

Orchards News



February / March 2013

Busy, busy, busy...

We have had a busy time again this term, but with great outcomes... It is so rewarding to walk around school and see so much learning going on. I regularly have children come to my office with examples of their best work / learning and more children than ever received a Tickled Pink award last week.

I hope you enjoy reading the news letter, particularly the reports the children have written. For more information and photographs of events and visits please do check the school website. www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Regular news updates are also put on the Facebook page. To get these updates you just need to like the page. The last post was seen by 412 people, which is great news.

Phonics Course

The phonics course to help parents support their children at home started on the first Monday of this term. The course completes at the end of the term when parents will receive their goody bag of books as well as certificate of completion.

We would like to continue to support parents in helping children at home so as well as having a page in the parents section of the website to support using the internet we will also be organising other meetings in school. If you have any ideas please talk to your child's class teacher or email the school office... office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk Thank you

Lent and Easter

In assembly the children have been thinking about Lent and why we observe it. From next week we will begin to look at Easter with a focus on Joy and Thankfulness. Reverend Gardner takes collective worship every Monday and Mrs Parker follows up his introduction on a Wednesday. We also have visitors from other Churches who sometimes lead collective worship on a Thursday.

Children have an assembly on Tuesday which focusses on singing and Miss Middleton leads the prayers. On a Thursday children have collective worship in their Phase Groups and on a Friday we start the day with a celebration Assembly and collective worship is in class during the afternoon.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/christianity/lent.shtml>

Library Update

If you have walked past the school library you will probably have noticed it is undergoing refurbishment. It is now looking like a library and we would like it to work like a public library... So we have employed a Librarian (You may know her as Mrs Jones...) and she is supported by Mrs Matless and Mrs Webb. The team are busy putting all of the books on the catalogue and once this is completed each child will be issued their own library card.

Once this process is complete the library will be used for classes during the school day, and there will also be a member of library staff for half an hour at the end of the school day and on a Friday afternoon for children to come and change their book.

Waterlees Words Festival

Saturday 16th March from 10am—2pm

Free entry with activities for children & young people of all ages

For more information visit the school website, see the posters around school or visit the Facebook page.

Space Visitor

On Thursday 21st February Year 1 had a space day. First the man showed us pictures and told us about space. Next we made rockets and we watched them pop into the air. We were very happy and a bit scared. Then we made Mars Launchers for our eggs to stop them cracking when they were dropped from the top of a ladder. Last we went outside to see a rocket launch. We had a brilliant day.

Shared writing by Pine Class

Yesterday we had a man called Jerry Stone come to our school. First we made rockets out of paper. We worked in a team and we enjoyed it

because it was fun. Then we made a Mars lander. We had to make the egg have a soft landing. Jerry Stone threw the eggs down from the ladder but they all cracked. Finally, we saw Jerry Stone on the field and he pumped his foot and let the rocket fly. We learnt lots and we enjoyed it.

Shared writing by Willow Class.

School Lunches

School lunches are very popular with the children and they particularly like the special lunches. These lunches often have competitions with linked prizes. From the Summer Term we will also have parents lunches with parents from one year group at a time being able to join their child for lunch. These will be on a Tuesday. Look out for more information soon.

Red Nose day Lunch—Friday 15th March

Easter Lunch—Thursday 28th March



Year 5 and 6 Residential to Stibbington

Day One at Stibbington by Ernesta

On Monday 18th February when we arrived at Stibbington we went into a classroom and met a lovely lady called Nicky. Nicky told us our room names and my room was called Owls and I was sharing a room with Kara, Shannon J and Nikola. When we knew our room names we went and put our coats, outdoor shoes, wellies and slippers in the cloakroom. After that we went and unpacked our stuff in our rooms. Kara and I were both at the top bunk beds and Nikola and Shannon J slept at the bottom. We also had 4 drawers to put all of our clothes in. So when we unpacked we went and had lunch.

When we finished our lunch we went back into the classroom to do the eco-trail. We had to put our coats and wellies on. We had a clip board of pictures that we had to find outside and when all of us finished we had to meet up in the front entrance to raise the flag. Meanwhile when we raised the flag we had to put our wellies and coats away and put our slippers on ready to have tea.

When we finished our tea we could go to the showers and into our rooms and in the lounge there was a game called bingo. We had lots of good prizes. When we finished bingo we had supper and then went to our rooms to get our toothbrushes and toothpaste to brush our teeth. Next we went to our rooms to go to sleep in our warm and toasty sleeping bags.



Crazy Tuesday at Stibbington By Kelly M

On Tuesday night at Stibbington I had a very exciting night. Peterborough United had a football match against

Millwall. On my iPod I had a radio so I could listen to the game. It was a funny night because Mr Laband came and he was very funny. And some people went on the Wii. I watched them while listening to the Peterborough game. I also had to sit in my room and listen to it because we had to be in our rooms by 9:00. It was worth it as The Posh won 5-1!

My Stibbington Residential Trip By Shannon J

Day One

We had a little introduction to the site and then we went to our rooms and got unpacked. I felt like I was at home, but without my sister there. The rooms were warm and the beds were comfy.



After we got all unpacked, it was time for lunch in the Crunchy Carrot Café. We had some delicious sandwiches. In the afternoon we went on an Eco-trail around the site, raised the flag, and did our Eco-time.

During Eco-time we got to be a Waste Wizard, Garden Gang or Power Ranger. We also did some team games.

Tea was at 5:00pm and we had pasta and bolognese.

When we finished our Tea, Mrs Jones

and Mrs Willoughby had BINGO for us with real prizes. Then we had time with our friends in our bedrooms. Lights out was at 10:00pm but I couldn't get to sleep at all – I was too excited. I don't think I finally fell asleep until about half-eleven!

