



Why it's Unhelpful to Put Limits on Children's Learning...

An insight into the idea of 'mixed abilities' and how teaching and learning has been changing.

(Taken from:

<http://www.marymyatt.com/blog/2017-04-12/why-its-unhelpful-to-put-limits-on-childrens-learning> Written by: Christopher Bryan. (PART 1)

This is a sensitive topic. In every classroom there are children with different levels of prior attainment and with differing capacities to engage with the work. However, the labelling of children through setting might be putting limits on their learning.

What happens in many classrooms is that pupils are placed in groups which determine the level of work which they are expected to do. However these tables are labelled and however carefully the adults believe they have disguised the fact that they are given work of different challenge, children are remarkably astute at knowing what these mean. Whether they are on a table called leopards or lizards, they know what these signify. Whether they are number ones or number fours they know that this involves different levels of challenge and expectation. The problem comes when the labels remain stuck. Children self-identify with the level of work which is expected of them. This is not helpful either for the high prior attainers or the low prior attainers. The high attainers see themselves a privileged, as being worthy of greater challenge and as more able than others. All of which might be the case. But if their work drops and they

are allocated a different label to differentiate their work they are likely to see themselves as failures. Similarly for the other labelled groups. Children who have the bottom labels, and they do know they are labelled bottom, feel that they cannot tackle more demanding work. They are often supported by an adult which is often appropriate, but what sometimes happens is that they become dependent on the adult to help them, even when they don't need it.

Alison Peacock in 'Assessment for Learning without Limits' provides an insight into children's views on setting: 'The 'more able' loved it; they enjoyed being the 'bright' ones and having 'special' challenges set by the teacher. They also saw working with the teacher as a negative. The middle group were annoyed that they didn't get the same work and challenges as the other group; they wanted to try harder work but they have worked out they would never be moved up as there were only six seats on the top table. The 'less able' were affected the most. They felt 'dumb', useless, they thought they would never be allowed challenges as they usually work with the teaching assistant (some by year 5 were completely dependent on the teaching assistant to help them). This 'less able' group like the sound of some of the challenges the top group had, but knew they would never get the chance.'

What are you thankful for during this season of Harvest?

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Week Ahead

Monday:	Parents Evening
Tuesday:	Parents Evening Bridge Club Running Club
Wednesday:	Parents Evening Netball Club
Thursday:	Parents Evening Choir KS2 Football Club Basketball Club
Friday:	Parents Evening

Take time to be thankful for everything that you have. You can always have more, but you could also have less.



Twitter

Don't forget to sign up for a Twitter account so that you can see the very latest that is going on in the classrooms of Crowmarsh School!

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who brought in items for our Harvest Parcels. All the items get put into packages for local families in the community who are on our list from the church to receive them. Anything that is surplus to our needs goes to the Wallingford Food Bank. Thank you again for helping to support this effort.

Dates for the Diary

We have already begun to fill up the diary. Please see our dates at the end of this newsletter. They will be updated regularly.

Grandparents' Week

All Grandparents are invited in during the week of November 5th. We hope as many as possible are able to join us. Grandparents are welcome to come to school from 2:00 on the afternoon that is dedicated to the house group your grandchildren are in. The dates are as follows:

Victorians – Tuesday 6th
Edwardians – Wednesday 7th
Tudors – Thursday 8th
Georgians – Friday 9th

As it is during Remembrance week, we will be doing lots of activities to do with the World Wars. If grandparents have any stories, pictures, etc, that would be useful for these activities, we would encourage them to bring these in on their afternoons in school.

Reading Morning –

Don't Forget! Our first reading morning of the year will take place on Wednesday October 17th at 8:00 a.m. in the hall. Come and enjoy a story and a coffee with your child. If you are unable to attend with your child,

Has your child come back talking about Science, Geography, Art or any other subjects? Talk to them about what they are learning. We are re-hauling our curriculum to truly inspire and engage our children and would love to hear any feedback that you have been given!

we will now allow children to come on their own to join in the fun. We look forward to seeing you then!

Safeguarding

Can we please remind parents that children must be brought to the office if you are late into school. Please do not walk to the doors outside of your child's class if their line has already gone in as all external doors should be locked at 8:40 after the teachers come into the building. Thank you for your understanding.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October 2018. There may be considerable noise coming from school while the old roof is removed from some of our existing classrooms. We apologise in advance for the disruption and disturbance that this may cause.

