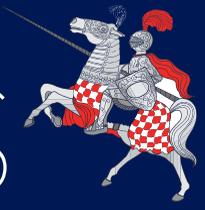


ISSUE 7
January 19

KNIGHT'S TALES



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD

As I write this, my ears are being caressed by the Nursery children singing festive songs to their parents in the Entrance Hall. They may be dwarfed by the hugely impressive Christmas tree, yet in their own way, they too are lighting up the space. Christmas comes early to Chandlings and it promises to be a magical experience.

The school year follows a reassuring pattern, but for me, it has been a year of many firsts. I hope you find this edition of Knight's Tales to be a fitting record of all the varied and exciting opportunities that the children have enjoyed.

It is so difficult to highlight just one or two, but I will do so! How lovely to experience International Week with its wonderful range of activities, organised by the Modern Foreign Languages department. During International Day parents,

children and staff came together to unite in a vibrant celebration of different cultures. More than fifty parents participated, generously giving of their time to organise and run their stalls. At the end of the day, one child told Mme Martelli, *"I wish it was morning so we can start all over again!"*

The Prep Remembrance Service was another impressive and heart-warming event which was written by Mr Hancock but led entirely by Year 6 readers. All the children clearly appreciated the solemnity of the occasion and it was an atmospheric and extremely moving occasion.

On a very different note, there was a tremendous response to our Extreme Reading Challenge and I am sure that you will enjoy reading about this event and marvelling at the creativity of our children, and their parents!

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the fine contribution Mrs Helen Steele has made during her eleven years working in the Learning Support department. The children under her care have benefited from her expertise and encouragement, and we wish her every happiness for her retirement.

I am eagerly anticipating my first Nativity performances and the Prep Carol Service at Radley College Chapel. It will be a glorious way to end to the term, as well as my first year. Each week has brought new experiences and events which have made for an exciting journey of discovery.

I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday with your families.

Christine Cook





CAROL SERVICE AT RADLEY COLLEGE

The Prep School gathered along with staff, parents and other family members in the wonderful setting of the Chapel at Radley College on Friday 14th December for our annual Carol Service.

After a heartfelt welcome from our very own retired acting Headmaster, Mr John Walker, the congregation enjoyed music, readings, prayers and many carols with all the children fully involved. The first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* was sung beautifully by a group of Year 6 children and was then followed by 'Listen to the Bells,' a world premiere especially written for the school by Mr and Mrs Stratford.

We were all blessed to have enjoyed such a moving and celebratory end of term as we enjoyed starting the celebrations and fun of Christmas together.

Thank you to the Music Department and all of the members of the Senior Choir, the Readers and the Parent and Staff Choir for their hard work right until the end of term.



NURSERY AND RECEPTION NATIVITY PLAYS



What amazing Nativity performances the Reception and Nursery children put on this year!

Nursery have been practising for months learning new songs, revisiting old ones and getting their dances ready to perform. We were so proud of all the children for being so confident and having big smiles on their faces throughout the show.

The Reception children thrilled everyone with their performance of 'Follow The Star'. There were little stars, kings, camels, shepherds and sheep all following the Big Star to Bethlehem. They were certainly the stars of the show and filled everyone with the joy of Christmas.



YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 NATIVITY PLAYS



The stable boy

We had a great time performing our Nativity called The Stable Boy. The main character was Jesus. Everyone thought he was a lazy boy - for nothing but he did all the work. I was an angel. Every body looked awestruck in their costumes we were singing songs too. The best bit was dancing to the angel song. It was so much fun.
Mejia Irani 111.

Year 2 creepy crawly Christmas

On Thursday 6th of December Year 2 performed their Christmas play. The story was about a caterpillar called Wilfred that had to put a star back on the stable that Jesus was born in. The helpful Minibeasts were: Caterpillars, ants, Ladybugs, Beetles, Spiders, bees & a Queen Bee & some dragonflies who flew Wilfred up to the top of the stable to put the star back. We all enjoyed performing of you & of film crew.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS **DING DONG** **MERRILY ON HIGH**





EXTREME READING CHALLENGE HOW EXTREME CAN YOU GET?

This half term, Chandlings children were encouraged to take their books and head off into the sunset on an Extreme Reading adventure. They had their photo taken as they read their favourite book whilst hanging off monkey bars, out surfing, on a lifeboat and even with a Moroccan snake charmer! Some children linked the theme of the book with the setting of the photo - reading a book about Ancient Rome at Bath Spa, Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre and Enid Blyton's the Magic Faraway Tree up a beautiful oak tree.

