



# Crowmarsh Gifford C.E. Primary School

"Let your light shine..." ~Matthew 5:16~ Faith ~ Service ~ Integrity ~ Responsibility ~ Truth ~ Excellence

Week 3

Term 3

January 24<sup>th</sup> 2019

## **Reading with Your Child**

Another reminder of the importance of reading with your child... For every child here at Crowmarsh, it is our expectation that they are reading every day at home, in addition to the reading they are asked to do at school. Reading is so important and letting children read to you or letting them hear you read to them is vital to success later in life. Children will model what you do as a parent, so if they see you enjoying a book, they will be more likely to want to copy your behaviour. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background. Attached to this newsletter is a short Pearson Guide to support reading at home – with some helpful advice about getting the most from reading. Also, take a look at [www.funbrain.com/books](http://www.funbrain.com/books) where there is a huge selection of free books to read online for all ages. Get reading and make it a habit for the whole family!

Also don't forget that we would like to encourage as many children to participate in the Mensa for Kids' – Excellence in Reading Program. It is free to join and you can download the correct year group book list for

your child to begin the challenge. The full details can be found at: <https://www.mensaforkids.org/achieve/excellence-in-reading/> All children (From reception to year 6) who complete this challenge will receive a t-shirt from Mensa and also will receive a special certificate presented in assembly. Again, these children will also be able to come and choose a new book to read from Mrs. Barton's library. Let's get reading!

## **Valentine Reading Morning –**

Our next Reading morning will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday February 13th. Come and enjoy a story and a coffee with your child. We look forward to seeing you then!

## **Engineers Wanted!**

Thank you to those parents who have stepped forward to help with this. Years 4, 5 and 6 are doing a joint engineering project for a few weeks and already had a webinar with Group Engineering Director, Dawn Childs, of Merlin Entertainment. Keep an eye out for updates to this exciting curriculum project.

## **Visit from China!**

Due to issues with visas and Chinese New Year, we are now expecting our visitors on Monday and Tuesday of next week. They will spend both days with our children across school learning about school in Britain as well as sharing their

**Think about our  
value integrity.  
What does it mean to  
you?  
How can you model  
integrity?**



**Week Ahead**

**Monday:**

**Tuesday:**

**Wednesday:**

**Thursday: Choir  
KS2 Football Club**

**Friday:**

"Ability is what you're capable of doing.  
Motivation determines what you do.  
Attitude determines how well you do it."  
- Lou Holtz -



experiences. Please note that they will be arriving in a large school bus, therefore we will have cones to mark out a space for them in front of the school.

### **Christingle**

Our annual Christingle service will be on Thursday January 31<sup>st</sup> at St Mary Magdalene church. KS1 will begin at 1:30 and then KS2 will begin at 2:15. Parents are welcome to attend, but there is very limited space and usually there is only standing room available.

Each year, the Children's Society donate all of the key items needed for our annual Christingle. Therefore, this year, all children are bringing home a money holder, to fill with pennies that they earn by helping around the house. Please note that you do not need to fill these all the way up – every penny helps, but we have told children that they should **earn** every penny they are given as they are helping children who are less fortunate than themselves. Please do not just give your children pennies – we are expecting them to think about what they can do to help at home – thank you for supporting this lesson.

### **Safeguarding and Pick Up Arrangements**

Please can we urge all parents that if you regularly have someone else picking your children up from school, that you let us know in writing?

Further, if parents do not call in to confirm changes to pick-up, we cannot let children go home with someone else until we have confirmation from their own parents. Also, please expect the office to ask if they can call you

Did you know that...a case study is being written up and shared about our school due to our excellent staff survey results over the past few years? The auditor is studying what we do for wellbeing in school as she has never seen such steady and high results regarding staff (in all positions) and their happiness at work. Wellbeing for both staff and children has always been a school priority. Happy and passionate staff = happy and engaged children!

back, just to ensure we are speaking to the correct parents.

Where possible, if any changes to collection can be written down, it would help us out tremendously. Please understand that this is all to help safeguard your children.

Also, a reminder that you must call the school office by 9:00 every day, if your children are not in school. After this time, the school office will contact you to find out where your child is.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

### **School Closures**

Just a reminder, that if school was closed for any reason, we would post this information on the front page of our website, put it on Twitter and inform the local radio stations. If you don't hear anything, then assume school is open as normal. Through thorough risk assessments, we always keep school open where possible.

