

December 18th 2020 Newsletter

Checkendon CE Primary School

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We are so lucky that our **spacious buildings** and **wonderful outdoor space** means that we have been able to provide a **safe and nurturing environment** for pupils during this difficult term - and we have been so impressed with the way they have responded! We can see that our **catch-up programmes** are working and that children are, indeed, catching up and we know they are now much more **ready to learn**. In a recent pupil survey **more than 80% of pupils said they feel confident in themselves** and their abilities, are able to **show resilience** when facing a problem or challenge and **feel confident to try new things**. The effectiveness of the measures we have put in place has been recognised in two recent monitoring visits. In his recent review of our work on vision and values, ODBE link advisor, Toby Long, was impressed with our work to develop a **values-led curriculum**; and we also received positive feedback on **school improvement plans** and **the school's catch-up programme** from Sarah Nesbitt, OCC link advisor.

As we approach the end of the term, I can't pretend it has been an easy one! There has been a heavy workload for all of us in school: **pupils** have had to manage their emotions, re-build stamina, put up with chilly classrooms and cope with all kinds of restrictions; **teachers** have re-invented lessons, devised catch-up programmes and supervised endless handwashing; our experienced team of **TAs** has provided excellent support to staff and pupils; **school administrators** have had to implement all sorts of new procedures including at drop-off and pick-up and daily reports to OCC; **cleaning staff** have had to be extra vigilant; and the three daily rounds of disinfecting frequently touched surfaces continue!

Alongside this, we've worked hard to develop ways to communicate to suit the 'new normal': **parent-teacher meetings** took place online; teachers provided **weekly updates** with photos for the website; there's a new **promotional video** and presentation on the home page; and we continue to be very grateful for the expert help of Sunelle Nel to ensure there are regular **Tweets** and **Instagram** posts.

We are all missing the **sense of community** that comes from children, staff and parents being together in the same space and we look forward to the time when we can feel that once again. In the meantime, we are grateful for the **support of parents** and for the **enthusiasm, curiosity and laughter** the children bring to our lives. **Happy Christmas** to you all!

Warm regards,
Gillian Seymour



Thought for the Day



Pictures of the Week

Children in **Owlet Class and Owl Class** put on a fabulous performance of The Nativity.



You can watch The Nativity until 8pm on 21st December. The link to the video is <https://vimeo.com/491390233>. The password (which is case sensitive) is OwlsandOwlets2020.

Please **do not share** The Nativity on social media. Thank you.

More Information

Happy Birthday to **Xandy** who will be 6 on 31st December and **Harry S** who will be 10 in 1st January



Congratulations to our **Autumn Term Class Cup** and **Sports Cup** Winners! The Sports Cup went to **Hattie**; and Class Cups were awarded to **Rafe** (Owlet Class), **Flo** (Owl Class), **Holly** (Panda Class) and **Lacey** (Rhino Class). Well done to you all.

Congratulations also to **Trey** for his Silver Times Tables Award; **Holly** for her Gold Times Tables Award; and **Isaac** who was awarded a Platinum Maths Award.

Good Luck!

Persie has her Kickboxing exam on 19th December and is taking 4 belts at the same time! Go Persie! Also, **Ava** is representing the school tomorrow in her first NSEA Show Jumping competition, at Bury Farm in Buckinghamshire. Good luck Ava!

School Council

At last week's meeting, School Council continued to work on the Deforestation global issue by devising a survey to collect information on how we are currently reducing, reusing and recycling paper and cardboard throughout the school.



CH.I.P.P Competition Winners

The winners of the **Prettiest Tree** competition are **Sophia** and **Jessie**

The winners of the **Best Dressed Pet** competition are **Louie** and **Ted**

The winner of the guess the weight of the **Christmas Cake** competition is **Mrs Seymour**



Well done Sophia!

Rhino Class enjoyed a writing workshop on space at the start of this term and Sophia's story writing has made it to local author and English specialist, Sue Palmer's website: [blog showcasing Berkshire and Oxfordshire schools' space writing](#). Please do take a look! Fantastic news Sophia, well done ☺



Congratulations Year 3 and **Year 4** pupils took **silver** in the County Quadkids Athletics Competition! Very well done. You should be super proud of your achievement ☺

Worship for Sunday 20th December 2020

Pre-recorded Carol Service in Checkendon Church at 3pm/4pm/5pm

Booking is essential via sj.endacott@googlemail.com. Come and enjoy a 35 minute Carol service in the decorated and Covid-secure Church. Note this is a recorded service, in audio format only.

Carol Service on Zoom with Revd Kevin 6.30pm 636 645 195 and 000162

Bring your own mince pie, mulled wine and candle! Note the service is in audio format only, and note the later time.

Christmas Eve 4pm. Christingle Service with Revd Kevin. 823 2226 2104 and 609 662

Christmas Day 11am. Christmas Communion with Revd Kevin 819 5724 2067 and 865581

Important: Please do not share the zoom codes on social media. Thank you.

And Finally....

Who is Santa's favourite singer?

Elf-is Presley



Social News Feeds: <https://twitter.com/CheckendonSch>
<https://www.instagram.com/checkendonprimaryschool/>



This week in **Owlet Class** the children thought about the three Kings and the gifts which they brought Jesus. Each Owlet made their own crown and decorated a precious treasure box.

Children in Owl Class

have been enjoying lots of Christmas crafts like the bouncing snow people and stained glass windows.



In between learning about the Ancient Egyptians **Panda Class** beautifully decorated magnets to be given as presents, recorded a joyous Christmas song for the other classes to enjoy and played the Egyptian game 'senet'.



Rhino Class held a mini tournament playing doubles using cross-court and down-the-line hitting techniques



MERRY CHRISTMAS