

# Kennet Valley Voices

Term 1 and 2 - 2019

As you would expect we have had an incredibly busy start to this school year, culminating in the Christmas celebrations such as going to the Panto, our own Nativity and church service and the wonderful school fayre.

We started the new year with the new block teaching of subjects in the afternoon, which has covered history, science, geography, music and art. This has been a successful way of teaching the children throughout the school as it allows them to delve deeper into a subject before moving on to something new. Next term we are looking forward to a science and a geography block.



As with last year we have had lots of visits from families for the next year's intake and have continued with the regular 'Stay and Play' sessions. These sessions will continue for the whole year. We have also continued to welcome Little Angels and The Toddler group into our hall, and are always excited to see that their numbers are increasing. Thank you to the organisers of these groups.



Both the Nativity and the Church Service were terrific this year. I was incredibly proud to see the confidence of the children at our school, with children of all ages having lines to remember and say, as well as the fantastic dancing and singing. Well done to all involved - you were amazing!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Thank you for your continuing support of the school - I look forward to seeing you all in 2020!

## Reverse Advent Calendar.

For the second year running we have taken part in what has been called a 'Reverse Twelve Days of Christmas'. This fantastic idea means, rather than the children opening an advent calendar and receiving a gift, they instead are encouraged to donate specific food and toiletry items which are then passed on to the Trussell Trust food bank in Devizes. A huge thank you to all the children, parents and local residents who all responded amazingly well, very quickly filling the twelve baskets with items, exceeding last year's



impressive collection with 344 items donated. Mrs France and four pupils then delivered the items directly to the food bank, where they were shown around and informed about how the food bank works. I am incredibly

proud of the school for rising to meet this challenge again and feel that this teaches our children that although Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy and celebration, for many people it can be increasingly difficult. We know that more people than ever may need to use a food bank during the festive period. It is important that we all understand that there are people less fortunate than ourselves, and that we should all do our bit to try and help where we can, especially at this special time of the year.





## Hedgehogs

We were delighted to welcome 10 new children into our reception this year. All of them have settled in very well and are making good progress. All of the team are enjoying working with them. They have completed many different activities since September including cooking and baking, reading, going for local walks, making friends throughout the school, art and writing. I am very lucky to work with them on Thursday and always enjoy these mornings.



## Reading - "Breathe in reading, Breathe out Writing"

As you know we were very lucky to be able to buy a new reading scheme this year. The books are lovely and children are enjoying reading them. We are focusing on fluency this year and would encourage you to read a book more than once with your child, especially when they are still learning to read. This allows them time to sound out during the first read and then practise for a second read. It also allows all children to gain a better understanding of what they are reading which helps with reading comprehension.



The new Reading Awards are fabulous with lots of the children achieving multiple Karate bands already this year. If your child is reading at least 4 times a week they should be on the ORANGE wrist band.

Currently the percentage of children who have achieved each wrist band level are as follows



- White - 89%
- Yellow - 76%
- Orange - 46%
- Green - 13%
- Blue - 6%

We would ask you to keep hearing your child read over the holiday as this is a vital skill for them to have, The more they read the more confident they will be, both when reading and writing in class.

## Maths Across the School.

We have been continuing to develop the Maths within the school and are currently



working with the Boolean Maths Hub. As part of this group we have been asking children to work with more equipment so that they have a strong understanding of the maths that they are completing. We have also been focusing on math mastery, with children showing their answers in lots of different ways - not just with one written method. Next term we will be sending out our new Calculation policy so that you all have a good understanding of the methods that we use for different year groups.



Reading Shed - Many of you will have seen that we have a new shed at the side of the school. This is our new reading shed and has books for the children to read during playtime and lunchtime. We have two Reading Shed Monitors in year 6 who are in charge of keeping the shed neat and tidy. There is also paper within the shed for children to use when writing their own stories and poems.