### **Parking**

We have had many complaints from parents regarding cars that are parking without any awareness of pedestrians. Can we please remind you that cars must not be parked on the zig zag lines outside of school – these are kept clear for emergency vehicles only. Also, photos have been brought to the office of repeat offenders who are always parking across pavements or roads, which block children and parents from walking along the pavement safely. We have been in touch with the Community Support Officers who will be patrolling the area during morning drop off and school collection times. A reminder that parents can park safely in the pub car parks and walk into school – this is the preferred and safest option.

### **Kites Kitchen**

A huge congratulations to Jo and her team from Kites Kitchen – for attaining the highest level 5 in their inspection this week. A thank you for all of their hard work and always preparing excellent and healthy meals and

lots of choice. Our children and staff are very lucky!

### **Winter Walk with Mrs Barton**

As many of you know, the last few months have been the most challenging of times for our family. However, what has shined through is the support of our friends, family and community we live in. We cannot thank everyone enough for their kind words, thoughts and prayers. We have been blessed to be supported by the Sue Ryder Team in Nettlebed, who have supported our family in a multitude of ways. They have been with us every step of the way and for that we are truly grateful. When they called me the other week to ask if I'd still be up to run the London Marathon for them, of course I said yes! So, as part of my fundraising, I am organising a family Winter Walk which you are all welcome to take part in. Don your wellies and bring your dogs for a short walk along the river. We will be starting at the Boathouse Pub in Wallingford and will walk to the Riverfront Café in Benson and back again. Families can take a break at either venue for lunch or a cup of coffee. A short, brisk walk for all members of the family! All donations please to: [www.justgiving.com/Flora-Barton1](http://www.justgiving.com/Flora-Barton1) We will meet at 10:30 on Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup> outside of the Boathouse in Wallingford. Hope to see you there! For full information, please see the attached flyer.

*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.*

Any **unwanted new Christmas gifts** (but not Christmas themed) can be brought into school and will be donated to the Pre-

School's Quiz Night's Raffle – thank you.

### **Guitar Lessons - Spaces available 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](mailto:manu@steamboatmusic.co.uk) (Applicants should be at least 7 years old).

### **Learn Brass with BRASS IN CLASS! – Spaces available!**

Lessons at school, play with friends. Tuba, Euphonium, Baritone, Trombone, Horn, Trumpet or Cornet. For more detail: [ian@brassinclass.com](mailto:ian@brassinclass.com) or 07766616162. Application form and flyer in attachments at the end of this Newsletter.

**Catering Assistant Vacancy required as soon as possible**, 15hrs per week, term time only. Grade 2 Point 7 (£8.55 per hour). Working hours 10:00am – 1:00pm Monday to Friday. Please call in at School Office for job pack or email [jobs@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:jobs@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk) Deadline for applications is 12:00 midday on Friday 8th February.

Wallingford & Didcot Rotary Club are running the local heat of the **Young Photographer Competition**, as the first stage of the Rotary national competitions. The Task is to produce a portfolio of three photographs based upon the theme, 'Beauty of Nature' in colour or black and white on photographic paper. Prints to be submitted separately. Each print, including any mount should be no larger than A4 size. Mobile Phones may be used. Open to Junior 7 to 10 years old (the age qualifying date of 31st August 2018, it should be noted that some junior entrants may be 11). Entries submitted no later than 31st March 2019, for more information <https://www.rotarygbi.org/projects/young-people/rotakids/>

## **Choir News**

This term Year 5 & 6 are participating with various other schools in the 'Primary Pop Concert' on Friday 15th March 2019 at Oxfordshire County Music Service. The children will learn, from memory, nine pop songs to perform and will be accompanied by a live rock band, additional instruments and backing singers.