Just to inform you based on feedback we are now sending Newsletters out fortnightly. School dinner menus will be emailed weekly separately out on a Wednesday.

World Mental Health Day is a day for global mental health education awareness and advocacy against social stigma. Research has shown that two thirds of us experience a Mental Health problem in our lifetimes

and stress is a key factor in this. To support World Mental Health Day the First Step Forward Learning Hub are holding a Tea and Talk Party at Cholsey Pavilion on Friday 12th October, 10am-12pm. Crowmarsh parents/carers and their families are warmly invited to go along, have a natter, raise money and change lives!

PE News

We are very proud of all our runners who competed at the weekend of 6th October in the MECE Cross Country series. Yr 1 Alex Grech & Rebecca Hermsen
Yr 3 Joseph Hermsen & James Rowley & Olivia Hermsen
Yr 5 G Amber MacKenzie
Yr 6 G Charlotte Hermsen

Governors' Email

Parents wishing to contact the school governors may email them at 1gov5937@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk

PTA News

Minutes from our meeting on September 25th are now available to view on the school website (in the PTA section) and the notice board in the School Office reception.

Autumn Disco

We have our Autumn disco next Thursday evening (18th October) in the school hall. KS1 (R-Yr2) 5.30 - 6.30 and KS2 (Yr3-6) 6.30 - 8pm. We hope many of your children will be joining us for

some fun before we all break up for half term. Tickets are £3 per child and they will be provided with a soft drink and snack during the disco. We will also be selling glow sticks (3 for £1) on the door.

2nd Hand Uniform Sale

We will be running our first 2nd Hand Uniform Sale alongside the disco in one of the classrooms from 5.30-8pm. Items range from 50p-£2 and we have a good stock and range of different aged and gender uniform that you can browse once you have dropped your child off or just before you collect them from the disco.

Next PTA Meeting.

We were due to have our next PTA meeting Tuesday 16th October at 7.30pm in the school hall to begin organising the Christmas fete (Thursday 6th December, approx 5.30-8pm), However next week is now rather busy with parents meetings so we are going to postpone the meeting until after half term. It will now be Tuesday 30th October at 7.30-8.30 in the School Hall. We will be deciding on what activities are run at the fete so we hope to see many of you there, so you have an opportunity to share your views for what to include as well as what you might like to avoid including! We will also need to vote on a couple of proposed spends. Only those attending the meeting are able to vote. The agenda for the meeting will be sent out before half term.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

and www.giveasyoulive.com

These are online fundraising platforms that enable us to raise money for our school PTA charity every time we do an online purchase. All you need to do is register with the organisation and nominate Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School PTA as your chosen charity to support. When shopping on line you need to go to the giveasyoulive or easyfundraising website (as

listed above) and search for your online store (e.g. amazon) and then go shopping. A percentage of your purchase price (between 0.5 & 4%) is then donated to our PTA. Currently I can see that there are 51 registered supporters of our PTA on Giveasyoulive and between them so far they have raised £965 for us. By signing up and using this service you can help us raise fund in the comfort of your own home 😊 😊.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support. The PTA committee.

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

Step In Time – School of Performing Arts. Offers classes in tap. Ballet, modern and jazz for boys and girls from the age of 4 years. In addition, we have Musical Theatre classes, limbering, Commercial and adult dance classes. Our classes are held in and around Didcot.

Whether you want to dance for fun, fitness or pursue a career in the Performing Arts, come and see what we have to offer. The first class in any genre is a free taster class. Contact us today to book your free taster classes. Email: stepintimepa@gmail.com; www.stepintimedance.co.uk; Instagram: *timestepin*; Tricia: 07565 349 523

The Day I Fell Into A Book is an immersive storytelling adventure for families and school groups that explores the magic of reading and the vitality of young imaginations. Using binaural sound recordings, intricate lighting technology and projection, the audience is taken into a lost world of classic tales. The stories seep into the room and come alive all around us as we venture further into the deep recesses of

our minds. A 3-dimensional sound and theatre experience for everyone who loves myths, legends and reading. The Story Museum, 12-27 October, ages 8+ **BOOK TICKETS:** <https://www.storymuseum.org.uk/the-day-i-fell-into-a-book/>