We had over 50 creative submissions, with the children looking so happy, excited and engrossed in reading. The competition really inspired the children, it showed them the joy that reading can bring and highlighted that reading can happen anywhere and everywhere - we can be transported to imaginary worlds in the unlikeliest of places!



THE WINNERS WERE:

Zara Hartwright

Skye Brogan

Lyra Smith

Bella Hook

Albert Hornby

Ivan Hornby



YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 INFORMAL MUSIC CONCERT **PERFORMING WITH POISE**

The 31 October saw the start of our annual informal concerts at Chandlings Prep with Year 3 and Year 4 combined in the Lantern Hall.



These informal concerts have been a wonderful opportunity for the children to show what they have been learning within their one to one lessons either in or outside of school. This was for many their premiere performance on their instrument, in front of a supportive audience of family, friends and staff.

Their performances were very impressive including the entertaining compering that guided us through the programme and some extravagant bowing that took the applause! Well done and thank you to all those involved, especially the peripatetic teachers.



We are very much look forward to hearing the children's continued progression over the coming years!



YEAR 4 CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL **INSPIRATIONAL AND UPLIFTING**

Children in Year 4 were treated to a wonderful musical concert, which was part of the Oxford Chamber Music Festival, hosted by BBC presenter Alexander Armstrong.

The programme centred around the theme of the "Elements" and members of the OCO gave incredibly vibrant performances. The children also had the privilege of hearing Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the celebrated cellist who performed at the Royal wedding earlier this year. The entire experience was wonderful and hopefully the budding instrumentalists at

Chandlings found it to be not only entertaining, but also uplifting and inspiring.



COKETHORPE ORCHESTRAL DAY ONE GIANT ORCHESTRA

Early in November, ten Year 6 orchestral instrumentalists, joined four other local schools and spent a wonderful day at Cokethorpe School making music and new friendships. This was the first time Cokethorpe have had a Prep School Orchestral Day and it really was a very well run event, with other activities happening during the day and all perfectly pitched at the age group. At the end of the day, parents and friends joined us for the concert to show them all what we had been working on. Well done and thank you to all the children involved and they all performed marvellously well.



IT'S ALL ABOUT WOODWIND

In November, the Prep children enjoyed some workshops and demonstrations with our Clarinet and Saxophone teacher, Mr Payne, who very kindly brought in his incredible array of historical instruments. He demonstrated and performed excerpts from famous pieces of music that would have been written specially for the different instruments and then answered the array of questions that the children had for him. Many thanks for your time Mr Payne, it was a really interesting experience!

HARVEST FESTIVAL TIME TO BE THANKFUL

Our Harvest Festival was a wonderful time of thankfulness for all we have been given, as well as an opportunity to make a real difference to those in need in our community. We had an incredible response to our appeal - the tables in the hall were piled high with gifts for the Abingdon Food Bank and for Asylum Welcome. Children and teachers joined together in a service of celebration before the gifts were picked up by the charities.

Mrs Sarah Fry, from Christchurch, Abingdon, who helps to run the foodbank, sent us this message:

“Can you say a huge thank you to everyone for taking time to think about the Food Bank this Harvest, and for their generosity. You donated over 400 items! We seem to be incredibly busy at the moment and it’s amazing to be so well restocked.”



Ms Judy Rous from Asylum Welcome, said:

“Thank you so much to all the children, staff and parents at Chandlings for your very generous donation of food and toiletries from your Harvest celebration to Asylum Welcome. We are so grateful to you all! Every item you gave will be gratefully received by an asylum seeker or refugee within our

community; it is heartening for our clients to know the community is supporting and welcoming them to Oxford in this way. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generosity – our pantry and store are now well stocked for the months ahead!”

As a school we have made a tremendous difference for those in need in our area.



PUMPKIN CARVING FANTASTIC CREATIONS

Pumpkin carving was a great success with parents, grandparents and children all getting involved with creating amazing faces from these orange fleshy fruits. There was a huge variety of faces ranging from your regular toothy grin to a cat, a bat and even a dinosaur.



INTERNATIONAL WEEK C'ÉTAIT MAGNIFIQUE

This year we celebrated a whole International Week (not just a day!) which culminated on the Friday when the children had the opportunity to visit 18 different countries in 30 minutes! International Week embraces the whole school community with more than 40 parents from a variety of countries hosting stalls which every single child visited to listen, taste and experience different cultures.

