

# KEEVIL CoFE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

## Up-coming Dates:

31<sup>st</sup> Jan – Summer Class Sharing Worship

1<sup>st</sup> Feb – Year 5 Visit to Goodson Lodge

2<sup>nd</sup> - Feb Pupil Progress Books Going Home

2<sup>nd</sup> Feb – Stay and Learn from 0845-0930

5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Summer Class Visit to The Farm Cookery School

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Feb Parents Evening

## Message from the Head

Christmas probably feels like a distant memory now, but as this is the first newsletter of the year I would like to wish you a very happy new year and I hope you had a lovely festive break with your family and friends.

Terms 3 and 4 (time between now and Easter) is always a key learning time in school, in part because we tend to have less extra-curricular events taking place during these winter months. The staff have certainly hit the ground running, with two TD Days before term started for the children. One of these we all spent at the Acorn Writing Conference at Kingdown School, learning about new research and strategies to improve the teaching and learning of writing, which is arguably the most complex area of our core curriculum to deliver. The other day was spent in school where we considered how best to give children feedback on their work, use questioning to stretch and challenge thinking, and ensuring that the quality of all the subjects we deliver across the curriculum is as high as it can be. We were certainly very busy!

Education is currently quite a hot topic in the national media with a focus around the nature and role of the Ofsted inspection system. A situation that has been sadly brought to the fore by the tragic death of Ruth Perry a year ago. This has combined with the start of the tenure of a new Chief Inspector (Martyn Oliver) and the likelihood of a General Election this year and a possible new Government, leading to quite a movement of change. You, most likely, have your own opinions on this matter, as do I! I most definitely believe that the state education system needs to be accountable and needs to ensure that certain standards are reached and maintained for the benefit of all children. But I would question if the current system is the most effective way of achieving this. However, it is vitally important for our children here in Keevil, that we as a school adhere to and do the best that we can within whatever current structure the school accountability system takes. Schools are only given 24 hours notice of when an Ofsted inspection will commence, but there are rough timeframes or ‘windows’ in which we would expect an inspection to happen. Keevil’s last inspection was in December 2019, so we have passed the 4 year mark from this time. Ofsted would aim to re-inspect schools within 4 years of their last visit, however like many organisations they are still struggling to get back on track post-Covid and so have extended their timetables. Although they will never give guarantees, they have said that schools judged Good or Outstanding between September 2018 and April 2020 should expect their next inspection before September 2025. However, we do not see this extension as an opportunity to sit back and relax, we are

### In our Good Learning Book this week:

**Winter:** Well done Tommy for his independent work and to Marley for going above and beyond with his reading.

#### Spring:

A big well done to Theo and Mia for earning their full pen licence.

**Summer:** Owen & Amelia for super science work about layers of the Earth and Nia and Olive for character descriptions of the Iron Man

**Autumn:** Toby and Seb for writing fantastic setting descriptions in English.

House points			
Kestrels	Ospreys	Buzzards	Harriers
377	544	553	369

continually committed to improving what we do for the children in Keevil. And in fact we will be undertaking our rigorous annual Acorn QA visit later this term, when an Ofsted Inspector spends a day in the school evaluating our provision. This will be followed by a Church School QA visit which appraises how well we are performing as a Church School within the SIAMS Framework, which is the Church of England’s system for inspecting and monitoring their schools. I will of course share the outcomes of these visits with you, and the work we will undertake subsequently to further improve what we do and offer to all our children.

## Secondhand Uniform

We are very keen to encourage people to pass on and swap school uniform that their children have out-grown, primarily as it helps the environment through not generating more waste. Many thanks must go to Mrs McAninch who has been a great help in the collecting, storage and displaying of our secondhand uniform stock recently, but we have found that there has been little take-up of this supply. Therefore we have decided that we will reduce the stock to just 'branded' items (jumpers, cardigans, PE hoodies) and we will store these in school so they are always available. Other 'generic' items (trousers, skirts, dresses, etc) we will pass on to a local charity that distributes them where there is need. Please make the most of the supply we are keeping in school, and come to the office if you would like to select some items.