## **PE News**

**Half-Term Cricket Camps** are being run at the following locations available within the Berkshire area: Eagle House Prep School (GU47 8PH): 18th-20th February; Forest School (RG41 5NE): 19th-21st February; St Johns Beaumont Prep School: 18th-20th February. All days are 10am - 3pm and can be booked via the link below: <https://www.danhousegocrickecoach.com/cricket-booking-form/> Please note that a 10% early bird discount expires on the 08.02.19

### **Oxfordshire Primary Schools Cross Country Championships.**

A great atmosphere for parents to enjoy with a friendly cafe with lovely bacon sandwiches/hot chocs to warm the kids up after their run. Saturday 2nd March, Reades Lane Sonning Common RG4 9LN. For more information email [knutt@kidmore-end.co.uk](mailto:knutt@kidmore-end.co.uk)

## **Governors' Email**

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

## **PTA News**

- Parent Helpers needed to help run Film Club & March Disco
- New Sound System – PTA funding remainder required.
- Books required for library – especially non-fiction

- Portable Air Conditioners for summer required
- Craft Fundraiser – linked to Mother's Day
- Give as you Live and Easy Fundraising:  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)  
& [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)
- Lego Club Idea – after school club – parent helpers required.

## Pre-School News

### General knowledge Quiz Night

**TIME!** on Saturday 9th February at the Village Hall, doors open at 7pm, Quiz starts at 7:30. The ticket at £10 each also covers food. Licensed bar. Raffle & Silent Auction. Please join them with a team for a great evening. Tickets by emailing [crowmarshpreschoolquiznight@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshpreschoolquiznight@gmail.com) or Clare Walker 07817 758 033

## Church News

**Crowmarsh Community Café** is now an established a regular fixture in the village calendar on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to noon at the Village Hall. Tea, coffee cakes and refreshments for children are all offered for free due to the kind donations who have waived their expenses. £250 will be donated to the village hall and the remaining being used to improve other communal facilities in the church. All will be most welcome.

**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](mailto:blast@wallingfordbaptist.co.uk)

*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.*

Sue Ryder South Oxfordshire Winter Walk On Saturday February 9th Mrs Barton will be starting a walk from outside The Boathouse at 10:30am in order to support and raise funds for out local hospice. Donations on: [www.justgiving.com/Flora-Barton1](http://www.justgiving.com/Flora-Barton1)

**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](mailto:stepintimepa@gmail.com) ; [www.stepintimedance.co.uk](http://www.stepintimedance.co.uk) ; Instagram: timestepin; Tricia: 07565 349 523

For **World Book Day**, Henley Children's Literary Festival are welcoming two fantastic children's authors to Henley for pop-up events during the week of World Book Day. Join the Children's Laureate, Lauren Child for an interactive event as she introduces her new character Hubert Horatio. Equally exciting, the author of the books behind CBBC series Jamie Johnson, Dan Freedman will join us with his new book Unstoppable.

**Junior Dance Workshop at Queen Anne's School,** Caversham. Saturday 2nd February 2019. Open to girls in Year 4, 5 & 6. All abilities welcome. For more information please email [marketing@qas.org.uk](mailto:marketing@qas.org.uk)

**South Oxfordshire Music Centre at Wallingford School.** Saturdays 9:30am-12:00pm. To apply contact [jemma.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jemma.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/southmusiccentre](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/southmusiccentre)

**The Rumble Museum's Our Planet Season** are holding a Stargazing Evening on Monday 11th February 5 - 7pm, at Cheney School. The event will open at 5pm with a talk by Professor Allan Chapman. Allan is a University of Oxford lecturer and fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, who has presented TV programmes and lectures on topics such as astronomical religion in early civilisations and great scientists. All ages are welcome. To book, please email [info@irisproject.org.uk](mailto:info@irisproject.org.uk) You can find out more about Our Planet Season of events at <https://ourplanetseasonrumblemuseum.home.blog/2019/01/01/the-journey-begins/>

City of Oxford College, are offering a 5 week, **Creative Junior Saturday Art** course for 8-12-year olds. The art studios and facilities are second to none and will provide an inspiring and creative environment for each young person to explore all sorts of creative disciplines, including photography (darkroom and digital), graphic design, animation, printmaking, textiles, fashion, ceramics, 3D, painting and drawing. The course takes place on Saturday mornings from 10am-12pm and parents are very welcome to attend with their child at no extra cost. Full course information and how to enrol can be found using the below link. <https://www.activatelearning.ac.uk/courses/art-design/junior-saturday-art-club-for-9-12-year-olds>