



Newsletter 14 – April 2022

Our value this term is Courage

<p><i>Stars of the Day</i></p> <p>Chloe, Bea, Charlotte.</p>	<p><i>Diary Dates</i></p> <p>Mon 2nd May – Bank Holiday – no school Wed 4th May – Stem Works Coding workshops for Cygnets & Swans Wed 4th May – Beanology Group 2 Wed 5th May – Beanology Group 3 Thurs 5th May –R & Y1 Forest School Fri 6th May – Yr 4, 5 & 6 Fencing starts Fri 6th May 3rd Residential payment due 9th – 12th May Swan Class SAT's Week Wed 10th May – Chess Club Wed 11th May – Beanology Group 2 Thurs 12th May – Beanology Group 3 Fri 13th May - Yr 4, 5 & 6 Fencing Mon 16th May – Cygnet Class SAT's Week Monday 16th May – Yr 2 Swimming & Yr 5 & 6 Water Safety starts. Wed 18th – Fri 20th May – Wilderness Residential Wed 18th May – Cygnets & remaining Swans Trip to Sevington Victorian School. Thurs 19th May – R & Y1 Forest School.</p>
<p><i>Star of the Week</i></p> <p>Week 1 – Jack for his have a go attitude, well done.</p>	

In the Swan Classroom

Our topic this term is **Crime and Punishment** across History, from the Anglo Saxons times, through the Tudors, the Highwaymen of the 17th and 18th Centuries to the Victorian times. We have already started to look at the court system, which originated over 1000 years go in Wantage, when King Aethelred the Unready set up a legal code saying that trials had to be conducted by 12 jurors. We also have a trip arranged for next term to Oxford Prison and Castle.

In Maths the Year 3s will be continuing to learn about money and giving change, before moving onto Roman numerals and time later in the term. Both Year 4 and 5 will be recognising and comparing angles before going on to learning how to use protractors. The Year 6s are getting ready for their SATS in week 3. They have been doing lots of practise questions and honing their arithmetic skills.

In English Year 3&4 are starting with poetry and moving on to persuasive writing and Year 5 & 6 are finishing off their study of Kensuke's Kingdom.

If you hear a melodious cacophony wafting from the school of an afternoon, you are lucky enough to be listening to the sound of the Swans' recorder lessons. This term we will be learning to hold the recorder, blow smoothly without squeaking and play the notes B, A and G. Let us know if you would like them to take their instrument home to practise!

Our Art focus this term is street art. We will be looking at the reasons why people create street art and exploring different types of installations. Using Banksy and Keith Harding as inspiration, we will be asking the question 'Is graffiti art or vandalism?'

In Science Year 3&4 are looking at Plant Structure and Lifecycle and Year 5&6 at Living Things and their Habitats.

In RE this term we will be making links between the story of the Day of Pentecost and the Christian belief about the Kingdom of God on Earth. We will be learning how Christians show their belief about the Holy Spirit in worship and in the way they live.

In the Cygnet Classroom

The children have come back refreshed, healthy (dare I say) and ready to learn. We have hopped straight back into learning starting with Maths. Both year groups are exploring repeated addition to show multiplication, counting in steps of 2, 3, 5 and 10 and arrays. We have returned to daily Math's fluency in order to build our accuracy and speed in arithmetic.

In English, we are enjoying some fiction texts like 'Harry and the bucketful of dinosaurs' and will be discussing non-fiction texts and the features of this particular text type. We will be writing fact files focusing on dinosaurs.

We will continue to follow our phonics' and guided reading programme and work hard on our comprehension skills. The year one children will focus specifically this term on reading nonsense words practising their phonic knowledge.

In RE, we have started our new unit exploring, what is the 'good news' Christians believe Jesus brings. This week we will be listening to the stories of Jesus' disciples.

In Computing, we will be focusing on accessing the internet to research in a safe way. The children will learn how to do this using ipads and laptops.

In topic, the children have really enjoyed learning about the Victorians. There is plenty of discussion and excitement and lots of conversation about how different life is now.

We hope you had a wonderful Easter holiday and well done to all the Cygnets who have come back with such a wonderful attitude to their learning.

.... and the Nest

It has been lovely coming back to school in the Spring sunshine - even if it had some time off for the last few days. Our first task was to deadhead the daffodils in our Cygnet garden. The children snipped off the heads and the beds are looking full and happy for their trim and tidy. The faded daffodils were instant ingredients in the Mud Kitchen, mixed into soup and pies and baked in sand - waste not, want not. We have opened the Nest and have started learning in there again. We very much enjoy our independence and connection with outside.

We are looking at Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar. It links superbly with our study of lifecycles in Science, is giving us lots to talk about on healthy foods and 'sometimes foods' and we are familiarising ourselves with the days of the week and what we do when, both in school and at home. We have a basket with a knitted caterpillar and all of the fruits and scrummy Saturday delights he enjoys and we retell and act out the story - as well as the caterpillar's lifecycle.

We have been looking at all aspects of the number 8 and use the cubes to make eight-part caterpillar after eight-part caterpillar using different combinations of two colours. We are getting very good at number bonds to 8. Our other favourite game is to spot the 8s in a pack of cards. We know there are four and the anticipation and tension as we turn the cards is thrilling. We then race to collect pairs that make eight. Playing cards are golden for so many aspects of Maths. I do encourage you to share a pack and play some simple games together.

