



Horspath Church of England Primary School
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Newsletter: Friday 17th January 2020

Half Term Value: Truth

'Know the truth and it will set you free'

Dear Parents,

Happy new year. It's great to be back at school with the children, and I'm pleased to say they have all now settled back into the routine of school life. Thank you for attending the open classroom event on Tuesday. It was lovely to see you all. Please do send us your feedback on the event by email. We are delighted to officially welcome Mrs Wootten and Mrs Harrison to the staff team. They too have settled in well and they both tell me they have been made to feel very welcome by parents - thank you on their behalf.

The Value for this term is Truth. We will be talking about telling the truth, being true to yourself and true to your word. The first Family Talk Homework is attached with the newsletter and you can now get the latest talk homework on the school website.

Message from Mrs Chase

Just a few lines to say Thank you to all of the children and parents for all their lovely, kind messages and leaving gifts. A special thanks to year 6 children and their parents for their incredibly generous John Lewis voucher. It will definitely be put to good use. Happy New Year to you all.

Christmas Jumper Day

A big thank you to everyone who donated to our Christmas Jumper Day in December. We raised £93.00.

Swimming gala

Yesterday, 12 children from Years 5 and 6 took part in a swimming gala at Blackbird Leys Sports Centre. They did very well and showed fantastic enthusiasm and really positive teamwork, all helping and encouraging each other. Thank you to Mrs Cox, who accompanied the children.

PTA update

Everyone should now have received their empty 'Bag2School' donation bags and we look forward to receiving your donations of unwanted (but good condition) clothing, shoes, towels, linen and soft toys. Remember that any bags can be used and that all donations must be in school by 9am on **Wednesday 29th January**. Bags can be dropped at school any time before this date. The more we collect, the more we earn so please spread the word to family and friends.

After a very busy and successful last term, this term is fairly quiet on the fundraising front but we are planning a few cake sales and will also be planning treats for Mothering Sunday. Before Easter we will also be holding our annual Easter Egg tombola so please keep this in mind if you see any Easter Egg bargains in the shops!

We always welcome new faces on the committee and extra pairs of hands at events so if you are interested in helping out with the PTA, please let Mrs Watkins in the office know and she can pass on your details.

Curriculum maps

I hope you have all now seen your child's class curriculum map. These have been produced in response to your feedback on wanting to know more about what topics your child is covering in class. I hope they are useful.

Website

We are in the process of updating our website as we know there is a lot of out-of-date content on it. Please bear with us as we do this and please check the website a few times this term to see what's changed.

Parking

We continue to have issues with parking. This term already I have had reports of parents still parking on double yellows, parking on corners so small children cannot see, and blind reversing. I know I am at risk of sounding like a broken record but *please, please please*, park responsibly so that our children can get to school safely. On that note I remind parents that parking in the school car park is not allowed as it poses a risk to those who ride to school and store bikes in that area.

Office closure

Some of you may have noticed that last term we closed the office on Wednesday during the day. This will continue for a few more weeks on Wednesdays only. The office will be open at the beginning and end of school and telephone messages will be monitored throughout the day. If you need to pick up during the day on a Wednesday, please tell the person on door duty and we will ensure your child is brought to the office at the correct time.

Online safety posters

In response to some issues we have had with social media, please see the online safety posters attached with this newsletter. They contain useful information about TikTok, Snapchat, Whatsapp and Instagram.

Message from the Oxfordshire County Music Service

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Is your child learning an instrument? Do they currently play in a Music Service ensemble?

Playing an instrument is fun, but playing in an orchestra/ band/ group multiplies that enjoyment and takes your child so much further! There is a great opportunity for your child to be part of an ensemble locally at Thame Music Centre. This is run at **Barley Hill School on Saturday mornings in term-time, from 9-10.30am**. We explore a fantastic range of music with children from all over East Oxfordshire and are looking for new members to join us! This activity is FREE for the first term, for children learning an instrument through Oxfordshire County Music Service. If your child does not fall into this category, the fees are just £52 for the term.

Apply online here; <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/music-service/music-groups/saturday-morning-activities/thame>

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me; lorna.waters@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dates for your diary

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday 20 th January	1.30	Pantomime: Jack and the Beanstalk (at school)
Thursday 23 rd January	12.15	Some Year 5/6 children to Sportshall Athletics at Wheatley Park School
Wednesday 5 th February	9.00	Acorn class dinosaur workshop (at school)
Friday 14 th February	3.15	End of term 3
Monday 24 th February		Start of term 4
Monday 2 nd – Thursday 5 th March	All day	Year 5 Bikeability training
Friday 6 th March	9am onwards	Class photos

Wishing you all a very pleasant weekend.

Rachel Medley