



A Note From the Head...

As I've been sitting here typing some of this newsletter out, I have been listening to a child reading to Teddy, our school puppy, a story – using voice, expression and beautiful intonation. Little Teddy curled up on her lap, and she content and happy, lost in reading the exciting tale to her highly attentive listener – his ears pricking up with every other word.

Later in the day, I've also been listening to two pupils writing up an article together – talking about better words to use, how to improve what they have written – the compliments and encouragement they have both given each other has given me chills. The conversation goes: 'Oh, I'm not very good at thinking of different words to use – I keep using the same ones! You've written such a great sentence.' 'But I wouldn't have ever thought of that sentence without you here.'

'I suppose not, thank you.'
(This is just a snippet, it went on and on!)

Every day, this is what I hear – I see – I experience. New children in and out of my office, sharing their work, coming to talk to me, reading to Teddy. In the classrooms, children buzzing with excitement for learning, teachers passionate about their topics – a school truly happy and focused on its vision.

These are your children – this is your school. The children are why we are here – they are 'why' we come into school every day. They are what make us smile.

You should be so proud of your children – the focus, the effort, perseverance, resilience and manners that they display is beyond anything. This is what makes our school. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of teaching your children. Thank you because your children make this the very best job in the world...

Science Ambassadors *(Written by the Science Ambassadors)*

The science ambassadors are a group of diverse minds from years 5 to 6, passionate about all things science. Amongst improving science around the school, the science ambassadors post a blog and a newsletter every fortnight, hold engaging science assemblies (usually centred on a specific topic), and create exiting 'science boards' to provide information on the current subject. Our aim is to promote science around the school in a fun and engaging manner, whilst still teaching children of all ages to understand the concepts and logic behind science in an 'easy to process' way. Our current theme is space, but we'll change topics from time to time, based off of the opinions of the pupils at our school. We hope that this small introduction gives you a good idea of our purpose throughout Crowmarsh School, and encourages you to follow us across the school year. Be sure to check our webpage on the school website for blogs, questions, experiments and more!

What is 'love'?

What does 'love' mean to you?

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Thank A Teacher

It is that time of year again where we can begin nominating staff for their commitment to your children. We truly have a phenomenal team here at Crowmarsh and I urge you to help me in recognising the incredible job they do on a daily basis. You should see their faces light up as they read messages from parents and children when they receive a card from the Pearson Awards. Remember that every card a teacher receives helps them to be nominated into the teaching awards ceremony in October. It only takes a few minutes to send your Thank You Card. Please visit: <https://thankateacher.co.uk/> Every thank you sends an actual greeting card to the teacher or staff member you thank.

School News

We hope you have been enjoying the photos on our Twitter account. Please remember that if we cannot identify you by your name that we will need you to contact the school office before we approve you on our account. Our Twitter Handle is: @CrowmarshSchool.

Please also don't forget that each week the teachers update their class blogs on the website so that you can see what the children have been learning. Photos are often put on here as well.

The Science Ambassadors also now have their own page on our school website that is updated fortnightly – be sure to have a look with your children!

Wallingford School

A huge thank you to the team of pupils who have been coming in from Wallingford School to help with a few odd jobs around the site. It has been great to see some familiar faces as well! They are helping with some painting and with installing a new

play feature on the KS1 playground.

Kites Kitchen Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to Kites Kitchen again for maintaining the 5 star hygiene rating this week. They continue to provide excellent meals for all of the children providing different options for both main meals and puddings. Every day children have a selection of yoghurts and fresh fruit rather than the pudding offered or can often have both. Children who would like smaller or larger portions can always ask while in the line as we do our best to ensure that every child has exactly what they need to keep them fuelled for the rest of the day. If your child says they don't feel they are getting enough food at lunch, remind them to ask for a larger portion in the line.

Parent Helpers

Thanks to the help and support of the PTA we have been able to finally order our new bookshelves and furniture for our school library. However, we are in desperate need of a couple of volunteers who enjoy putting together IKEA furniture. Is there anyone able to come into school this weekend or during the school day next week to help us complete this? Definitely easier with two people. Thank you in advance!

