



# Kennet Valley C of E VA Primary School

## Newsletter

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020



As we come to the end of another half term, I am pleased to share some of the adventures that we have been up to. This term we have had new sports coaches at the Kennet Valley Hall (Badminton and Cricket), have taken part in several sports competitions and been on educational visits and walks.

The children have continued to work extremely hard, as have the staff and governors, and I am always delighted to show new people around our lovely, warm school. During this school year, we have welcomed visitors such as other Headteachers, LEA colleagues and teachers who work with the English and Maths hubs, as well as a wide variety of potential parents and local visitors. I continue to encourage visitors to leave comments about their visits in our WOW book. If you have been in to school, please do not hesitate to leave me a comment about your experience here.

We have continued to hold our Celebration Collective Worship on a **Friday afternoon from 2.30pm**, where children from each class share some of their work from the week. Please come and join us if you can.

Next term we will be having two parents' evenings where you will be able to book appointments with class teachers to find out about the progress your child is making and the next steps in their learning. We will also be having a Reading parents evening where we will talk to you about early reading, guided reading and phonics.

**Reading** - This year we have been working with the Ramsbury English Hub. They have been supporting us with Phonics and reading within school, which is an area on our School Development Plan. In the parents meeting at the start of the year I talked about the importance of children reading in 3 ways; silent reading to themselves, reading aloud to another person and have books read to them. As a school, we have embraced this and children will do these three types of reading throughout the week. We hear children individually, in groups and in whole class guided reading. We assess during all of these, but also use assessment materials to help to track progress.

I wanted to remind you that all children have example questions in their reading records or on their bookmarks, which you can use at home to check their comprehension of the books that you are reading together. If you need another copy of these questions, please let your class teacher know.

We have some fantastic volunteers who come in regularly to hear readers, which includes some of our Governors - but we are always looking for parents who have an hour or two to spare to come in and help. Please do consider giving us some time, it makes a huge difference to the children's learning and it's also incredibly rewarding for you. This does not need to be a regular slot – just let us know when you want to come in to help.

### **Absence and illness.**

Our current absence figure is 96.4% (national average for 2018/19 was 96.1%) so well done to everyone for coming into school during this cold, wet period when there are lots of coughs and colds being passed around.

We would encourage children to come into school, even when they have a cough or cold, as we will always contact you if they become worse. As you will know there are some illnesses that mean they are not allowed to attend school such as if they have been sick, when they need to be at home for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness.

### **Sport**

This has been another fantastic term for sports at the school. The year 5 and 6 children have led the school proudly in 3 festivals – Netball, Rugby and Hockey, and we are all amazed and proud of the results.

In the Netball festival all of our Yr 5/6 children played. They did incredibly well with joint third and fourth positions. Well done to these teams.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running, we won the small schools rugby festival, which was held at the Kennet Valley Hall. Mrs McQue was particularly delighted with not only the win but with the mature attitude of the 8 children involved.

The Year 5 children all took part in the local Hockey festival (without the year 6 pupils who are at Kingswood). They did incredibly well with one of our three teams coming second overall. This team also received the Fair Play award, which we are thrilled about.

Over the rest of the year, we will be taking part in further festivals, which will include Dance, Gymnastics and a swimming gala. I will continue to update you with result from these.

### **Kennet Valley Voices**

The next addition of the Kennet Valley Voices will be sent out on the first Friday after the holiday, so we can include more information about the Year 6 residential to Kingswood. If your child has an out of school achievement that they would like to have mentioned in the 'Voices' please send me the information and a picture via the office email address.

### **Visitors to the school.**

We have been very lucky to welcome several visitors to the school so far this year. For example, Mrs Duplock came in to talk to one class about the body and to about being a nurse. We have also had Georgie Morse, from Little Soldiers First Aid to visit, who talked to the children about basic skills such as calling 999 and the recovery position. Mrs Humphries came in to work with Otter class this week, where they looked at the environment. This linked to some design work that they were doing. Thank you to all of the parents and guests who have come into school. If you have any skills, talents or experiences that, you would like to talk to the children about, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Block Planning.

As you know we have changed the way we teach non-core subjects such as history and Geography this year, so that children are learning in blocks. We have recently asked the KS2 children what they think of this way of planning. These are some of their responses...

I like that with the blocks you get to do it for a long period, it helps us to develop skills. Without the blocks, there might be some confusion between subjects.

I think it is better because you get to do more and if it is something you really like you can do it longer than just one lesson a week

Blocks are good, we get to memorise it for the whole term because when you do an essay at the end you have all the knowledge that you need.

In block planning you learn lots and have lots of education on one thing.  
But I don't like the blocks because I want variety of subjects over the week.

You get to learn about new things, and essays are easier, because of the blocks it means that you can have a concentrated term of learning one particular subject.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy half term holiday, and to thank you all for your continued support of the school. Please remember to keep coming to talk to us about school when you need to. Many thanks – Mrs Emma Russell

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## D A T E S F O R Y O U R D I A R Y



### Monday 24th February - First Day of Term 4

Tuesday 25th February - R,Y1 and Y2 Educational Visit to The Nature Discovery Centre, Thatcham  
Wednesday 26th February - PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Thursday 27th February - Little Angels Toddler Group 10.00am - 11.15am  
Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March School Book Week  
Wednesday 4th March - PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Thursday 5th March - Year 5&6 Educational Visit to The Corinium Museum, Cirencester  
Friday 6th March - World Book Day at Kennet Valley School  
Monday 9th March - Bikeability Year 6 Students  
Tuesday 10th March - Travelling Book Fair Arrives (opening times to follow soon)  
Wednesday 11th March - Bikeability Year 6 Students  
Wednesday 11th March - PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Friday 13th March - Dance Festival REHEARSAL (more details to follow)  
Saturday 14th March - Dance Festival (more details to follow)  
Tuesday 17th March - Book Fair departs from school  
Wednesday 18th March - Year 4 Residential Trip to New Barn, Dorset  
Wednesday 18th March - PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Friday 20th March - Year 4 children return from New Barn, Dorset  
Wednesday 25th March - PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Wednesday 1st April - PE at Kennet Valley Hall  
Friday 3rd April - Easter Service - St Michael & All Angels Church (W Overton) more info to follow

### Friday 3rd April - End of Term 4

### Monday 20th April - First Day of Term 5