



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. (Part 1 was featured on our October 11th Newsletter, Part 2 was featured on our Newsletter November 15th)

(Taken from:

<http://www.marymyatt.com/blog/2017-04-12/why-its-unhelpful-to-put-limits-on-childrens-learning> Written by: Christopher Bryan. (PART 3)

The shift in what pupils can do well in one lesson is likely to be different in another. So, while a group of pupils might have grasped one aspect very quickly, they might be slower on another. This means that there needs to be fluidity and flexibility about what they do and what is expected of them. This movement in terms of expertise is natural. Not every child is going to struggle every time and not every child is going to race ahead. This is how learning works.

The philosophy of 'Learning without Limits' [2] encourages schools not to label children. Their needs and barriers to learning should be identified but this is different from labelling them. A staggering statistic from Gordon Stobart in The Expert Learner [3] showed that 88% of 4-year olds placed in sets were still there by the end of their schooling. In her TEDx [4] talk Alison Peacock describes the school journey of one child with considerable additional needs. What would have happened if she had used sets? What would the outcomes have been for that child if he had been labelled? It's very unlikely that he would have reached

the top scores in his SATS.

We do not truly know what anyone is capable of until they are given interesting and difficult things to do. So, a 'learning without limits' setting ensures there are interesting, thought-provoking, challenging things for children to do. And that alongside this there is plenty of appropriate support and timely feedback. If children are engaged in thoughtful, absorbing practice, they are both paying attention to the now, are in the moment and are also on the path for a bigger story, which moves them into tomorrow and the future.

A compelling example for why it is so important not to underestimate what children can do. Jonathan Bryan, born with cerebral palsy after his mother was involved in a car accident started a campaign to ensure all children with 'locked-in' syndrome are taught to read and write [5]. It took seven years before he was able to communicate and now spends part of each day in the local primary school where he excels at maths. He also writes blogs and poems of great subtlety and wit and are read by thousands on his blog [6] 'I can talk: a silent soul emerging'. So, a call to all to think about how we 'label' children and what might be hidden when we do so.

From 'Learning without Labels

During this time of Thanksgiving, what are you most thankful for?

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Week Ahead

Monday:

Tuesday: Strings Concert
Running Club
Violin lessons

Wednesday: Netball Club
Guitar lessons

Thursday: Christmas Fayre
Choir
KS2 Football Club
Basketball Club
Clarinet lessons

Friday: Year 5 Swimming



Hanging Baskets Due to an extremely generous donation from the wonderful team at **Purely Plants** (formally Busy Baskets) we now have 4 beautiful hanging baskets decorating the outside of the building. We have also been able to plant up the tubs and borders due to the large donation of plants and bulbs. So, in true Crowmarsh School style, please thank them when you next visit the nursery at 142a Wantage Road, Wallingford OX10 0LU

Christmas Reading Morning –

Our Christmas Reading morning will take place at 8:00 a.m. on December 19th in the hall. Come and enjoy a story and a coffee with your child. We look forward to seeing you then!

Christmas Productions

Please make sure you keep an eye on all of the dates for your diary as there are lots of things taking place in the run up to Christmas.

Christmas Present Appeal

We have decided to support **The Salvation Army** this Christmas by helping with their Christmas Appeal. We will be donating new unwrapped toys and gifts for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present. You can find out more about the appeal by following this link; <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/christmas-present-appeal> On that page you will find a list of suggested gifts for different age ranges from 0-16yrs. We are only asking for one gift per family and there will be a box in reception where you can leave your gift. All unwrapped gifts will need to be donated by the 14th December. Following this Mrs Roberts will be taking all the gifts to the local drop off point. Thank you for all your support in advance.

Did you know that every child performs in a Christmas production?

Every class either does a version of the Nativity or a Christmas play during December. Oracy continues to be a school priority and this is a wonderful way of helping children shine!

School dinner menus will be emailed weekly separately out on a Wednesday. Please see flyers and adverts for community events at the end of this document.

PE News

This Saturday, 1st December is the final round of our **Primary School Cross Country Winter Series** and we hope to see you at MECE. Conditions are forecast as being wet so please share lifts as the bottom field will not be available for parking. It will mean parking down the road or in the village and then walking up to the school. Arrive early. **THE PARENTS CAFE WILL BE OPEN!**

Marshals for Saturday. Can Crowmarsh please provide cover. Remember this can be pupils, parents or staff to cover. See you all Saturday. Details Kevin knutt@kidmore-end.co.uk

All afterschool clubs will be continuing for the next 2 weeks. While the weather has been so harsh the training has been based around techniques of the sport and taken place in the school hall.

Garden Tidy – a MASSIVE THANK YOU to the parents who came and ‘dug in’ – we achieved a huge amount and are looking

forward to seeing the results of our labours in the Spring.

Governors’ Email

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

PTA News

CHRISTMAS FAYRE!!! It is on the 6th December 5.30 to 7.30pm. A call out for more volunteers for the Christmas fayre especially to class 1 and 3 parents as at the moment we aren't able to have as many games running this year which will be such a shame for the children so please sign up it is only for 30 mins!!! And a THANK YOU to the parents who are already signed up!

Non-uniform day November 30th we are being asked to give £1.00 or a Tombola Prize

The Thames Run which coincides with our summer fete is on 19th May 2019. The Thames Run Committee are meeting on 8th Nov at 8pm at the Queens Head if anyone wants to offer their services as a volunteer.

Next PTA meeting 15th January at 7.30pm.

Flu Vaccinations: please be aware that there is a catch-up session for all those children who were unable to be immunised at

school. 11th December, 09:00
Wallingford Hosp, School Nurse
Office, 01865 904845

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.

Hill End we would like to invite our past-school-age school's families and also Oxfordshire communities on the next guided history tours of the restored WW1 practice trenches, taking place in December. It will be an ideal time to find out more about the lives of the soldiers who fought in the conflict. The tours are open to everyone and are free, although they will need to book a place: admin@hill-end.org or phone 01865 863510 Monday 10th & Thursday 13 December at 10am & 1pm

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 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

Church News

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

Reminders:

Please provide a reason for your child's nonattendance on the morning of their first day's absence.

Any confirm & return slips can be given by the child to the class teacher at registration or deposited in the box at reception or in the box on the gate.

All your child's uniform and possessions to be named please – especially now they are bringing in winter layers etc.