



Coombe Bissett Primary

Newsletter 2 (mid way Term 1)

2021-22



KEY THINGS

To support busy parents each newsletter will have a short 'key things' at the top.

- School PE Hoodies = please see the order form accompanying this newsletter, please order ASAP as there is a print deadline.
- Car parking = please continue to work with our village neighbours by avoiding parking on the bend of Shutts Lane, or across driveways.
- Oak Class 'stay and play' = this is cancelled for next week while Mrs Bowers is off work for the week. However, we have secured a supply teacher to be consistent for the children for the whole week. We will look to re-arrange a date for this term.
- Half term building works = the delayed summer building works will hopefully be done in half term. We will be having a new foyer area for parents and visitors, new fencing and new gates.
- New digital communication and parent payment system = information has been sent out regarding our new communication and payment system please contact the office if you have not received this.
- Uniform = please ensure your child is in uniform each day (PE Kit on PE days). We have several children wearing hoodies and different socks.
- Date reminders (from the 'parent diary') =
 - Tues 28th 3.15pm KS2 Parent Forum in the hall
 - Thurs 30th 3.15pm KS1 Parent Forum in the hall
 - Thurs 30th 2.50pm Diary of Reflection Service (please note, as a change from the parent diary, this will not be held in the Church but in the school hall) - parents are welcome
 - Fri 8th 2pm Harvest Festival in Church – parents are welcome
 - Wed 13th 3.15-4pm – KS2 Celebration of Learning – come and look at your children's learning
 - Fri 15th 3.15-4pm – KS1 Celebration of Learning – come and look at your children's learning
 - Fri 15th 2.50pm – Ash Class Presentation Worship – parents are welcome

HELICOPTER VISIT

This term we were treated to a Helicopter visit from Mr Pillans – a huge thank you to Mr Pillans for this wonderful opportunity for the children. The report below will also appear in the Coombe Bissett and Homington Express.

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Helicopter Visit

On Friday, 17th September, an army helicopter visited our school; it took off from Middle Wallop and landed in the cricket field near Coombe Bissett School.

We observed the helicopter land from behind the barriers. The helicopter had two propellers and three seats, which means it seated three people. Its model was a Sioux which was built in the 1960s. Others of its model were used in the Korean and Vietnam wars, although mainly in Korea.

It was made from aluminum, steel and carbon fibre, and the windscreen in the front was a Perspex dome bubble. Its top speed is 75mph and its propellers turn at 300rpm.

If you want to fly this army helicopter it takes 2 years of pilot training. We learned all these facts by listening to Mr Rich Pillans, who was the pilot and also has a daughter called Bobbie in Fir class.

After speaking to us, he allowed us to sit in the seats and look at the controls. We could even pretend to steer it using the steering controls.

Back behind the barrier, we watched the pilot return to the sky and fly away. This was our encounter with an army helicopter from the 1960s....and we loved it.

Reported by Hanna and Dexter (Ash class)



REFLECTION GARDEN



This Thursday we were delighted to welcome Bishop Andrew to open our Reflection Garden with a special blessing. Children, staff, parents, local businesses, the parish and adults from the parish came together to fund, design and construct this beautiful addition to the school grounds and they all enjoyed this special service.

Reverend Jenny was thrilled at the wonderful peace and reflection the children showed and the beautiful prayers and questions as the children led the worship.

This Reflection Garden provides space at playtime and lunchtime to sit in peace and offer prayers and reflections, placing their prayer pebbles around the water feature in the middle. They are surrounded by beautiful flowers and mosaics of the school values and the seasons of creation – all installed by the children themselves. Pathway paving was created by the children enabling them to walk to the garden.

A huge thankyou Kirsten Webster for all her efforts with fundraising and helping the children to construct mosaics and pathway stones.

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100 CLUB AND PARENT FORUMS

If you like to take part in the Friends School 100 club please contact Mrs Kirsten Webster.

This term our parent forums will focus on:

- How well you feel the children have settled in to the start of the year, and
- What has been done well, could have been done differently by the school to help parents at the start of the year

A MESSAGE FROM MR WYATT – MATHS LEADER

Mathematics Learning On-Line

As in previous years, the school has purchased accounts for two on-line platforms for learning Mathematics. Mathletics is available for all children from Year R to Year 6 and provides a safe, encouraging learning environment with the right level of challenge to help your children grow, gain confidence and achieve their best. Aligned to the National Curriculum, Mathletics activities are relevant, reinforce lessons learned in school and help your children gain mastery over maths topics. It has an enormous range of games and activities to practice all areas of Mathematics, with both learning and assessment activities, including Multiverse for practicing times tables. Children can also gain points to develop an on-line avatar character and to earn certificates.

Times Tables Rock Stars is a carefully sequenced programme of times tables practice for Key stage 2. Different games and activities, competing against yourself or others, allow for improved knowledge and times tables recall speed whilst earning points to develop your own Rock Star character.

