



## October 2015 Update

### New term

Our thirteen new reception children have settled very quickly into school life. Many of them have older siblings at school which helped in the early days and our small class sizes made it easy for the teachers to get to know them. We also welcomed new children in other year groups including some year six school transfers - this now brings the total to 96 pupils at our school which is great. A lovely start to the term was gathering with Maria and parents at our Harvest Festival Service at West Overton Church where all the children were involved with great singing as always!

### Sport at Kennet Valley Hall

You may have noticed our weekly Wednesday whole school walk up to the hall for an afternoon of PE? Although we have been able to offer the children a range of games and sporting activities at the school in recent years, this has always been limited by our lack of school field. This new off-site session we have introduced this year helps to plug that gap. All the children, no matter what their ability, start the session with a lap [or two] of the field, followed by various team and individual games and sporting skills sessions. We are especially grateful to parents Mrs Jones and Mrs Porter for their additional help each week with sports coaching skills. Already we are noticing an improvement in the children's physical ability and the walk to the hall is becoming quicker each week! We were also particularly thrilled that our year 6 netball team won their primary school match last week - recognition of our new Wednesday sporting focus. Each year group has another designated PE session elsewhere in the week, in addition to the option of after school sports clubs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hall committee for welcoming us to the hall and encouraging us to use and develop the facilities.

### Thriving After-School Clubs

In addition to our popular after-school Dragon Club, orchestra and choir, this term we have been able to offer a new Monopoly Club [thanks to Mrs Seddon for picking this up next term], Computer Programming (Coding) Club [thanks to Mrs Fry and Mr Till-Vattier] and Cheerleading Club with our PE teacher. Despite busy days, I am always amazed at the energy of the children at the end of each day!

### Weekly French Lessons

To supplement our French curriculum, we are delighted that parent volunteer Mrs Till-Vattier comes into school every Friday afternoon to provide French classes. The children really look forward to these fun-filled lessons and are making progress already. Tres Bien!

### The Great Kennet Valley Bake Off!

Baking sessions are popular at the school with all year groups [linked to weighing and measuring, numeracy and reading skills]. To enable us to extend this activity, the year 6 pupils organised their own cake sale to start our fundraising effort for new kitchen facilities this month. We are intending to make better use of the kitchen space and to improve the design for the children, together with a larger oven and a hob. We are very grateful to parents and 'The Friends' for helping us progress this.

### Out of school achievements

Well done to Olivia Mercer [year 6] Amber Boyer and Tom Gittins [both year 5] for being selected to move up to the Penguins Swimming Club Development Training sessions. We know this is hard work and you are really pushing yourselves to improve.

**Date for your Diaries** - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Fish and Chips and Quiz night at the Kennet Valley Hall & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December is our school Christmas Fair 5-7pm - more details to follow. We hope you'll come and join us for a fun and festive evening.

Karen Venner, Headteacher