



November 2015 Update



## Science Week

Developing a curiosity about the workings of the world is crucial for our children. That is why we have once again assembled an exciting programme of science based activities for our science week. We have partnered with STEM [Science Technology Engineering and Maths] ambassadors for some sessions, whilst others have been led by our talented parents. The older children learnt about the principles of construction and properties of materials, worked in small teams to make bridges out of only paper and string, the challenge being to support the weight of multiple tins of baked beans! Lots of imagination and engineering principles (thankyou Lego and minecraft!) led to many impressive creations. Our younger children by contrast worked in pairs to explore ideas of force and friction. Making wind powered vehicles with sails, the children tested their creations with a race across the school hall. The children then had the chance to make modifications to improve their speed and endurance, with some interesting results!

We also really appreciated sessions provided by Mrs Gittins on the heart and circulation which included using stethoscopes and a Doppler machine to hear our pulses in our necks and feet; Mrs Davies teaching us about magnification and the study of insects under the microscope; and Mr Till Vattier helping us to have fun learning about electricity!

## Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

At Kennet Valley we are equipping our pupils for the modern world and are working on new initiatives to embrace ICT for teaching and learning. We have established a working group made up of parents, staff and governors, with an interest in IT, to *"Help the school successfully deliver the new Digital Curriculum and maximise the value of the investment in ICT equipment, training, services and specialists"*. We have upgraded the ICT infrastructure in school and established a three year budget for a broad range of further improvements. We have also established a Code Club where the children use the fundamentals of programming to design their own computer games. It's so popular that it's fully subscribed for Terms 1 and 2. Do watch this space as we will keep you posted on developments over the coming months.

## School Garden

We are grateful to a small group of parents who are helping us think about ways of developing the children's outdoor learning spaces. We are a school with growing

aspirations and so we are looking at ways that we can bring different areas into educational use. We will be approaching a charitable fund in the New Year with our ideas and if successful will share details of the next stage.

## Tournament success!

We are thrilled to report the success of our year 5&6 boys and girls at the Primary School's Netball Tournament in November. This in part reflects the quality of our PE sessions being run at Kennet Valley Hall on the car park court, with additional expert tuition from Mrs Porter and Mrs Jones. The children had a great time and played really well in their teams to achieve a first and third place. This is an amazing achievement for our small school and we are all really proud of these results!

## Alicia's success!

Alicia Boyer is at St John's now but we still would like to share her ice skating success with you - she has recently been invited to compete at a higher level than her age group in the National competitions!

## School Nativity

Our annual school nativity has become so popular with parents and friends that we will be doing two performances this year on 10<sup>th</sup> December. All villagers are invited to join us at the 2pm Nativity at the Kennet Valley Hall, with the evening performance reserved for parents. Do come and join our Christmas celebration - the children really bring the spirit of Christmas alive with their great performances. Please call the school office on 861202 to reserve your seats.

## Pantomime rehearsals

It's great that so many of our children and their parents are helping to prepare for the Kennet Valley Pantomime this year with our very own Mrs France and Mrs Till Vattier - we expect great things!

**Christmas Fair** - come and join us on 4<sup>th</sup> December 5-7pm. Enjoy some mulled wine, a hog roast, the school choir and a selection of table top treats to buy!

## School Choir

Once again, Mrs Osborn is very kindly leading after school rehearsals in readiness for our Christmas events. The children will be signing at The Jubilee Centre in Marlborough and at the West Overton Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. The children sing beautifully so do come and hear them in action!

Wishing you a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

Mrs Karen Venner, Headteacher

