

KEEVIL CoFE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Up-coming Dates:
 14th Nov – Flu Immunisations
 17th Nov – Children in Need
 21st Nov – School Photos (Portraits)
 29th Nov – Autumn Class Sharing
 Worship
 6th Dec – Summer Class Concert at local care home

Message from the Head

Last week I had the privilege of hearing a talk given, as part of the Acorn Education Trust’s Headteacher Conference, by Chris Lubbe who worked as a bodyguard for Nelson Mandela following his release from prison and throughout his time as President of South Africa. He had grown up living in a shanty town, scavenging books from a rubbish dump so he could learn to read. His tales of the abuses he suffered under the apartheid system were truly shocking. But his story was one of hope, born out of forgiveness and love for others, and how he had been part of a movement that strove to build a new society and community based on these values. I had to leave the Y5/Y6 Pencilli residential early in the morning in order to travel back for the meeting. I left behind several members of staff who had worked tirelessly for the entire week through very unpleasant weather conditions to ensure that all of the children in Autumn Class were able to take part in a range of challenging outdoor activities. These were all designed to help the children grow as individuals - building self-confidence and belief in themselves as well as vital skills to help them work and live with others. During the week I had seen children and adults really pushing themselves outside their comfort zones and deriving immense personal pride from achieving things they had never done before. As well as everyone really reaching out to help and support the people around them, without which those personal achievements wouldn’t have been possible. I am obviously not comparing our small village school with a country in crisis, but I did reflect that the same values underpin successful relationships and communities at all levels and complexities. To me, Pencilli was hope and love in action, and us as a school living out our mission of ‘Always treating others as you would like to be treated’. Just as Chris Lubbe was describing how they displayed these same values as they made the first steps to re-build a very troubled country. It is very easy to talk about such values and principles, and much harder to actually live them out through our actions. I was immensely proud last week of all our staff and children who really showed the power and impact of what can be dismissed as simplistic or cliched, and are more often than not forgotten and ignored by those who are meant to be bigger and better than us.

In our Good Learning Book this week:

Winter: Well done to all of Winter Class for learning the French words for drinks we might have in a café in our French lesson this week.

Spring: A big well done to Georgia who has been a great friend helping other children in the class.

Summer: Well done to our Fantastic Four (well three this week!): Sophia, Remy and Michael.

Autumn: Well done to all of Autumn Class for their fantastic trip to Pencilli. Everyone showed great resilience and determination in all activities despite some really difficult and wet conditions.

House points			
Kestrels	Ospreys	Buzzards	Harriers
1135	0951	0949	0955

Charity Events

There are a number of charity events this term kindly coordinated for us by Mrs Brown. She sent out a letter earlier this week giving the details for all of these, so please make sure you have read this.

Packed Lunches

Just a reminder that as part of what we do to teach the children about keeping well, we encourage packed lunches that children bring into school to be healthy and balanced meals. We do not allow sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks. We recommend that children have a main item (sandwich or equivalent) that provides children with a mix of wholegrain carbohydrate (brown/wholemeal bread, pasta, rice, potatoes, etc) and protein (meat, fish, cheese etc) accompanied by fruit and/or vegetables, and a treat item such as a bag of crisps, a cereal bar or a biscuit. Children can bring water, squash or fruit juice to drink. If you would like more help or ideas go to <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Also just to remind you that we are a **nut-free school** to avoid any issues for individuals with potentially life-threatening allergies.

No Christmas Cards in 2023

Just a reminder that we have asked children and staff not to send one another Christmas Cards this year due to the environmental impact that this has.



This year's representatives are:

Winter Class: Emily G-J and Alexander

Spring Class: Olivia and Nia

Summer Class: Hester and Ellia

Autumn Class: Seb and Elsie

Keevil Council

This week in school, we have been busy setting up Keevil Council for 2023–2024. Keevil Council is made up of representatives from each class and is supported by Miss Mortimer. Each member is elected by their class. The role of Keevil Council members is an important one within the school. The sole purpose of Keevil Council is to allow the children to have an opportunity to make the school even better while also helping to organise and support events as well as raise money for charity. Keevil Council will give their class information about a variety of things as well as make sure the children in their class get their ideas and suggestions heard.

The first task on their agenda is to help with the organisation of our Children In Need day next Friday.





Winter Class on their first school trip at the Egg Theatre



Spring Class enjoying learning on the SS Great Britain



**Autumn Class on their residential
at Pencelli, Brecon Beacons**

