



Dolton Church of England School Newsletter | 1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful seeing the sun come out and the days draw on longer. The sounds of birds around the school and the sun streaming in through the windows has certainly supported the continued, impressive development and learning taking place across our setting.

This week has been a busy week with some staff absence but the children have remained calm, polite and purposeful ensuring they are focused and engaged with whoever has been in class with them. I have spent two mornings teaching Lions myself and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the sensational work they are producing and hearing of the phenomenal knowledge recall they have developed over a range of subjects since September - you should be very proud of all your children, we certainly are in school.

This week we had our Local School Committee Meeting where our members report the progress they have seen on visits and through monitoring they have completed over the term. Our team is a strong and successful group of individuals with backgrounds from teaching, educational psychology, leadership management, working for the Diocese and much more. We are very fortunate to have such a strong group to support the ongoing development of the school. I know that they will be sending a letter out in due course introducing themselves more.



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Key dates:

4/4/22 – Exmoor Zoo Trip (KS1)

6/4/22 – Eden Project Trip (KS2)

7/4/22 – Easter Service (in the church) 2pm

8/4/22 – last day of term.

25-27/4/22 – year 3/4 residential

6-8/6/22 – year 5/6 residential

Focus virtue:
Forgiveness

Next week we have our Easter Service (Thursday 7th April at 2pm) in church. This is the first time we will be back in church as a community since the pandemic and we can't wait to celebrate with you all. We hope you will also join us for the Easter bonnet parade - I know staff have been busy googling photos to help them create their own innovative bonnets too!

Finally, it is wonderful to hear of so many parents liaising and communicating with teachers through Seesaw. This is an exceptionally easy way of communicating together and we will be building upon this by increasing the amount we send to you through this platform after Easter. Please note that staff are very busy people who may not respond straight away, especially out of working hours, but they will endeavour to get back to you at the earliest opportunity. If your message is urgent then we ask that you make contact through the office.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.



Mrs. R. Sharpe

**Please note that there will be no After School Club on Monday 4 April
due to staff being on the KS1 Trip**

Academic Excellence

Little Otters: Little Otters have continued to build on their own learning experiences this week. They are really enjoying the new classroom layout and it's wonderful to see the development they are making through their own choices.

Tigers: Tigers class have started to write their TED talks. Our TED talks will be based on the incredible work of Mother Teresa and how she was and is an inspiring changemaker. Mother Teresa wanted to help people living in poverty and in need. Tigers continue to research the UNI Goal - No Poverty as a part of our research project. In RE, we have started to explore and revise the Easter story and why Easter is important to the Christian community.

Lions: Lions have been working on their non - chronological reports this week linked to the civil rights movement. I have been blown away by their factual recall around Civil Rights and the events that happened in the lead up to this. They have been able to talk at length about Inspiring Change Makers and the social injustice that people spoke out about.

During maths we have been focusing on the use of angles and the types of angles we come across. We have linked this to investigations and classification of 2D shapes.

Character Education

Little Otters: With the sun making an appearance last week, the children had a wonderful time outside playing with water. They really came together building on game ideas and working together.

Tigers: Tigers class have enjoyed exploring forgiveness. We discussed how forgiveness is an important part of the Christian belief and how God sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive the sins of the world and the Bible teaches us we should forgive others like God has forgiven us. Tigers class has supported a new member of our class with our character virtues. They have been encouraging him to use the virtue language and recognise and praise him if he displays a virtue.

Lions: As a class we have considered the virtue of forgiveness and how this can be linked back to social injustice and the Christian calendar. We have used this virtue within our Easter poems which we look forward to sharing with you next week at our service in Church.

Community

Little Otters: Little Otters have been really enjoying practicing for our up and coming Easter Service and can't wait to share their performance with you.

Tigers: Tigers enjoyed a workshop from our local Police and Fire Community Support Officer, Sandra Brown. Sandra explored her roles and responsibilities and the impact good and bad choices have on others.

Lions: Last week the Community Safety Officer came in which the children thoroughly enjoyed. They spent time talking about their role and responsibility in keeping our community safe and also gave us tips on how to keep ourselves safe.

Lions have also been practising for the Easter service; we look forward to welcoming the Dolton community to celebrate Easter with us again!

Digital and Innovation

Little Otters: Little Otters have been getting creative this week in the home corner, we have lots of extended play, with the children bringing in other resources to build and develop their own ideas.

Tigers: Tigers have typed up their versions of Handa's Surprise. The children had to use the internet to add images and we worked together to print their stories.

Enjoy reading one of the Tiger's story -

Handa's Surprise

One day there lived a girl called Handa and she was extremely beautiful. Handa put three delicious fruits in her basket for Akeyo. Akeyo is Handa's best friend. Then she set off to Akeyo's village. I wonder what she will like best?

On Handa's journey she could hear the birds tweeting loudly and the colossal elephants stomping. Handa could taste the luscious sweet fruit from her large basket. Handa could see the tall trees and the golden dry grass in the distance. Handa could feel the hot air on her face and the heavy basket on her head. Next she could smell the delicious fruit and the disgusting animal manure.

Suddenly the yellow scary lion reached into Handa's basket and stole the juicy red strawberry. After that the grey fast antelope leaned into Handa's heavy basket and stole the hairy brown kiwi. Next the cute miniature meerkat peered in Handa's basket and stole the crunchy grapes. Handa had no idea that the animals stolen the juicy fruits from her yellow basket.

After that a strong goat head butted a tangerine tree but Handa didn't notice and continued her journey to Akeyo's village. "I brought you a surprise" said Handa. Akeyo said "tangerines, my favourite". Finally Handa and Akeyo ate all of the tangerines. They were both joyous and lived happily ever after.



Lions: Lions class are coming to the end of their DT projects now. They have been very innovative and enjoyed finding ways to unpick challenges and work around them to ensure their overall design still works for the purpose they designed it for.

COVID:

The DfE have produced revised guidance regarding COVID; we are waiting for clarification from Devon County Council but hope to put out some further information early next week regarding changes in isolation periods, etc.



Tuesday 7 April

11am Easter Bonnet Parade in the Village

2pm Easter Service at St Edmunds Church, Dolton

Followed by refreshments in the School

(see poster for more details)



I am on a voluntary 9-month placement with Edukid. Here are some details about a fundraiser I am hosting.

The fundraiser is at The Big Sheep indoor play area on 09/04/22 from 6-9 pm. I will have homemade cakes, sweets, drinks and a raffle with some big prizes. The money raised will go towards my recent visit to Uganda and the continuation of a project I helped to set up out there. None of the money raised will go towards your supported child, however, it will be a great benefit to many other children that Edukid works with.

This should be a really fun local event and I would love to see as many people there as possible. I was hoping, for this reason, you would be willing to attach my flyer to your school newsletter or school Facebook page to help spread the word.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I look forward to hearing back from you.

Kind Regards, Molly Gardner