presents for family.

**FoBS Christmas Drinks – date and venue TBC 7.30pm** All parents, grandparents and carers welcome to join us to celebrate the Christmas season. You do not have to be a member of FoBS to come along.





## FAB FOOTBALL FUN DAY!



Recently, our school experienced an afternoon packed full of exercise and football fun. All the students witnessed this and everyone was eager to take part. The coaches, Jack and Leun, were supportive to everyone, of all abilities. Mrs Hadfield, our excellent sports teacher, told us her view of this wonderful day.

“Football Fun Day was on the first Friday of term and it was fabulous! The whole school took part in football drills and skills with our coaches, and we all enjoyed 40 minutes of focused exercise and fresh air!”

Not only did we talk to Mrs Hadfield, we talked to 2 students that took part in this special occasion. Tiana Fitzgerald said, “My favourite activity was being a goalkeeper.” Wilbur O’Callaghan said, “ I liked the coaches as they have inspired me to play more football!” Both of these students enjoyed this afternoon of football fun, as did the rest of the school.

Rosa Vaccari, Eve Jarman, Molly Bridges.



## Colouring Competition

Primary schools over the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS) coverage area are being asked to get involved with their local ambulance service by taking part in a SCASKIDS/999 Ted colouring competition.

The aim is to colour one or more of the 999 Ted drawings provided in our SCASKIDS Competition webpage.

We would also like to give the winning schools the opportunity to meet some of our staff, our 999 Ted mascot and take a look inside some of our vehicles.

The competition is open to all schools in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Buckinghamshire.

The deadline for submission of the drawing is Friday 11 November 2016.

Competition rules together with entry form are available on our website at [www.scaskids.co.uk/kids-zone/meet-999-ted/](http://www.scaskids.co.uk/kids-zone/meet-999-ted/)

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