



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)

(Taken from:

<http://www.marymyatt.com/blog/2017-04-12/why-its-unhelpful-to-put-limits-on-childrens-learning> Written by: Christopher Bryan. (PART 2)

For many of the 'lower' groups, they are offered closed responses - matching parts of sentences, filling in gaps, completing easy worksheets, none of which really stretches them or expects them to do much. Others, by contrast are given more to do and more is expected of them. While they might have a few closed exercises in order to practice or consolidate their knowledge, they are also expected to do new things with this - constructing their own sentences, coming up with other alternative adjectives in a piece of writing, suggesting alternatives to maths problems. These children are being given more opportunities both to struggle and to gain new knowledge. The others, by contrast, have insufficient expected of them and as a result, don't make the same gains as their peers. This extends the gap in their knowledge and attainment. The paradox is that by attempting to give them easier work, such exercises can often close down their capacity and opportunity to do more.

Teachers somehow have to make sense of this in order to get all children working to their highest capacity and potential. Schools which have recognised that grouping

children by ability could be a problem in promoting self-limiting beliefs at all levels of ability have done away with the naming of tables or groups. Instead, they promote teaching to the top, rather than putting a lid on what children might produce by preparing materials which only allow them to go so far. The current trend in the teaching of mathematics in primary schools is that the whole class is taught together on the key ideas and those who need additional support are given this through guidance and discussion by an adult. Those who are early graspers are kept on the same material but are expected to work on aspects of greater complexity and depth.

The principle is that all children are exposed to the material at the same time. Now there will always be exceptions to this: those whose cognitive ability needs one to one support, often through pre-learning sessions so that they are able to access the material and others whose grasp is so secure early on that they need additional work which makes them really think. But for the majority of children in most classes the expectation is that by teaching to the top and providing additional support for those who need it and challenge for those who are capable of greater complexity and as a result all are exposed to a rich and demanding curriculum.

Why is remembering so important? Why is it important that we not forget our History?

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Week Ahead

Monday:

Tuesday: Running Club
Violin lessons

Wednesday: Netball Club
Piano lessons
Guitar lessons
Flu Vaccines

Thursday: Choir
KS2 Football Club
Basketball Club
Brass music lessons
Clarinet lessons

Friday: Year 5 Swimming

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

William Butler Yeats

Thank You

I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for their well wishes. The support everyone has shown me and the team at Crowmarsh has been amazing and I cannot thank you all enough. As I mentioned in my letter last week, not being in school every moment has only made me realise even more how much I love what I do. I always tell everyone that I have the best job in the world and it couldn't be truer. Thank you all and look forward to being back in school all the time as soon as possible. However, please know that the team here (staff and governors included) continue to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Grandparents' Week

What a fantastic week we have had with your grandparents. Thank you so much for helping support this event and for bringing in all the stories that you had for Remembrance. This is one of my favourite times of the year and I know that the children love sharing their learning with their grandparents who often don't get to come to our school. We look forward to welcoming them again soon!

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!

Children in Need

It's Children in Need time! Our wonderful School Council have decided to raise funds by having a dress up day on the 16th November, they thought it would be nice to dress as what you aspire to be. All we ask is that it is weather appropriate including sensible footwear and that you bring a donation of at least £1.00

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!

Christmas

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.

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.

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.

Autumn Garden Tidy

Parents, Carers and Grandparents are all invited to join us for our Autumn Garden Tidy on Saturday 24th November 10.00am-12.00pm. A warming lunch will be provided! Please bring your favourite gardening tools and help us prepare the garden for the cold winter months to come.

For further information please contact Jackie Napier-Jones, E. jnap5834@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk, T. 07375 457 512.

Guitar Lessons. Spaces available during school day for the next term! Should your son/daughter be interested in learning to play guitar, please contact: Manu Weikert on 01491 833715 or manu@steamboatmusic.co.uk

Choir News

'Big Christmas Sing' – Oxford Town Hall, Friday 30th November, tickets on sale through the online ticketing agency at <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/454234>

PE News

Primary School Cross Country
We look forward to seeing you at the last of the Winter Series on Saturday 1st December for the Oxfordshire County

Championships. Details Kevin
knutt@kidmore-end.co.uk

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

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

Book Fair – This was huge success –The school received £400.00 of book tokens to buy books for the school, thank you for your support.

Film Club –The next film club is tonight 15th November – vote for which film to watch!

The Thames Run which coincides with our summer fete is on 19th May 19. 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.

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.

Violins for sale - ½ size and ¾ size student, in good condition, complete with bow, case and rosin, only one shoulder rest available (fits either violin), £30-35 each, £55 for both. Contact Noémie at noedurand@netscape.net

NEARLY NEW FURNITURE AND HOME ACCESSORIES SALE. Local Interior Designer Kellie Sabey is running a nearly new furniture and home accessories sale on Saturday 24th November at The Great Hall, Fairmile, Cholsey OX10 9GW from 10am-2pm. One of her clients has recently moved and has a lot of items which are surplus to requirement. All pieces are in immaculate condition and barely used. There will be a “man with a Van” available on the day to assist with local delivery of larger items if necessary, for a reasonable charge.

First Step Forward Learning Hub. There are two workshops coming up that may be of interest to you; An Introduction to Qigong on 9th November and Makaton Signing Workshop on 21st November. Please see the attached flyers for more information.

Summerhouse Chalet to rent in Preston Crowmarsh. Adjacent kitchen, toilet, shower in lovely garden leading down to River. (Independent / separate to main house) available late November December. £550 per month. Car parking for one car. Suit single / double. All facilities. Enquiries 07837 2499949 (evenings), colinatsb@clara.co.uk

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.