



May 2017

Termly Tale

Some Year 11/12 pupils have been busy taking their Entry Level English and Maths examinations - well done to them for taking these in their stride! Some Class 6 pupils have also taken part in mock interviews with positive feedback from the assessor - well done to them.

As part of the Abbey 900 celebrations, most pupils took part in a 'Story carpet' session where visiting volunteers dressed as different characters to tell the story of Cirencester's history. The pupils engaged very well with this sensory activity and concentrated for over an hour.

Three Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils joined forces with boys from The Shrubberies School to compete in a football tournament at Hartpury College. They were up against tough competition but well done to them for enjoying the day regardless!

Some pupils from Classes 3 and 4 took part in the annual Golf Festival at Hartpury yesterday - they were all exhausted by the heat but had a good day.

We have recruited two new supply teachers - Angus Marsden and Anita Ellwood and one new supply teaching assistant, Rebecca Elliot. Luke Oosthuizen has also returned as a midday supervisor and supply teaching assistant. Our new speech and language therapist, Heather Garner, is getting to know pupils. We will also be having an additional speech and language therapist, Victoria Ellis, to work alongside Heather until October.

On the Inset day on 2nd May staff undertook update training in feeding led by Stephanie Mills, senior speech and language therapist. Clare Duncan and Theresa Ricaud, community learning disability nurse with CYPs, led behaviour training. We revisited the school's values and worked on drawing up a statement of what the values look like in school. From September we will re-launch our values and start each term with a 'Values Day' to introduce the value of the term.

Two teams from Lloyds Bank came on their 'Day to Make a Difference' during the Easter holiday and decorated the corridor, toilets, Class 6 small room, painted sheds and garden seats and weeded the sensory garden. They did an excellent job and have really brightened up the school and garden!

Work continues with planning arrangements for managing next year when all classes will have to be housed in temporary classrooms during the building work. We will find out on the last day of the summer term whether planning permission has been granted. Next year will prove a challenge to us with loss of many spaces but it will be worth it in the longer term.

We hope the holiday goes well for you and the sun keeps shining.
Julie Mantell and Jennie Walsh

Reminder –when someone else collects your child

Please make sure you contact the school office so classes can be informed if there are any changes to who is fetching your child at the end of the day, or alternatively put a note in the home-school diary. We are not able to hand over your child to a different person from the one expected.

Private therapists

We have seen an increase in parents employing private therapists and wanting them to spend time observing and/or working with their children in school. This has begun to have a big impact on classes and we have therefore taken the decision to allow therapists to carry out occasional observations in class by agreement with one of us, but any therapy sessions need to take place outside of school hours. Please also ensure that any private speech and language therapists or physiotherapists liaise with our therapists to ensure they are working together to achieve the objectives or outcomes in your child's statement or EHCP.

Daily Mile

This term we have started the daily mile challenge in school. Each day all the pupils are challenged to run or walk a mile - this does not have to be achieved in one go! The aim is to improve the physical, emotional and social health and wellbeing of our children.

Maths Week

This year's maths week focused on *Geometry*. We started each day with a maths DVD and finished with a whole school maths story. On Monday, we went on a shape hunt around school. On Tuesday, we looked at 3D shapes. On Wednesday we used shapes in art and on Thursday we focussed on position and direction activities. On Friday morning, we had a café in Class Six and shared shape biscuits, which we iced and ate!



Sensory Assembly

The Sensory assembly group meets every Friday morning. They use sign language to sing together. Sometimes they play percussion instruments. On other occasions they use parachutes, puppets, bubbles, squeeze balls and materials. Sensory assembly has been running for over five years and during this time, everyone has been able to enjoy the time together in the way that suits them best!

Ben knows the numbers of the songs on the CDs and with a bit of help, he plays the CDs on the machine and changes them over. Toby likes to give out the puppets and collect them back in. Everyone has a special part of the assembly that we really enjoy. Samiya likes to shake things when we use the instruments. Toby's favourite song is "Treasure". Ella has a favourite puppet, a little girl; Ben's favourite one is a penguin. Myles likes small things to hold, so he has his own bag of little finger puppets he uses when we sing. Chloe laughs when the teachers have the puppets on their hands and move them around in time to the music. Tom gets up and dances when his favourite song "Lighthouse" comes on... we all hold hands and row in the boat! Dylan loves to lie on the floor underneath the parachute when the staff are moving it up and down in time with the music, helped by Ben. Chloe loves the feel of the air upon her face as it moves. Corby tries to get his feet on top of the parachute as it comes down!

Pop-up Café

Class 6 have been running a pop-up café this term as part of their Enterprise topic. Each day a team of three have staffed the café with a member of staff, which has included setting up the foyer area with seating and tables, serving customers and tidying up afterwards. In English pupils have focussed on advertising and report writing. They have also all been able to practise vital speaking and listening skills when dealing with customers. In design and technology, they have baked goods to sell each week, as well as making designer bags and planting herbs and flowers to sell in pots. In maths they have made bar charts to record the daily takings, and learnt about stock rotation and stock taking, they have taken payments and given change. Most have had a go at operating the coffee machines too!

Dates for your Diary

5 th June	Term begins
17 th June	Friends' Summer Fair 12-4pm
19 th June	Sports Day 1.30pm/Sports Week begins
10 th July	Moving up day (pupils spend time in new classes if moving in September)
20 th July	Leavers' Assembly 1.30pm
25 th July	Term ends at 1pm

Paternoster School Summer Fair Saturday 17th June 12 - 4pm

Do you have any secondhand toys, DVDs, books, good quality clothes or tombola prizes to donate? Please send in after half term.

No bric-a-brac please.

Calling all home bakers! If you can make a cake (or 2!) please contact Cathy Brown ASAP (cathy1001@hotmail.co.uk)

Thank you!

