

Crowmarsh Primary School News

“Let Your Light Shine...”

11/12/20



Thankful at Christmas

Thinking outside of the box...

During these times, what can we do for others this Christmas? We must be aware of the many people who are at home on their own this Christmas due to the Pandemic – many who’s families have not been able to travel to see them, or who are staying away because they are vulnerable. What can we do to ensure they know that we are here if they need us? What can we do to make people in our community know that we are thinking of them?

This Christmas lets talk to our children about how we show people kindness – how we make them feel less isolated. Can you leave a box of biscuits or chocolate on your neighbors door for them? A handmade Christmas card, or a little gift?

Think of some creative ways to show kindness and our value of service this Christmas. This is what this season is all about. Let’s model this and continue to shine our lights! I look forward to children sharing what they have done to help someone else in the New Year!

Zoom Assemblies and Lessons....

The Zoom assemblies have been a huge success this last term, with over 100 people joining our last assembly. Grandparents and family far away have been able to join in and be a part of our school. We complain about all that COVID has taken away from us, but looking at the positives, we have also gained so much. As I heard from another colleague this weekend, the uncertainty (of COVID) has brought opportunity. This is a time for us to be exhilarated by the possibility of what can be! Last week also saw Miss Rahman giving the first virtual lesson for parents and local teachers to be a part of.

We look forward to sharing Zoom assemblies every Friday with you (pandemic or not) and many more lessons are on their way as well. Exciting opportunities lie ahead!

Also attached to this newsletter is
December’s Action for Happiness Calendar
– theme is #DoGoodDecember

Assemblies

We have been looking at the theme of hope, kindness and love. We have covered many themes over the last few months that all somehow relate to the pandemic we have been and are still in. Using our value of Service, we think about how we can give to others (in a socially distanced way) during this season of Christmas. We talk about this value all the time in school – so ask your children what they can do to model this value at home and out in the community?

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone for your support during these first few months back at school. Everyone has been phenomenal, and I cannot tell you how much I appreciate how willing and amenable everyone has been to the new changes we have had to put in place at school. I know that we have all come to the end of the term absolutely exhausted, but it has been amazing to see how well our community has all pulled together. Thank you...

Class Spotlights

Class 5 Spotlight.....

Hi, I am Mrs Hyde an HLTA here at Crowmarsh and am currently working in Year 5. I have been lucky enough, during my 14 years here (!), to work in almost every year group and with most members of staff, so feel very privileged. My passion is to ensure all children have the



basic skills in place to be successful as they move forward. I am a phonics specialist but in the last few years have thoroughly enjoyed helping to take the maths curriculum in a new and exciting direction.

Outside of school I am wife to my motorbike mad husband, mum to Tom 22, a

local Mechanic and Phoebe 20, who is in her first year at the University of Birmingham reading Geography. Both of my children attended Crowmarsh School and we have many happy memories of that time. Last but not least is our mad Spoodle pup Milo who is 2 going on 6 months.. he keeps me very busy these days !



But I also love cooking and am on a quest to perfect healthier low sugar baking and get great pleasure from cooking for friends. I also love reading, when I have time and shopping days with my lovely Mum. I am so looking forward to my next holiday in the sun, I do love a holiday!

Year 6 Spotlight....

Mr Silvester

Not much is known about Mr Silvester who remains largely an enigmatic mystery. Although he may not give freely of his smiles, he is known to have the greatest respect for all those he works with. He knows how much they care about all the children in the school and has been known to sit quietly with a coffee and reflect on how lucky and privileged he is to work with each and every one of them, and how lucky the parents are that their children are looked after so carefully.

Coffee. Worthy of note. Mr.Silvester's blood type is 'Nescafe Azera+'.

Possibly coffee means more to Mr.S. than his family although no-

one has yet been brave

enough to put that question to the test. Certainly talking to him the wrong side of a caffeine hit is tantamount to poking a wasp's nest with a blunt stick and unless he is sighted with a mug in his hand, is probably best avoided.



Outside of school, Mr.S. is unlikely to be sighted around town, preferring instead the tranquillity of the woodlands where he spends long hours tracking deer, making fires and generally honing his bush craft skills. The smell and sounds of the woodlands are a wonderful place for him to sit and dream about the perfect blend of roasted coffee grounds and brown sugar...

If you ever see Mr.S. on an aeroplane, he's been kidnapped and you should immediately contact the police.

In his own household, Mr Silvester is rather famously lower on the pecking order than his cats, Jeffrey and Barbara, who seem to command the attentions of his family rather more than he. No matter, as this offers ample opportunities for him to practice his flint knapping skills to create stone tools, fascinated as he is by the origins of humanity, especially the emergence of speech through the invention of tools. He finds the song of the stone as it pings open both evocative and therapeutic, transporting him to worlds removed in time.

Were one to wander past the school grounds of a summer's evening, one's attention may be drawn by a gentle sound emanating from the school field: 'twang thud, twang thud'. Look more closely and one may glimpse Mr.S. standing alone in the centre of the field, concentrating deeply.

With time spent, one may witness him firing his latest long bow which may have taken some four or five months to build. The lucky observer may even be treated to the all-too-common crack and snap of the bow rending explosively into pieces, followed by the low muttering of Mr.S. as he returns to the woods in search of a suitable ash bough to harvest for the next bow.

