



Uffington Church of England Primary School

'Optimum Solum Satis Est' – 'Only the best is good enough'

Governors' Newsletter – December 2017

Once again I have the privilege of wishing you all a merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous new year. I am sure that all the hard that you have undertaken will ensure a glorious family gathering. Both the staff and board of governors' hard work began earlier in the year when we decided to launch a new website, social media coverage, establish and procure a more solid staff team and finally, give the opportunity for the children to participate in more curriculum enrichment activities. We set ourselves a keen target date of beginning of the new school year 2017—2018 and I am more than pleased to say that our collective hard work paid off and the comments of present and prospective parents has been very encouraging. Finally, many thanks to the PTA for their massive contribution in time and effort in supporting the school.

Ron Carter

Celebrating Christmas

Christmas is always a special time at Uffington School and we have been very busy with a wide range of activities including a Christingle Service, the Nativity, carol singing at The Bertie Arms, Christmas Jumper Day to raise funds for Save the Children, Christmas lunch followed by the Winter Wonderland Run and a visit to the pantomime. The Carol Concert in Uffington Church was a great success as always and put everyone into the festive mood.



Ready for the Nativity



Christmas Jumper Day



Christingle service



Carol singing at The Bertie Arms



Carol concert

Church School Links

The Open the Book initiative continues to be a great success with both children and staff looking forward to their weekly sessions in church.

In the absence of Rev Carolyn, we have been delighted to welcome local clergy into school : Rev Lis Ward of St George's, Fr Simon Gillespie of St Augustine's and Father Aran Beasley of All Saints have all led worship. Rev Lis has also supported RE teaching in Y2 and led the Christingle service in church.

As always, we took part in the parish Harvest Festival with children in Y5/6 visiting the elderly with cards and posies of flowers which, judging by the cards and letters we have received, were greatly appreciated. Children in Years 5 and 6 led our Remembrance Service this year.



Harvest Deliveries



Remembrance Service

Open the Book



Y2's Harvest Display



School Council

The School Council are an enthusiastic group of class representatives with each councillor elected by their peers. The remit of the school council is to make the school a better place and to raise money for charity, especially those organisations that focus upon children who are less fortunate than those who attend Uffington School.

This term, the school council have taken responsibility for selling poppies and promoting Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day.

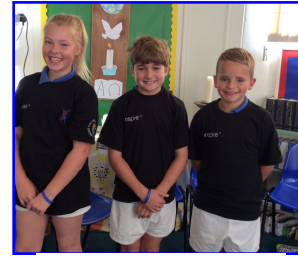
The children led a campaign to encourage families to fill a shoebox with Christmas Presents for the Operation Christmas Child appeal. A total of thirty-six boxes were delivered to a collection point and councillors would like to thank all those who supported this special cause.



Sports Premium

The amount of funding received by schools has doubled this year to £16,000 plus £5 per pupil to develop sports provision. Funds are being used to procure coaching, support the development of inter-school sport in the Stamford district and purchase equipment and kit.

As a result of the increase in funding, we have also been able to employ a Sports Apprentice who supports curricular and extra-curricular PE and Sport throughout the school, as well as providing learning support in classrooms.



Young Ambassadors

We benefit greatly from our partnership with the sports charity Inspire+.

Through our investment of Sports Premium funding, children benefit from a wide range of additional activities including inter-school sport. This term, a number of KS2 children are taking part in after-school hockey training and multiskills funded through Inspire+. Three new Young Sports Ambassadors have been selected; they have attended training and will help to promote physical activity throughout the school.

Olympic swimmer Sophie Allen spoke to KS2 children in October about mental health and well-being and has begun a series of mentoring visits for selected children in Years 5 and 6.

Inter-School Sport

The school continues to maintain its high profile in school sport and, thanks to Mrs Swanson with support from Mr Steele, has been awarded the Gold Mark for School Games for the second year in a row. We were delighted to be presented with the award during a visit by Paralympian Sam Ruddock on 14th December.

This term the Y3/4 Tag Rugby team once again competed in the Stamford and District tournament; they were placed equal second. Netball league matches have taken place throughout this term with the team finishing in second place. The lacrosse team also won the Stamford and District tournament for the third year in the row and will now progress to the next round.



Year 3/4 Rugby team

Winter Wonderland Run

Throughout December all children from Year 2 to year 6 took part in the Winter Wonderland Running Challenge. Each week the children were challenged to run more laps of the field culminating in a final run on 15th December. Fuelled by Christmas lunch and Santa hats, every single children exceeded their target number of laps and even the most reluctant of runners, felt a great sense of achievement!



Opportunities for All

One of our main aims in this school year is to ensure that all children have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities that enrich the curriculum including visits and visitors to school. During this term extra-curricular activities have included: sports coaching led by Mrs Swanson, Mr Steele and Mr Lawson; MACCA soccer; hockey; Multiskills; woodwind tuition and board games club. After Christmas, Mrs Vicky Palmer will once again be offering sewing club.

We have established strong links with the STEM organisation (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and a number of ambassadors have led workshops in science and engineering. Y6 enjoyed a Construction Skills day at Stamford College where they won an 'Apprentice-style' enterprise challenge.

A number of visits to local places of interest have been greatly enjoyed by all the children: children in Miss Waters' and Mrs Pasqualino's class visited Tallington Christmas Tree farm and KS2 enjoyed a history trip to Flag Fen. KS2 also took part in the Into Film Festival in Grantham when they watched a screening of 'The Eagle Huntress'.



Stamford Georgian Festival

Mr Genever with Y2



Fun at Burghley

Parent Teachers' Association

The PTA continue to work hard to raise funds for the school. This term we have enjoyed a Mufti Day and Cake Sale, taking part in raising funds for Children in Need and the main fundraiser of the year—the Christmas Fayre which raised in the region of £1,300.

The PTA have funded a number of projects recently: equipment for outdoor play area; Lego for Y2; a Bose music player; library books and garden features. They have made a significant financial contribution to the trips to Flag Fen and Tallington Christmas Tree Farm and have also agreed to fund new playground markings and a noticeboard.

Somes Trust

We value highly the financial support given to us by the Somes Trust. The Trust continue to subsidise the cost of swimming tuition and transport to Stamford for both PE and Swimming lessons.

Term Dates

Tuesday 19th December—Term ends
Wednesday 3rd January—Term 4 begins
Friday 9th February—Term ends
Monday 19th February—Term 5 begins