



## The Week Ahead

Try something new this Easter. What could it be? What challenge could you set yourself? Perhaps challenge yourself to grow the largest sunflower....Get out and enjoy the Spring weather! Don't forget to share your photos!

“I have learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not on our circumstances.”

~Martha Washington~

## Weekly Newsletter

*Faith ♦ Service ♦ Integrity ♦ Responsibility ♦ Truth ♦ Excellence*

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Easter

We had a wonderful turn out for the Easter crafting morning and we thank you all so much for coming. We look forward to welcoming you in the summer term for another reading morning. There have been many comments from parents thanking us for holding these mornings, so we are looking to try to fit at least another two in before the end of the year. Thank you for supporting these events.

### Spring Concert and Poetry Evening

I just wanted to write to express how proud I was of all the pupils who participated in our very first concert and poetry evening. The children were truly phenomenal. We listened to a range of musical instruments, the choir sung some beautiful pieces and many of the children recited and performed poetry. Our children have so many talents that we need to continue to share. As you know, part of our school development plan this year has been about 'Oracy' – improving children's speaking skills. The Spring Concert, demonstrated how confident our pupils are at performing. Therefore, we are hoping to repeat this and hold a Summer Concert and Poetry Evening. We look forward to hearing more musical pieces and a range of poetry. Time to get practising!

### From the Chair – Music

Having attended last week's Music and Poetry evening, I completely concur with Flora's words. The children were simply amazing in not only their ability, but also confidence and commitment to their performances which were polished and extremely well received by the audience – well done to all who took part. I would like to focus on music in this newsletter and will address oracy after Easter.

As a governing body, we are always looking at ways to support the school's pupils in enhancing and extending their learning experience. Music is able to stimulate the brain, enhances memory and is able to help children retain information. Music can also help to focus more clearly on a task and can improve moods encouraging more positive thinking. Playing a musical instrument is known not only to make a child more patient but also aids team work and has so many other educational benefits:

1. Music and math are highly intertwined. By understanding beat, rhythm and scales, children are learning how to divide, create fractions and recognize patterns.

2. Helps children develop coordination and motor skills; they require movement of the hands, arms and feet.
3. Group classes require peer interaction and communication, which encourage teamwork as children must collaborate – group interaction and problem solving.
4. Learning an instrument teaches children about delayed gratification, discipline and patience particularly group sessions.
5. Lessons offer a forum where children can learn to accept and give constructive criticism. Turning negative feedback into positive change helps build self-confidence and self esteem.
6. By learning about and playing a variety of instruments, kids can discover how music plays a critical role in other cultures.  
(Source: Angela Kwan – Parents.com)

The benefits are clear. In amongst the sports, scouting and play, it is worth your child considering playing a musical instrument and that is why, as a school, we feel it is so important to offer Year 3 children violin and cello lessons as an introduction for all. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could extend this to other instruments too!

Laura Millbourn

**A Celebration Breakfast for pupils in Victorians House** will be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April from 8.15 – 9.00am.

### **After School**

Please can we remind all parents that children should not be on the field or on our play equipment once they have been dismissed from the classroom. Staff will ask your children to come off if they are seen on them. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Easter Eggs**

Thank you to those families who donated Easter Eggs to be distributed to the senior citizens in the village. They are always so appreciative of this gesture and the children always receive many notes of thanks.

### **Headteacher's Blog**

Please see the Headteacher's Blog tomorrow for an end of term message including the link to our new Random Acts of Kindness Video.

### **Easter Challenge**

Please share your Easter photos on Twitter of your children challenging themselves to do something new. I am mentioning a sunflower competition to the children tomorrow in collective worship, to see who can grow the tallest sunflower. Let's see how tall we can make them grow! Please note, this is a completely optional activity.