## Winter Illnesses

We are aware that there are always an increased number of bugs and germs circulating at this time of year. We appreciate your understanding and support in maintaining your child's attendance in school in order to prioritise both their education and social wellbeing, and we know that it can be hard sometimes to decide if it is better to send them into school or keep them at home if they are under the weather. If in doubt, please always speak to us about your child's condition and you can also refer to this helpful NHS guide: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

## Parking Outside School

We have been asked by our neighbours in the village to ensure that people do not park too close to the corner of School Close when they are picking up children at the end of the day. This is making it difficult and dangerous for villagers travelling to their homes or the Church. We appreciate that time and space can be tight in the afternoon, but we do ask you to be thoughtful and considerate of others.

## Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

We are very aware that the current national economic situation is making finances very tight for many families. Therefore we wanted to remind people to consider if your child might be entitled to Free School Meals.

We also wanted to let you know that if your child qualifies it entitles them not only to receive a free lunch in school every day, it also means that as a school we receive extra funding for your child called Pupil Premium. This is money that we spend on supporting your child's learning in class and on other things within the school that will benefit their education and development more widely. For example, we use it to subsidise school trips including regular gym and swimming, and we can use it to pay for children to attend particular after school clubs that support their interests. In recent times it has also entitled families to vouchers and/or payments to support them during school holidays.

Wiltshire Council oversees applications. You can find all the information including the qualification criteria on their website:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1669/Free-school-meals>

You can follow the link on this page to complete your application online. We are very happy to lend a hand filling in the form if you would find that helpful.

### Term 3 Inter-House Reading Competition

This term in school, the children will have the opportunity to earn additional house points for their house by reading at home. Every signed entry in contact books will be added to the school reading chart found in the corridor near the hall. I will work with a team of KS2 children each week to count the reading totals for each house. 200 points are up for grabs for the house that reads the most this term.

Miss Mortimer



## **Piece of the Term – The Medallion Calls, from Pirates of the Caribbean, by Zimmer (2003)**

The melodies and rhythms used in the 'Pirates' soundtracks have become very famous over the last 20 years. This particular theme could possibly be the most well-known of all the tunes in the franchise. I have chosen this clip as it is a brilliant example of 'Mickey Mousing' which is when the music very precisely matches the images on screen. It briefly starts with lingering strings as Elizabeth says goodbye to Mr Turner, this is swiftly followed by military-style drumming as the carriage pulls away and then at the exact point Jack Sparrow appears on screen, the unmistakable melody begins. Suddenly he spots some skeletons in the distance and the music changes to a solo trumpet, reminiscent of the last post in memory of fallen comrades. The rhythmic patterns start again as we see the busy harbourside. Everyone stops what they are doing to look up. Then Jack sweeps in standing at the top of his mast on an almost fully sunk boat, accompanied by a sudden change to the smooth lyrical section of the music. As Jack steps off the boat and walks up the jetty, the music has a plodding feel that echoes his footsteps. Film music is fascinating. It highlights the visuals and guides our emotions through a film without us even realising it is happening.

You can find the movie clip/audio on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPsSGcJa3fY>



## **Art Work of the Term – Noah's Ark by Edward Hicks (1846)**

Edward Hicks was a Quaker Minister in America who liked to create ornamental paintings with Quaker ideas of simplicity and plainness. Quakers believed in living a simple life by honest work and his painting reflected this in his painting. This painting is based on a previous lithograph (a type of print) by Nathaniel Currier. The animals Hicks added to the scene resemble those in his earlier representations of his favourite biblical subject: Isaiah's prophecy of the "peaceable kingdom." The cooperative animals express Hicks's Quaker belief in mankind's ability to live together harmoniously in nature, just as the story of Noah promises humanity a fresh start.





Winter Class enjoying the start of term!



Year 1 at Forest School doing the RSPB Bird Count and making bird feeders







Autumn Class  
PE – with a  
coach from  
Bath RFC and  
at the Wiltshire  
School of  
Gymnastics