Forest School was delightful. We enjoyed a warm, still morning under a new, resplendent green canopy. The children all picked an adjective from the woodland bucket and foraged to match it. In the Reception display was fuzzy bark, a bumpy twig, a smooth feather and a prickly beech nut husk. Great finds, Reception!

Mr Jones's New Role

We are pleased to say that we have appointed Mr Jones as a part-time teacher, rather than teaching assistant, in the Swan class. He will start this new role in September.

Governors' AGM and Welcome to New Parent Governor

This will be held on Thursday 12th May at 6pm in school. It is a great opportunity to come along and meet the school governing board. The governors will shortly be inviting you to complete a survey and there will be feedback on this at the meeting. Please keep this date in your diary and further information will follow.

Parent Governor Ed Morris has stepped down due to family and work commitments. We would like to say a big thank you to Ed, for the enthusiasm he has brought to the role and for his support of the school. We are pleased to announce that Dale Hall, Millicent and Lyra's father, has taken Ed's place as the new parent governor, transferring from his existing role as associate governor.

PTA Gardening Day

Thank you to the Millard, Smith, Davey and Cox families who got stuck in to the Wildlife Garden renovations on the last Saturday of the holidays, along with Mrs Simmons and her husband and Mrs McLellan. You can see from the photos that much fun and cake was enjoyed!

Please take a peak over the wall and you will see amazing changes. The majority of the edging has been replaced, the rotten sections of the bench under the crab apple tree replaced and a new shed installed. The large Cygnet raised bed has been redesigned into 3 smaller beds, which will be a



bit taller when they are finished. Still to do is redesign of the Swans' raised bed and laying new gravel, but we are well on the way to having the garden ship shape and ready to show at the Southrop Open Gardens on 21st and 22nd May. We are very grateful to "Farmer George" Ponsonby who donated a tonne of great soil improver and helped us to barrow it into the garden, along with some of the younger members of the group! The PTA also did a great job getting Wickes to donate the materials for the raised beds.



Annual Reports

We are busy finalising these at the moment and they will be available on the Portal on Thursday next week.

Country Dance and the Village Fete

We are delighted to have so many children from Year 2 to 6 sign up to take part in the country dance demonstration at Southrop Village Fete on Saturday 11th June. The children will start practising next week. Please make sure you keep that Saturday free if your child wishes to participate.

Year 4, 5 & 6 Alternative Sport

We are pleased to be starting a series of fencing sessions for Years 4, 5 & 6 with an instructor from the Cotswold Fencing Club. These sessions will take place on Friday afternoons in the village hall from 6th May to 15th July. The children will need to wear PE kit and trainers on Fridays for these sessions.

PE & Sports Club on the Field

Starting from Monday 9th May we will be having our Monday and Wednesday PE sessions, After School Club and Sports Club at the field. Collection will be from the field. Any children staying until 5.00pm should be collected from school as the staff and children will return to school once Sports Club finishes at 4.30pm.

Bird Box

We have a bird box with a camera at the front of the school. You can take a look online at www.birdbox.thetechnologyteam.net to see if anything is nesting. At the moment there are a lot of feathers but we haven't seen any nesting activity. Let us know if you spy anything!

Southrop Primary School - Our Birdbox



PTA Update

Gardening Day – Saturday 7th May, 10am.

Following on from the progress we made last weekend we would like to continue to make headway with the Wildlife Garden. There are still plenty of jobs for small hands as well as big! We have been donated some more wood from Wickes, which we are going to use to raise the edges of the new beds and we are hoping to relay the paths. If you are able to help for an hour or two that would be very much appreciated. Tea, coffee and cakes will be provided! If you haven't already, seen our 'Southrop School PTA' facebook page for pics from the last Gardening Day!

Are you good with numbers and love a spreadsheet?

The PTA are looking for someone to take on the role of Treasurer. Ideally you will be organised, confident with money and passionate about supporting our children's education and activities. If you would like to talk it through or know anymore please let any of the PTA know. Attached is a role description of what the position entails. We look forward to hearing from you!

Southrop Open Gardens – Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May

A wonderful opportunity to see the beautiful gardens around Southrop Village. We will be opening up the Wildlife Garden as part of the event. If anyone is willing and able to help on the day, welcoming people, talking to them about the garden and school, taking ticket money and encouraging them to volunteer or donate, please let a member of the PTA know. More information about which gardens are open and ticket prices will be available soon. Teas and Cake and some fantastic plants will be on sale from the Village Hall over the weekend.

Southrop Village Fete – 11th June

We are so pleased the fete is back and set to be bigger and better than EVER! All funds raised from the fete are split equally among four organisations, the school being one of them! If you are able to help in anyway: serving teas, making a cake, helping on a stall or even donating chipped crockery for the crockery smash we would be really grateful. Please let any of the PTA know, send a message to the facebook group or email Southropvillagefete@gmail.com. See you there!

Car Boot Sale

The PTA are looking at holding a Car Boot sale on Sunday 17th July. If you are interested in having a spot please email pta@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk Cars £10, Vans £15.

The PTA Beer Festival!

As there are so many events happening this summer we have made the decision to postpone the Beer Festival this year until Saturday 17th September. We are hoping this will be a great way to start the new term. Note the date and watch this space for more information coming soon! As always, volunteers are very welcome!

Julia McLellan

**Mrs J McLellan
Co-Head Teachers**

Megan Davies

Miss M Davies