### **River & Rowing Museum Creative Writing Competition**

Inspired by their forthcoming exhibition, 'Peter Rabbit, Mischief and Mayhem!' 24<sup>th</sup> June – 24<sup>th</sup> September, the River and Rowing Museum in Henley are running a competition. Deadline for entries is 12<sup>th</sup> May. Enter now for your chance to have your story turned into a real book and win prizes for your school! Download a competition pack from their website [rrm.co.uk/learning](http://rrm.co.uk/learning).

### **Car Parking and Manoeuvring in Old Reading Road**

A reminder to be very careful when parking or manoeuvring in Old Reading Road. A parent has reported a 'near miss' involving a pupil a few days ago. The Bell and the Queen's Head are happy for parents to use their car parks when dropping off and collecting pupils.

## **PTA NEWS**

### **Summer Fete**

We hope you are all looking forward to the summer fete this year on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 11-3pm. There will be live music, pony rides, archery, maypole dancing, cream teas, a barbecue, crafts, games and lots more! Details to follow after Easter.

There will be a non-uniform day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Please bring in tombola prizes for the Summer Fayre.

### **Children's 1K Run**

As it was so popular last year, there will be another children's 1K run at the school fete this year. More details will follow soon with regard to entry and sponsorship. We hope lots of the children will want to take part!

### **Book Stall**

The PTA would like to run a second hand book stall at the fete and would be very grateful for donations of books (children's and adults) that you no longer want. Please take all donations in to reception before 19<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Inset Day**

A reminder that Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April is an Inset Day. There will be no clubs during the first week of term.

### **2017 THAMES RUN**

This year's Thames Run will take place on Sunday 21st May 2017 and will be again be raising money for Crowmarsh Primary School PTA and Style Acre.

The Thames Run is a multi-terrain 5 and 10k run in and around the historic town of Wallingford. It starts and finishes at Crowmarsh Gifford School, who will also be holding the summer

fete, offering refreshments, ice-creams and burgers.

Whilst all the profits from registration fees are donated to Crowmarsh School PTA and Style Acre, remember you can also run and raise sponsorship money for your own choice of charity.

As well as encouraging people to enter the run, we also need volunteers to help out. Anyone interested in helping with the set up or marshalling of the run should email [thamesruncommittee@gmail.com](mailto:thamesruncommittee@gmail.com) or complete the volunteer form on the website <http://www.thamesrun.co.uk>

Register for the Thames Run at <http://www.thamesrun.co.uk/register>.

### **Church Services in April**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 10.15am  
Palm Sunday procession with a donkey and family service at Brightwell.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 11.00am  
Family Communion at Crowmarsh.

### **PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

Pre-School are holding a Cake Sale on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April in Key Stage 1 playground from 3.15pm to help raise money for Pre-School.

### **Governors' Email Address**

Parents wishing to contact the school governors may email them at [1gov5937@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:1gov5937@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk)

**Book Review by Eleanor Walker  
(Class 3)**

Title: My Headteacher is a Vampire Rat

Author: Pamela Butchart

Story: Is the Headteacher a Vampire Rat? He is really white and wears a cape and also is allergic to garlic. Plus there are rats in the school when there weren't any before. The children try to find out ...

Rating: 9/10.

Why I like it: I like it because it's a mystery till the end ...

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**We are happy to include community items when space permits but readers should be aware that events and activities advertised have not been researched by the school.**

**Moulsford Boys' Prep School**

**Open Day**

Friday 12th May 2017

10 – 12 noon and 1 – 3pm

Tel: 01491 651438 or email

[pa.registrar@moulsford.com](mailto:pa.registrar@moulsford.com) to book.

**World Eggbert's Adventures**

**Egg & Spoon Championships**

Abbey Gardens, Abingdon OX14 3SE

Bring your spoon! Join in the family fun. Starts 10.30am

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Complete the online registration form at [www.eggbertsadventures.com](http://www.eggbertsadventures.com) or simply turn up on the day.

Kindest Regards,

Your headteacher Mrs Barton and the team at Crowmarsh Gifford CE Primary School.