



*One family learning for life, on a journey towards our potential.*

**Church of England, Voluntary Aided School**

[www.kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk)

## January 2017 Update

The end of term Christmas nativities were split last year to accommodate a larger school and the increasing need for the older children to be able to lead something more grown up! We have received lots of really encouraging feedback about these two events and the children performed brilliantly with confidence, lively songs and excellent costumes provided by the parents. Our older children led a fabulous service at West Overton Church with a candle lit beginning and some truly splendid singing that caused a few tears from the congregation! Both events helped us all to re-focus on the real meaning of Christmas in such a busy time of year. I was exceptionally proud of all the children!

### Reception Class

Our new starters in September have settled in really well to school and no longer feel new! Our programme of buddying by the year 6's really helped with this transition and the small class size also contributes to the children getting to know each other and their teachers more easily. They are a delightful group of children who are already taking an active part in school life and growing in confidence daily!

### Walk to West Woods

The youngest pupils (4&5yrs old) walked up to the woods again with a band of merry parent-helpers for some storytelling and drama activities recently. Walks to the woods for outdoor classroom sessions are always a popular occasion with children and the parent helpers. It creates an opportunity for the children to come alive in different ways and the fresh air is usually most energising!

### Courage

This is our Christian value this term and we will be learning about this through our RE sessions, collective worship and also helped to think about this through learning about the Romans and other story telling. Our year 6 pupils are off to The Isle of Wight on an activity based residential trip in February and they will be facing tests of individual courage in many challenging activities as individuals and working together as a team.

We are working hard with our year 6 pupils (including after school Biscuit Club) to give them confidence, courage and ability as we prepare them for the government SATS testing in May. These are challenging tests and the children are working hard to prepare for these.

### The Romans

This period of history was brought alive for Griffin and Pegasus classes, when Mr James Smith joined us for a day to act out aspects of Roman life – clearly the battle scenes were a particular hit with the children who came dressed up as Romans for the day. We are studying this in school and through our topic based homework....some Minecraft settlement creations have been impressive!

### Sport

In addition to our PE sessions, we are running very well attended tag-rugby after school training this term to make sure our children are really the absolute best they can be for the schools competition on the horizon. Last year we came a well deserved 3rd place and the children would love to improve on that position this year – they are showing some great determination to succeed!

Hockey is also a PE focus in readiness for that local schools festival coming up too!

### Out of school success

Tilly Robinson has achieved her grade 1 singing exam with distinction and Tom Gittins his grade 2 flute with merit – both worked very hard to achieve these great results! Well done!

### Panto time!

We wish Mrs France and her budding team of thespians good luck in the annual Kennet Valley Pantomime and I am delighted that even more children from school are taking part this year. Florence Weru Peel, Sammy Till-Vattier and Mrs France were interviewed live on BBC Radio Wiltshire in the radio studio to promote the panto, as their classmates listened and applauded from the classroom!

The usual mix of school discos, cake sales and charity days are coming up in February - watch out for Disney characters around the valley on 3rd February as we dress up to raise money for the Prospect Hospice!

I am grateful to The Friends of Kennet Valley School for organising the First Ever Pancake Races and Breakfast on Saturday 25th February and hope to see you there with your frying pan and running legs on! The details for this event are in this edition of this Upper Kennet Valley News.

Finally, I am delighted to welcome Nina Boyer from Lockeridge back to lead our school choir with the after-school club - we look forward to her creations with the children! Thankyou Nina.

Mrs Karen Venner, Headteacher