Day Two

In the morning Miss Lynch came to wake us all up, but I was already awake! Then, we started the day with breakfast - I had the spaghetti, toast and sausage. It was good!

After breakfast, we had a few minutes to play and then we learned about coordinates and reading maps in the classroom and walked to the Nature Reserve to do a Pirate's Treasure Hunt. I enjoyed this a lot, especially when we got to walk around in our little group and help each other out by working as a team! At the end of the treasure hunt we found the pirates treasure, which was some toffees. We all got to have one and then headed off back to the site to have our lunch.

After lunch, we learned about mini-beasts that live in ponds and then got some time to do some pond dipping to catch some mini-beasts of our own. It was so hard to use the net to capture some mini-beasts because the pond was frozen over with a layer of ice so we had to try to break through the ice first! My group caught a newt! It was very cool! Then we got to go and look at our mini-beasts under the microscopes and identify what they were.

Then it was Eco-time and tea, which was roast dinner. It was scrumptious! After tea, Mr Laband came to visit and brought the Wii. Mostly all the boys played on the Wii while the girls were down in Miss Lynch's room getting their nails painted, listened to music and had a chat.

When it came to lights out, almost everybody was asleep – but not me!

Day Three

On day three, we had another nice breakfast, bacon, beans and toast and then started our day. Today we were going to be crime scene investigators solving a mystery about who stole the toffees from the site.

I was in Mrs Whatling's group. We thought that it was amazing because we had to find all kinds of clues and then use the laboratory equipment to check the clues like fibres and fingerprints. We thought it was Rosie from the very beginning and we were right! Some people had to go home today because they were only staying for 3 days and the rest of us were staying for 4 days.

After we solved the crime, it was Eco-time and then time for tea; we had fish fingers. When we finished our tea, we went to our rooms and some people watched a film. We were all very tired by the end of the day and went to bed rather early.



Day Four

We got up and had our breakfast, which was the same as Tuesday. After breakfast we had to go and pack all of our things and put them into the lounge. When we finished that we started our activities. In the morning we had some yogurt pots to design and then we went outside and made some nature art. I really enjoyed doing that – my group made a tree out of loads of things we found like twigs and different leaves.

Then we got a little black card and some double-sided tape, which was stuck onto the black card, and we had to find 20 different colours of nature and stick them onto the card.

Then we went back into the classroom and made our little mini-beasts out of clay. Then we had lunch and in the afternoon we did an art trail around the site. Then it was time to go. We got our luggage and put it onto the bus, lowered the flag and left.

I really enjoyed the trip and I would go again, but I was happy to get back home!

What I liked about Stibbington By Megan N

I liked the delicious toffees in the treasure chest. We found them when we followed our map coordinates and used our compasses to follow the directions. All of the children had a toffee – even the teachers had one!

What I liked about Stibbington By Shelbie B

I liked the food because it was really nice. I also loved the bedrooms because I got to stay with my friends.

Saving for Residential Trips

The children in Year 5 and 6 really enjoyed the trip to Stibbington and I know the children in Year 4 are looking forwards to their residential, so we have decided to go ahead and rebook these for next year. As the children in Year 5 will have been to Stibbington we will have a different visit from them. We are looking at the early part of the year again, with Year 5 and Year 6 likely to go at the end of January.

If you think your child would like to attend the residential visits, or indeed if you would like to spread the cost of any of the day visits we are setting up a savings scheme. This does not commit you or your child to the residential, but we think it might help make them more affordable.

The scheme will start after Easter and you can have a separate savings card for each child, or a family card. If you have any further questions about this please talk to Ms Risebrow in the office.

Notices:

- Don't forget you can find up to the minute news on the Facebook page. You have to like the page to get the notices to your page. :-)
- This information is also shared on the website, along with lots of other useful information, web links to use with your child / children and photographs of events.

Foundation Stage Questionnaire

If your child is in Apple or Cherry Class and you haven't returned the EYFS Questionnaire yet, please leave them at the office before Wednesday 13th March. The office staff have spare copies if you have misplaced yours. We really want to hear what you think and your ideas! :-) Thank you.

Proposal to Expand Orchards Primary

We have been asked by the Local Authority to share a consultation document... Owing to the increase in population in the area, there has been a proposal to increase the capacity of the school (number of children attending Orchards), with a long-term view to expanding the school to accommodate additional classes. The document aims to explain the reasons behind the expansion, fully, as well as answer any questions you may have about the proposal.

In the appendix of the document you have the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Follow the link in the news section of the school website for a copy. There are also paper copies of this document available in the school reception area on the desk.

Please leave any feedback in the box also located in the Reception area.



Red Nose Day

So something funny for money on Friday 15th March. More information to come... but we will definitely be dressing up to help raise money to support children in the UK and Africa.

Science Week

We will start science week with a bang on Thursday 14th March in assembly and following a week of investigation and experimentation we would love parents to come and join us at 2pm on Friday 22nd March at our Science Fair.

Diary Dates

Teacher training Day Friday 8th February

Return to school—Monday 18th February

Science Week begins—Thursday 14th March

Red Nose Day inc lunch—Friday 15th March

Waterlees Words Festival—Saturday 16th March

Science Fair—parents invited to join us—2pm Friday 22nd March

Break up for Easter— Thursday 28th March

Teacher Training Day— Monday 15th April

Summer Term begins—Tuesday 16th April

May Day—Monday 6th May

Teacher Training Day—Friday 28th June

Summer Term Closes—Tuesday 23rd July