Designed to provide fun and engaging maths learning, both of these sites ensure that time spent on devices can be productive. Easily accessed on mobiles or tablets for instant, both are great to support mathematical learning at home through rewarding and positive screen time.

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VALUES

As you know our school values are: Care, Commitment, Creativity, Belief, Bravery, Brilliance. We live these out each and every day as we see them as great values for life.

This term we are focusing on CARE.

The children will be learning about:

- Love your neighbour as you love yourself
- God is love
- Care for your body, mind, spirit
- Care for God's creation
- Use your gifts to serve others

The bible stories we focus on for the children are:

- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- Feeding the 5,000 (Luke 9:12-17)
- The story of Ruth

The children may speak to you about our wise old Owls we have in collective worship.

We have St George who is with us in every worship – he is our school Owl. The children have learnt / will learn each year about 'St George', the Patron Saint of England.

And for this term, as our wise old Owl for CARE, we have Raphael. The children have learnt how Raphael, who is the Arch-Angel, is also the patron Saint for anyone who needs help. They learnt the story of how God sent Raphael to help Tobit and Tobias as another reflection on how we can all be little angels, helping others, caring for others.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ON REFLECTIONS AND REFLECTIVE THINKING SKILLS

As part of our worships we often look at a news event and relating these to our Values. Many children will want to continue these discussions at home, so to support parents we will be emailing out the picture news at home resource most weeks.

Children will be leading on the creation of a display board of all the reflections based on this news event. If you wish to send in to school pictures / writing / photos of your reflections at home the children leading this would love to put this up on display.

Each term we also enable the children to reflect on the Value of the term at several points through the term. These reflections are put into a class 'Diary of Reflection' and each term some children read out some of their reflections to the rest of the school in the termly 'Diary of Reflection' service.

Again, if children want to create any reflections at home these too will be put up on display by the children who are the Collective Worship leads for each class.

In our reflections we are trying to enable the children to deepen their reflective skills. The images below show the rising skills (deepening levels of reflection) for the children.

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In collective worship we reflect through prayers – children are encouraged to share their ‘impromptu prayers’ in most worships. We talk about:

- Windows – looking through the window to learn from others
- Mirrors – reflecting on what that means to me as a unique individual
- Doors – taking action as a result, making a change

At the end of each week we share the ‘Scrolls’. These ‘Scrolls’ are in each classroom where the children nominate others that they have noticed walking through the ‘door’ that week in relation to the value.

To help all the children align their levels of reflective thinking within a ‘spiritual context’ we show all the children the first image – encouraging their reflections to grow in spiritual complexity from self to others to the world to the beyond. You will notice the link in the first image to windows, mirrors, doors.

‘Spirituality is not the sole province of Christianity, and this approach is not about creating Christians. Every religion develops the spiritual side of those that practice that belief, and those who do not have a religious belief also have value systems that develop a spiritual element not related to a deity – everyone can go ‘beyond’ in their thoughts. This approach is about developing our unique capacity of reflection, to go beyond to that place of wonder, that place where something special happens in our thoughts.

SELF (what it means to me)	OTHERS (what it means to others, how this helps others, how I can help others)
THE WORLD / BEAUTY / NATURE (what it means to the world, how can I change the world)	BEYOND (is there something more, how does this relate to my belief systems)

