



March 2016 Update

As we approach the Easter celebrations and holidays, the children have been most creative with help from home in producing an impressive display of decorated eggs in the theme of story characters to coincide with our book week. We joined parents and friends for a lovely Easter Service in West Overton where as always, the children sang beautifully in helping us all to remember the real meaning of Easter.

Adventure in Dorset

Our year 4 children had a great time in Dorset for a few days on their residential trip where they took part in many outdoor fun activities to push them out of their comfort zones, work as a team and try new things together. We are delighted to report that the children behaved very well - for some it was a first trip away from their parents and they all coped really well. There were some very early risers and we all returned home ready for some good night's sleep! Our year groups are generally small at Kennet Valley, and so the children know each other well before they head out into the bigger world together!

Sport

Our year 5&6 pupils took part in a very exciting all-day local primary schools tag rugby tournament and having had some extra coaching after school over recent months, in addition to PE time, they were strong and fast teams who worked really well together. They came 4th in the top group and 3rd in the second out of 32 teams – just brilliant! Once again, our teams were well supported by a most encouraging vocal group of parents and we really value their support and the refreshments they provided.

To help our weekly whole school PE sessions at Kennet Valley Hall, we are most grateful for two new netball posts very kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Gater. These sessions continue to be a great opportunity for the children to develop their sporting and teamwork skills outdoors, with plenty of space to build up their stamina. The older children warm up with a run twice round the field!

The year 2 pupils took part in the local primary schools orienteering event and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, learning how to work effectively together in small teams..... A great effort in some challenging weather conditions!

Upper school learning

Our year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed time with Maria our rector recently when she came to talk to us about how different faiths link together. She brought in a range of artefacts and talked about where they came from and how they link religions or faiths together. The children found it really interesting and asked Maria some probing questions.

Egypt Day – As part of the national curriculum this month we brought in the ex-Head of Preshute, James Smith to bring ancient Egypt alive for us in the 21st century. We took part in a range of activities during the day, which included finding out about making a mummy, and then making one! We also looked at a range of artefacts which helped us to unlock the mysteries of this period in history. The children dressed up in costumes for the day to help them imagine being an explorer all those years ago – the Indiana Jones look was a particular favorite with the children! A huge thankyou to James for making our day so dramatic and memorable.

Musical success for Olivia, Tom, Amber, Phoebe, Seb and Daisy

We are pleased to report that our pupils performed very well in the Swindon Music festival again this year, with some impressive first and second places amongst some personal best performances. We are very grateful to Mrs Bellamy, as well as other local music teachers, who teach woodwind to a growing number of pupils, all of whom are making exceptionally good progress.

IT

We really appreciate Mrs Fry's volunteering to provide after school computer programming club sessions this term and she has also kindly been helping deliver programming sessions in the school day. We are launching the use of new tablet devices to broaden the scope of learning for our pupils.

Traffic Calming

Our pupils' next venture will be making windmills to decorate the grass verge to support the village campaign to slow down traffic. We will be changing these features as often as possible to alert people to our school.

The Friends

Our next Quiz Night and Supper at the Kennet Valley Hall is on 21st May. Everyone is invited to help raise funds for the school at this sociable and fun evening [more information to follow.] We are also planning a celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday in the summer and the children will be inviting villagers to join us for afternoon tea!

I hope you all have a lovely Easter celebration and that we have some more sunshine to lead us into the next term!

Mrs Karen Venner, Headteacher