## First Aid Workshops



Early in term 2 the older children in the school all took part in first aid workshops. These were led by Georgie Morse from Little Soldiers First Aid. Pupils in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 were taught how to practise basic first aid skills, such as treating minor burns and nose bleeds, how to put someone in to the recovery position and how to call the emergency services. The older years were also taught how to give CPR. We arranged the First Aid classes for the older children in the school as we want them to learn skills which they could use in

everyday life. Having to help a friend or family member who is unwell can be very worrying for a child and as a school we want to enable our children to deal with these difficult situations with confidence. Throughout all of the classes the children were thoroughly engaged and interested and Georgie stated that they were all "a delight to teach and that they had learnt a lot". We have since heard that pupils went home and enthused to their parents about what they had learnt, some of their comments were as follows:



"I feel that the course has affected me, as if one of my relatives is hurt I have the confidence to help out."

"I enjoyed the afternoon as Year 6 pupils got a personal session on how to do CPR – I think learning this is extremely important and I loved it!"

"I felt like I learned so much which made me happy and now I know what to do in an emergency when someone is suffering."



### Otter's Roman Bath visit

Early in term 2 the Year 3 and 4 children visited the Roman Baths to find out more about Roman life. We had a tour of the whole of the Roman Baths, using special 'telephones' to hear more information about what we were looking at.

Then we took part in a workshop where the children learnt to dress like a Roman, make a mosaic and found out more about how the Romans built their amazing building.

All of the staff and helpers who went with the class were very proud of the class – they took a huge



amount of interest in what they were looking at, asked interesting questions to the guides and were fantastically behaved throughout the day.



### Mrs Alexander

We are delighted that Mrs Alexander has re-joined the staff team, after being bank staff for the start of the year. Mrs Alexander will be working in Hedgehogs class on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and will be working as an MDSA on Friday lunchtime.



### Quick Reminder

Please could I remind you all that the school day starts at 8.55, although the doors open at 8.40am. Breakfast club starts at 8.00am and all children must be signed in by a parent/carer.

The school day finishes at 3.10pm, with Dragon club finishing at 5.45pm apart from Friday (or the last day of term) which finishes at 4.30pm.

Other clubs finish at 4.10pm and children must be picked up promptly from these - please make sure you check your club list for timings and other details.



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

**3.10pm Friday 20th December - End of Term 2**

We would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year...here's to 2020!

**8.55am Monday 6th January - First Day of Term 3**

Monday 6th January - Mr Lambert (PGCE Student) joins KVS for 3 months in Badger Classroom

Wednesday 8th January PE at School NOT KV Hall

Wednesday 8th January - Years 3 & 4 Educational Visit to Winchester Science Centre & Planetarium

Thursday 9th January - Little Angels Toddler Group 10.00am - 11.15am

Friday 10th January - Stay and Play - Hedgehog Classroom 9.15am - 10.30am

Friday 17th January - Kennet Valley Toddler Group 10.00am - 11.30am

**Friday 24th January - Teacher Training Day - School CLOSED to Children**

Wednesday 29th January Miss Hues (PGCE Student) joins KVS for 3 months in Foxes Classroom

Wednesday 29th January - PE at Kennet Valley Hall

Friday 31st January Kennet Valley Toddler Group 10.00am -11.30am

Wednesday 5th February - PE at Kennet Valley Hall

Thursday 6th February - Little Angels Toddler Group 10.00am - 11.15am

Friday 7th February Christingle Service St Michael and All Angels (West Overton) Church 2.00pm

Friday 7th February - Small schools TAG rugby (Y5/6) Kennet Valley Hall (more info to follow)

Monday 10th February - Year 6 Residential Trip to Kingswood Isle of Wight

Tuesday 11th February - Year 5 Hockey Festival Marlborough College (more info to follow)

Wednesday 12th February - PE at Kennet Valley Hall

Friday 14th February - Kennet Valley Toddler Group 10.00am - 11.30am

Friday 14th February - Year 6 children return from Kingswood, Isle of Wight

**3.10pm Friday 14th February - End of Term 3**

**8.55am Monday 24th February - First Day of Term 4**

Tuesday 25th February - R,Y1 and Y2 Educational Visit to The Nature Discover Centre, Thatcham  
(more info to follow)

Thursday 27th February - Little Angels Toddler Group 10.00am - 11.15am

**HAPPY★NEW★YEAR**