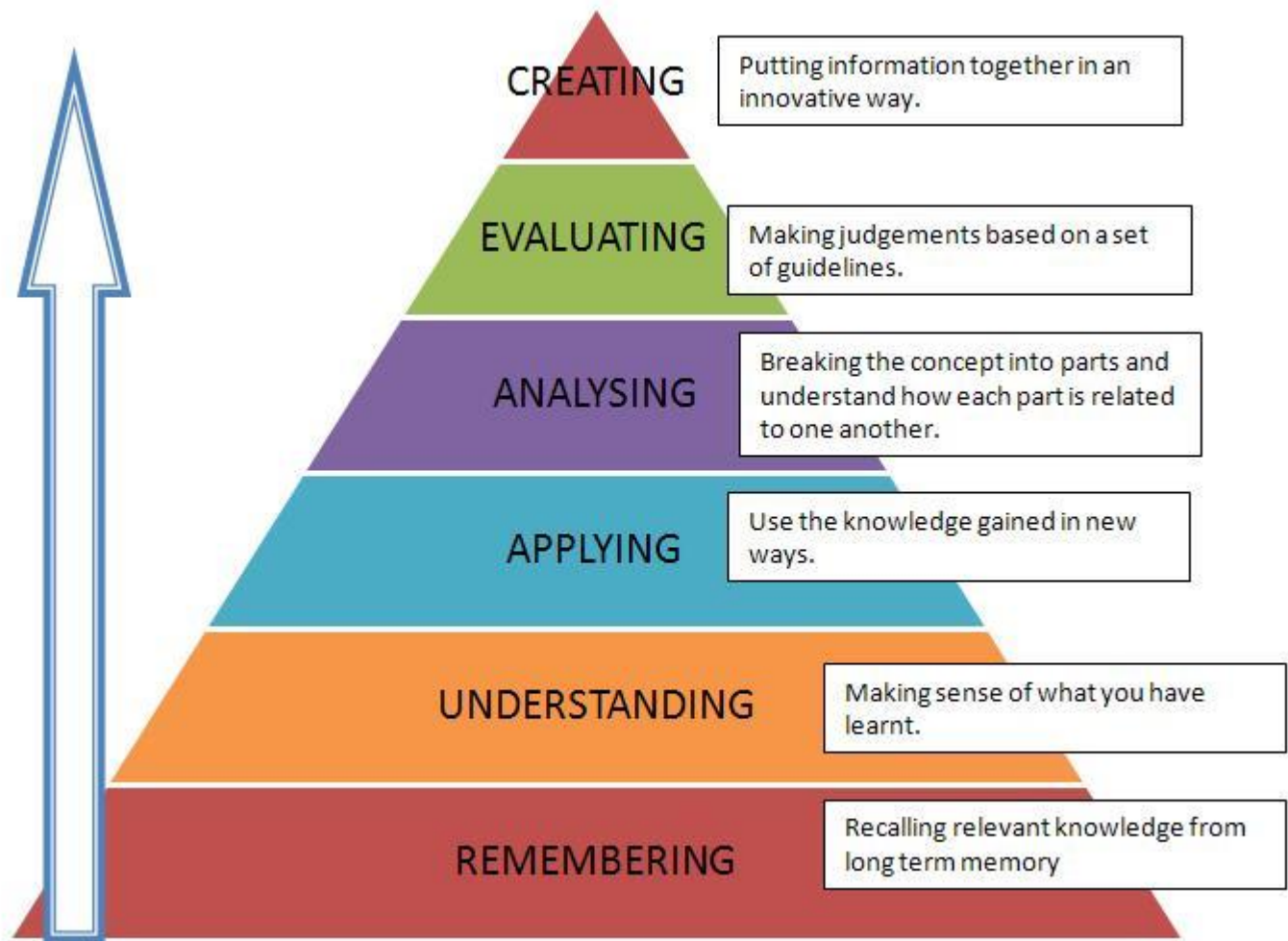
In KS2 we show the children this 2nd image. It helps them to identify how thinking skills can develop not just in reflections but in their subjects. This week was their first introduction to this and they really enjoyed exploring this concept in more depth.

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HEALTHY SNACKS

KS1 children receive free healthy snacks from the government. We have no control over what these are and they vary each day. These are usually banana, apple, raisin, pear, carrot. If your child does not like certain fruit or veg you may wish to send a healthy snack in with them instead, just in case.

KS2 children should bring in a healthy snack each day. It is a long time till their lunch and this will help them with their concentration. A healthy snack is either fruit, veg, raisins, yogurt, cheese. No cereal bars please.

We have already begun to notice a difference in learning stamina in KS2 to those that have a healthy snack and those that don't.

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PEER LEADERS

This week, some of our Ash children have begun to run their lunchtime clubs for the younger children. It has been delightful to see. The older children get so much from this in terms of developing their communication and organisation skills, and the younger children simply love learning from the older ones.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

This year our school is focusing on:

Focus	Vision
Developing our Teaching and Learning practice to enable the children to become more deeply / actively and personally engaged in all elements of the learning process. This includes: Improving children's writing across the curriculum. Improving children's mental fluency of number facts and their verbal and written mathematical reasoning.	So all children can 'Soar on wings like eagles'
Developing our middle leadership skills across the curriculum to ensure all subjects are excellent and children enjoy a wide range of learning.	So all children can 'Run and not grow weary'
Developing the children's opportunities to lead and to grow their confidence across all aspects of learning and personal development. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learning powers and learning stamina- Pupil Leadership- Wider opportunities	So all children can 'Walk and not be faint'
Improving attendance for all – especially for those children with previously low attendance figures who have fallen behind as a result	So all children can 'Soar on wings like eagles'

Oak Class – Salisbury Cathedral trip – Monday 4th October 2021

Please can all outstanding consent forms be returned to the office as soon as possible.

Wiltshire Schools – Primary & Secondary Admissions

The deadlines for school admissions for September 2022 are as follows:

Primary Schools – 15/01/2022 (If your child is 4 on 01/09/2022)

Secondary Schools – 31/10/2021 (If your child is currently in Y6)

Applications can be made on the Wiltshire Council website at the following location:

<https://parentportal.wiltshire.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/admissions>

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