“Play-in-a-Day” Come and experience a fun-packed morning of drama at Queen Anne’s School, Caversham. Whether you love to act or you are a complete beginner, this workshop is for you! Open to girls of all abilities in Years 5 – 6. Saturday 10 November 2018, 10.00AM TO 12.30PM. If you would like more information, please email: marketing@qas.org.uk

Chilterns Walking Festival 6th – 21st October 2018. This festival provides over 50 opportunities to enjoy beech woodland, nature reserves, family walks and much more, all in the expert care of a knowledgeable guide. Please book your walks at www.visitchilterns.couk/walkingfest, where you will also find full details of all events, including information on walk grades, suitability for children and dogs, booking guidance etc.

Autumn Fair at Harcourt Arboretum is full of family friendly activities that celebrate Autumn and the great outdoors along with lots of yummy food and drink and plenty of entertainment, plus a chance to explore our beautiful arboretum. Saturday 13th October, 11am-4pm, Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9PX E mail: haeducation@obg.ox.ac.uk Tel: 01865 286693 Web: <http://www.obga.ox.ac.uk>

THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL - 3rd & 4th January 2019. WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD. All our courses are for children aged 7 - 13 who love singing!

Our courses are devised to include whole group singing, singing lessons in small groups to improve singing technique, music appreciation, music history and much more! Families are most welcome to come and listen to an informal concert at the end of each day. To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please look at www.oxbridgesingingschool.com or email oxbridgess@gmail.com

Left to their own devices?

Do you feel out of touch with your child's online habits? The internet has completely changed the way that we live our lives. From smartphones to social media, our children have so many positive opportunities to develop skills and build connections that were never previously possible. Despite this, many can find parenting in the online world a challenge and are concerned about how to safeguard their family. This event was a great success in the summer and we're now looking forward to coming to **Reading on 16 October**. Katharine Hill and Philip Jinadu will explore the highs and lows of the digital world and how to nurture online resilience. Book now and help your family thrive in the digital age. LifeSpring Church, RG1 7UY Time: 7.30 pm – 10.00 pm. cff.org.uk/owndevices 029 2081 0800. Tickets: 1-3 tickets - £6 each; 4 or more tickets - £5 each; On the door - £7 each; Special Partner rate - £4 each

Full Circle Sports October Half Term Holiday Sports & Activity Camp

Come and join us to make friends, learn new skills and have fun! Children age 5 to 13 years can participate in an exciting programme of indoor and outdoor activities, led by qualified and enthusiastic coaches. Activities include*: Trampolining, Climbing Wall, MultiSports, Hockey, Football, Lacrosse, Basketball, Cricket, Rounders, Tennis, Badminton, Tag Rugby, Drama and Dance Workshops,

Arts & Crafts and much more!
Dates: Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25th October. Time: 9.30 to 4.30pm (extra time of 8.30am to 5.30pm available - charges apply) Venue: Wallingford School Leisure Centre (OX10 8HH)
Cost: £32 per day (sibling and full week discounts available)
For more details or to reserve your places - Email - sam@fullcirclesports.co.uk Call - 07751 231 090

Church News

BLAST PARTY. Open to school years 5 to 7.

Wallingford Baptist Church Friday 12th October 6:30-8:30pm.... Inflatable Obstacle Course! FREE FOOD & DRINK... FREE ENTRY!!

BLAST – Building Lives Around Sound Truth. Games, Crafts, Music, Nights out, Tuck shop - £1 entry. Wallingford Baptist Church. Open to school years 6 – 7 every Friday evening during term time 7pm – 8pm. blast@wallingfordbaptist.co.uk

Raising Faith – Helping our children find a faith that lasts. Care for the family charity. As Christian mums and dads, there are so many ways you can bring God into your family life. Come and explore how you can help your child find a genuine faith of their own - help them discover God in the everyday. Wednesday 14 November The King's Centre, OX2 0ES. Tickets: 1-3 tickets - £6 each; 4 or more tickets - £5 each; On the door - £7 each; Special Partner rate - £4 each; Time: 7.30 pm – 10.00 pm. To book: cff.org.uk/raisingfaith 029 2081 0800