Play Equipment After School

Please can we remind all parents that children should not be playing on any of the school equipment after school – especially while waiting in the EYFS area. Thank you for your understanding.

Pick Up and Collection Arrangements

A reminder to all parents that if your child is being collected by someone else at the end of the day, please put it in writing or make a call into the office. Where you are informing us by telephone, we may ask to call you back for safeguarding purpose to confirm that we are speaking to the main carers.

Only children in year 5 and 6 are allowed to walk home with written confirmation AND approval with the school. We always urge that children of this age are walking to a residence that is occupied. Further, anyone picking up children in school should be over 16 years of age unless in rare circumstances where other arrangements are in place following conversations with the headteacher and school team.

Can we please also remind parents of our arrangement with the pub – parents are allowed to use their carpark when dropping off or picking up.

E - Safety Day and Parent Internet Safety Session

On Tuesday February 11th, it is Safer Internet Day – the theme is: Together for a better internet. Mrs Corrigan will be leading a whole school assembly and children will be focusing on e-safety more throughout the week than normal (e-safety is already a large part of our computing curriculum) Following this, on February 27th at 7:00 p.m in our school hall, we will hold another Parent Guide to the Internet Session with Matt Lovegrove. These are always very popular sessions, so please can you RSVP to the school office if you are able to attend. Matt is a Google certified teacher and CEOP trainer. As always, we urge all parents to put this date in their diaries and to attend even if you have come to previous events in the past as things

continue to change rapidly. We cannot stress how important this issue is. Please note this session is suitable for parents from ALL year groups.

Bikeability - Year 5 Parents and Carers Avanti Cycling are coming to our school the week beginning 24th February to deliver high quality Bikeability training for year 5 pupils. They will gain the understanding and skills for cycling on today's roads.

Your child will need:

- A bike that is the right size for them
- In good mechanical order with no parts broken or falling off
- Two working brakes
- Tyres in good condition, pumped up and not punctured
- Good waterproof coat, gloves and training shoes
- A helmet that fits

If your child will need to borrow a bike and/or helmet please let Mr Morton or myself know, as soon as possible, before the course. E. inap5834@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk

The green post box at the start of the pedestrian entrance to school and the green box in school reception are emptied daily. All school communication can safely and confidently be deposited that way.

School Lunch Orders

We do need lunch orders to be submitted to the school office on the date specified on the order form. Jacket potatoes are very popular and when ordered on the day it is not always possible to guarantee getting one. Hot lunch orders can only be accepted when accompanied with the payment.

Collection arrangement – due to Safeguarding regulations, please use the lilac slips available at the school office to notify the class teachers if there is to be a different person collecting your child at the end of the day.

Fifteen apps parents should know about – please see additional information at the end of this document.

Recycling with TerraCycle...

What is TerraCycle?

TerraCycle is Eliminating the Idea of Waste® by recycling the "non-recyclable", With your help, we can divert millions of pounds of waste from landfills and incinerators each month. We have a collection point in our school for the children to deposit empty crisp packets, pens, highlighters & whiteboard markers.

World Book Day 5th March 2020, vouchers will be coming home with the children soon.

PTA News

Please also consider joining the Crowmarsh Gifford primary school PTA Facebook group where lots of interesting ideas get posted. In addition to the whole school group, each class has their own page too.

- Bags2School Tues 3rd March 2020, so please start collecting your good quality unwanted clothing and textiles etc. – more details on the attachments. This raises considerable funds for the PTA.

Language News

FRENCH Please encourage your child to use Linguascope to practice their French language skills and support what they learn in school or to try and new topic. Crowmarsh School has paid for our subscription – so let's all use it! Go to:
<https://www.linguascope.com/>
Username: crowmarsh
Password: ananas

Reception Class News

Do you have any of these loose parts? Foundation Stage are looking for Loose Parts: materials

that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials.

Do you have any of the following at home or your workplace that you no longer need? Foundation Stage would really appreciate them for our learning. Or anything similar that could be used for imaginative loose part learning.