Those closest to Mr.S. consider him to be something of a nerd, immersed as he so often is in his Palaeolithic research, bonsai trees, board games, or studies into the reality of consciousness and the quantum workings of the universe and reality. Nerd he may well be, but he seems content in his own world. In a made up interview for his favourite imaginary magazine, Hammers and Hammering, Mr.S. questioned: 'What matters more to the human mind than wondering?' What indeed?

Mrs Steele

Mrs Steele lives in mysterious ways, in Year 6, her artistic wonders to perform.

She is a self-confessed technophobe but prides herself on being able to fashion virtually anything from cardboard, using a bread knife and sticky tape!

Office Spotlight....

Miss Lynn Tracey

I am a Wallingfordian as I was born and bred here, I love working at the school. I have two grown up daughters but only one lives at home. My eldest is a solicitor in Reading and is buying her first home which is exciting for us all. My younger daughter is a financial assistant at Oxford University.

I have worked at Crowmarsh School since my youngest started school, so I have seen many changes over the years. Pre-school was not here, and the school had meals brought in... we didn't have our own cook or kitchen!

I first met Mrs Hallam in Thailand! We went on holiday together to visit my daughter who was travelling the world before she began her working life.

I have a large close family which I can see often and love to travel when I can. I still haven't been to Canada and see Niagara Falls hopefully at some point after all this and when we can travel again. I like to walk out in the countryside and often babysit my daughter's dog.

Mrs Hallam

Firstly, I would like to say a 'thank you' to all the wonderful children and staff I have the pleasure to work alongside – this really is the dream come true job.

My relationship with Crowmarsh School began many many years ago because I attended here as a child; almost one of the first intakes of the new building, so I have come back to my roots. Most of my schooling was done in deepest darkest Pembrokeshire before crossing the border and attending Huddersfield Uni to do a study Textile Design. I have a background of supporting children in the classroom having worked at Crowmarsh, Benson and Fir Tree. I would call myself a bit of a drifter, never really knowing what career path I felt drawn towards but returning to Crowmarsh School has answered my need to keep looking.



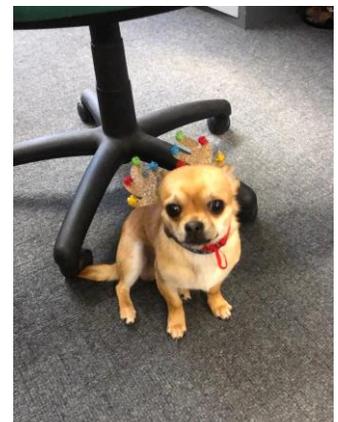
I celebrated my Pearl wedding anniversary earlier this year and had lavish plans of marking this occasion abroad, but Covid had other ideas! I have two grown up children and two grandchildren who luckily live in Wallingford, so I am blessed with seeing them regularly.

I love travelling and have visited most corners of the World either on holiday or as a volunteer for Soapbox Mission Trips or Traveleyes. I also enjoy sewing, reading, and journaling. I, along with an awesome band of other home crafters, sewed up scrubs for the NHS back in the spring. My preferred choice of reading material is historical suspense thrillers (or Harry Potter) and I have just finished The Silk Road by Anthony Horowitz and Jane Seymour the Haunted Queen by Alison Weir.

My current project is a dare to write down 1000 things I love..... Crowmarsh School is on the list!

Teddy

Our school doggy!



**Things to do in Oxfordshire this Christmas!
(Taken from Oxford Mail and other websites)**

Where: Didcot Railway Centre

Price: £15.75 to £17.75 per person

Dates: Between December 5 and 23

Take a steam train ride to visit Father Christmas in his special gift-laden carriage in the marvellously decorated Victorian station.

There are complimentary seasonal refreshments to enjoy as you explore the original 1932 GWR Engine Shed.

Where: Blenheim Palace

Price: £10.00 per person

Dates: Between December 4 and January 3.

Blenheim Palace's iconic illuminations are back for another year.

Whether you're a veteran and go each year or you've never seen them before - they are a sight that cannot be missed.

The Palace has also decorated its state rooms for visitors to explore.

Tickets must be **pre-booked for both events.**

The Alternative Christmas Tree Festival – East and West Hagbourne

Drive through the streets from the 12th – 25th of December 148 trees will be lit up in the front gardens of residents as well as large trees in the churchyard. Take the children out in the car and drive around to see the lights!

Online Christmas Events

Space – but not as we know it – London Symphony Orchestra

Free Until February – Free Tickets Online at: [London Symphony Orchestra: Space ... but not as we know it \(online event\) \(list.co.uk\)](#)

The Mystery of the Noisy Neighbour (interactive)

Free Tickets and Dates until December 31st.

An online mystery for kids:

[The Mystery of the Noisy Neighbour: a Christmas Adventure \(online event\) \(list.co.uk\)](#)

Stories from the Woodshed

Listen to some of the best storyteller's read a new story each week and loads of other online events from The Story Museum.

Free Ticket Here: [Stories from the Woodshed | Fantastic for Families](#)

