

## February 12th 2021 Newsletter

Checkendon CE Primary School

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Thank you to everyone who took part in the new-style parents' evenings this week, teachers were pleased to have the opportunity to celebrate the impressive independent learning that's going on and, although we'd all rather have the children back learning in school, there was a lot of positive feedback from parents too. For many pupils, the challenges of home learning have led to growing independence and resilience.

Thanks also to those who helped with our school sports survey. It's clear that pupils at Checkendon understand that physical activity is good for them (100%); they like the link between the challenges and earning house points (97%) and the PE challenges set by Mrs. Thomas (79%). Although they feel happy and positive after exercise (71%), only 55% are active for the recommended 60 minutes or more every day. Pupils in school enjoy 90 minutes of physical activity daily (across three sessions) and class timetables provide the same timings for children at home. Please do encourage children to get outside and get active for these sessions if at all possible. Over the course of Term 4, school staff will be working on ways to get more of our pupils active. If you have any suggestions, please do get in touch!

As Term 3 comes to an end, we are looking forward to a welcome break and a chance to re-charge our batteries for whatever Term 4 brings. We await a decision on 22<sup>nd</sup> February to clarify whether we'll be re-opening to all year groups from 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will, of course, keep you updated; however, we are not given any information in advance of televised government announcements so it's likely we'll all find out at the same time!

As usual, we have planned our whole school writing week to coincide with World Book Day (4<sup>th</sup> March) - we've got lots of interesting activities for all ages planned and there will be more details about this after the break.

Until then let's all try to stay safe, take care of each other and **always look on the bright side of life!**

Warm regards,  
**Gillian Seymour**



### Thought for the Day



### Pictures of the Week

Harry's superb feather sketching



Isaac's amazing tail feather from a ruffed grouse

## More Information

### Happy Birthday to.....

**Ellie** who will be 10 on 14<sup>th</sup> February  
**Oscar B** who will be 7 on 17<sup>th</sup> February  
**Kay-Jay** who will be 5 on 21<sup>st</sup> February  
**Kitty P** who will be 9 on 21<sup>st</sup> February



### School Council News

At the on-line meeting this week School Council representatives shared how their families reduce, re-use and recycle paper. We heard wonderful examples of using the back of previously used paper for drawing or scoring games; sending on-line gift cards for presents; parents printing double-sided for their work; using 'Bags for Life', putting packed lunches in plastic boxes rather than wrapping in packaging, using cloths to clean rather than kitchen roll and checking for the recycling symbol to see what can be recycled.



### Whole School Writing Week – March 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

During whole school writing week we will be focussing on characters' perspectives, participating in a daily story time and celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March** as well as other surprises! Further details to follow.

### Random Act of Kindness Day – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Even just smiling at someone and telling them to have a good day could have a profound impact. On Random Acts of Kindness Day, help yourself by helping others, the smile on their face and yours will prove it's all worth it.



This week in Owlet Class the children have been learning about Chinese New Year. **Harry** wore his



Chinese suit while **Kay-Jay** made a Chinese dragon!



**Naomi and George** made the most of the freezing conditions and continued their learning outside the classroom by creating a polar scene!



**Arlo** discovered his paper boat could hold 100 pieces of macaroni before sinking!



### Happy Chinese New Year –Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

新年快乐 (Happy New Year!) Chinese New Year 2021 falls on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and this year is the year of the Ox. Children in Owlet Class have been finding out about Chinese New Year this week (see photos above) and learnt to say Hello, Happy New Year and Goodbye in Mandarin!

### Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Pancake Day has been celebrated by Britons for centuries. Known also as Shrove Tuesday, its exact date – rather confusingly – changes every year, as it is determined by when Easter falls. Traditionally, pancakes were eaten on this day to use up rich, indulgent foods like eggs and milk before the fasting season of Lent began. Enjoy your pancakes!



### Worship for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February

11am Holy Communion with Revd Kevin. 636 645 195 and passcode 000162 A brief interlude of "Ordinary Time", and a sermon from Bishop Olivia Graham. **Please do not share the zoom codes on social media. Thank you.**

### And Finally....

What two words have a thousand letters in them on Valentine's Day?  
Post Office!



Happy Half-Term ☺

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

**Coco and Jemima** showing some excellent examples from the Rhino Class



Movement in Art learning project.