Large Items, Cable reels, Tubes (cardboard or plastic), Planks, Tyres of different shapes and sizes (bicycle, go karts, tractors etc), Inner tubes, Crates, Sticks/canes, Cones, Pipes of varying lengths and sizes, Wooden ladders-smaller metal ladders, Old baskets, Old water butts still in good condition that could be used to create tunnels, Tunnels, Old steering wheels, Ribbons, Pegs, Corks. Please bring donations of Loose Parts to the adults in Class R.

Sports News

OXFORDSHIRE PRIMARY SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS. 14TH SERIES 2020. SATURDAY 29th February 2020 at MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE, READES LANE, SONNING COMMON. READING RG4 9 LN. (same venue as previous). Please note my new contact email knutt@kidmore-end.co.uk NO PRE ENTRY NEEDED. Just turn up on the day and enjoy the run. Please spread the word and encourage as many as possible to turn up and run. Races for years 1 – 6 (separate boys and girls). Enter as many runners as you wish but for the Yr 3 – 6 races you will need 3 runners if you also wish to be included in the team results. TIMES: Yr 1 10.00, yr 2 10.15, yr 3 10.30, yr 4 10.45, yr 5 11.00, yr 6 11.15. The parents association will be running their café so please

support them. We are asking a £2 car parking donation with the money going to the local AIR AMBULANCE GROUP.

Primary School Cross Country Race - ORATORY PREP. Saturday 8th February are as follows. If there are any questions, please do not contact the Oratory - contact me Kevin Nutt - knutt@kidmore-end.co.uk The Oratory Prep School Goring Heath South Oxfordshire use RG8 7QA for car park. Turn off the Goring Woodcote Road B4526 towards Whitchurch. School on your left approx. 400m go down the drive to the small roundabout GO LEFT into car park. Race field is straight ahead. (Exit from the site is also straight ahead DO NOT GO OUT THE WAY YOU CAME IN.) NO DOGS ALLOWED ON SITE. Yr 1 10.00, yr 2 10.15, yr 3 10.30, yr 4 10.45, yr 5 11.00, yr 6 11.15. Distances approx. yr 1/2 700m, yr 3/4 900m, yr 5/6 1400m. Medals and certificates will be given for all races. Tea/coffee available. Charity box for any donations.

Gardening News

Our school has received a lot of support and donations from the local community for our garden project, we thought we'd like to offer something back.

Music News

Guitar lessons – Spaces available from January. Should your son/daughter be interested in learning to play guitar, please contact Manu Weikert on 01491 833715 or manu@steamboatmusic.co.uk Children should be at least 7 years old.

Ian Barlow has spaces for brass instrument lessons, please see flyer at the end of this newsletter or www.brassinclass.com/register

Pre-School News

1:1 Teaching Assistant required for immediate start. Monday to Friday 09:30 – 14:30. This role is needed to support a child with additional needs. For more information and role specifics please contact admin@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk

On Saturday 28th March we will be hosting the annual fundraising quiz night. It will be held at Crowmarsh Village Hall from 7pm. £10 each including food. See the poster for details. Gather your friends and book your tickets. Please email crowmarshpreschoolquiznight@gmail.com or come along to pre-school to request tickets. Alongside the quiz we will also run a silent auction and raffle. We are therefore looking for prizes and would be grateful for any donations or assistance in gathering auction lots. Thanks for your support.

Church News

Wallingford Baptist Church is once again running Easter Explored: Monday 30th March – Friday 3rd April.

Governors' Email

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

Tutoring Offered - Primary School - Key Stage 2 / SATS and 11+ / Common Entrance Individual, personalised tuition

offered at my home in Dorchester or I can visit pupils from Dorchester, Benson, Wallingford areas. I aim to make learning enjoyable! Rosie Southon (BA Hons) - experienced teacher and 1:1 tutor Tel: 07447 691219 rosieKS2tutor@gmail.com

Babysitter – Friendly, reliable baby sitter living in Crowmarsh Gifford. Call or text Jasmine on 07945 712 583