



October 2016 News

Outdoor Learning - We are working hard to enjoy the outdoors in the autumn sunshine and our youngest children in Reception and Year 1 walked to our best outdoor classroom of all, West Woods recently with the kind help of some parent helpers. Here we used our senses to feel and smell the environment and the children collected leaves and feathers to make pictures. You may have noticed the lovely colourful photo of our new starters in the Gazette and Herald taken on this excursion!

Our weekly whole school walks up to the Kennet Valley Hall for PE also create a great talking opportunity for the children and teachers in observing our beautiful rural school setting.

I am most grateful to a small band of parent helpers who come into school to help maintain our Spiritual Garden. This area is also well used by our afterschool club too and creates a valuable opportunity for imaginative games and quiet contemplation.

Charitable Giving - Our Value for this Term has been Generosity which includes thinking about how we can help those less fortunate than ourselves. We have supported the children's understanding through a number of activities. A very successful afternoon of coffee and cakes was organised by the year 6 children raising over £200 for MacMillan Cancer Care – a big thankyou to all the cake makers and purchasers!

Spotacular Day for Children in Need is coming up, when we will be making donations in support of a spotty clothes non-uniform day and enjoying some additional fun at school.

The school council will be working together with Mrs Hues to make suggestions about ways we can support our overseas charity "The Shonda Project" which supports a school and community near Mombasa, Kenya.

Harvest Thanksgiving - We gave thanks for the harvest at West Overton Church with Maria and remembered those less fortunate than ourselves with a most generous donation from the children of food

for the local Trussell Trust. Each class presented a poem or song to help us remember what harvest is about and the children sang joyfully and with their usual enthusiasm.

Science Experiment Days - We are off to a great start with our increased focus on science at school and the children have experienced an array of experiments to help them explore and question why things happen linked to changing materials and states of matter. Our oldest pupils have been experimenting with different ways of making bread using an assortment of different ingredients and methods and comparing the results and creating some tempting aromas around the school!

Marlborough Literary Festival - It was lovely to be able to take the year 6 children to the Town Hall to take part in a talk by author Abi Elphinstone with other local schools. She talked about her inspiration for her book the 'Dream Snatcher'. The children returned to school and wrote up their personal reflections and learning from this trip.

After school clubs - Once again we are offering a wide assortment of after school activities for the children including sporting activities and choir. There is also the usual scattering of fun film nights. Next term, in addition to these, we will be offering a Computer Programming Club, a Biscuit Club to provide additional support for our year 6 pupils in preparing for their SATS tests next year and a course in sign language.

The Friends of Kennet Valley - Finally, we invite you to join us for the fun Quiz and Chips night (Fish & chips) on Saturday 19th November and our Christmas Fayre at the Kennet Valley Hall on Saturday 26th November. Thank you to The Friends for their great fund-raising efforts to help support our pupil's learning and to those of you who join us. It's always a great occasion when the school and the community come together!

Mrs Karen Venner, Headteacher