The stalls included The Lebanon, Switzerland, Israel, Japan, India, Malaysia, Guernsey and Russia to name but a few. Parents dressed in their national dress and offered quizzes, facts, treats and foods for the children to collect and try. Guernsey brought some butter from their Guernsey cows; in Pakistan the children could try some Rooh Afza (a concentrated pink squash) and Japan had some fantastic origami to test their skills.

All the children visited the stalls with a special passport, that needed to be stamped, and a form with questions to fill in. The rest of the day was filled with various workshops which the children showcased at the end of the day in the International Day Parade.

The children from Year 4 learnt about Japan in the Art workshop and



displayed their own Kimonos, Year 5 learnt about Brazil and how to do the Capoeira. Year 3 performed Balinese music which they learnt during their music workshop and the Year 6 learnt dances and songs in Swahili and Spanish, as well as reading French stories to the Nursery children.



"It's a day when we can celebrate our differences and unite in diversity," said Madame Martelli who organised the whole event. *"The children love the week and they can learn all about other countries and cultures. It brings together the school community of parents and children showing how we can learn from each other and enrich our lives. We couldn't do this day without all the help from the parents and we would like to say a big thank you to them."*

"International Day is the best day at Chandlings," said one of the Year 4 children

"I wish it was morning and we could do it all again," said Zoe from Year 5.



APPLE PRESSING DELICIOUS JUICE ALL ROUND

Every year Chandlings' pupils and staff bring in hundreds of apples and pears from home in order to make juice. The initiative is organised by the school's Eco-Committee and PATCH also help run the apple pressing during the week.

The school hires the apple crusher, apple presser and pasteuriser from a local company, Abingdon Carbon Cutters, who look at different ways of reducing our carbon footprint.



The pressed apples fill hundreds of bottles brought in by the children and are subsequently sold at the end of each day. Each year group from Nursery right through to Year 6 have the opportunity to press the apples.

The proceeds go towards other eco-friendly initiatives that the Eco-Committee have voted for, such as building the school's poly-tunnel for the gardening club that enables the children to grow unusual flowers, fruits and vegetables which need warmer climates.

The environment and climate change are hugely important aspects in our daily school lives. Chandlings' Eco-Committee is at the heart of deciding what areas we need to focus on and how we can reduce, re-use, recycle and ensure that the school is as eco-friendly as



possible. We encourage children to link farming with their food. The apple pressing initiative shows them where apple juice really comes from!

THE MINI PROFESSOR VISITS NURSERY SHAPES, TEXTURES AND COLOURS

All the children in Nursery were delighted to see Lucy from The Mini Professor. They all donned their white coats and learnt all about 2D and 3D shapes, textures and colours. The children, just like real scientists, had to discover and hunt for different shapes such as spheres, columns and cubes. They held sandpaper shapes, learnt about rough and smooth textures and then turned the shapes rough side up and made shape rubbings. The day ended with the Shape story and singing a variety of shape songs.





RECEPTION JUST LIKE LITTLE RED HEN

The Reception classes read *The Little Red Hen* together as part of their investigation of Autumn and Harvest. They also talked about working as a team to help each other and about sharing. Just like *Little Red Hen*, the children made their own bread and shared it with their friends and family. They loved measuring and weighing all the ingredients, making dough and making little bread rolls. So much fun and so delicious!



YEAR 1 VISIT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM DINOSAURS, FOSSILS AND SOME ENORMOUS TEETH



The Natural History museum
Year 1 went to the Natural History Museum and saw Chris. He went to a classroom and held dinosaur bones. They felt smooth and amazing! We even felt fossilised dinosaur poo! Chris also let us hold the tooth of a T-Rex. The two best bits were holding a giant ammonite and looking at all the dinosaur bones. He had a really good time.
Wilf Cump 1H

YEAR 3 GO BACK IN TIME AT THE CORINIUM MUSEUM

"I must come back here again!" announced George. "There is so much to see and do!" Indeed, the children of Year 3 enjoyed exploring the bright, modern galleries of the Corinium Museum in Cirencester.

Having created their own mosaic designs in school, they admired the detail and enormity of some of those formed 2000 years ago in Cirencester. From tiny pieces of jewellery to huge columns, the artefacts were impressive and all the children returned with their favourites sketched.

The workshop began with an interesting discussion about life in Roman Britain and Year 3 pupils posed some super questions. Their experience of The Lifelong Learning Centre involved a rota of fun activities with everyone dressing up in Roman outfits and discovering foods available at that time.

It did not take long to learn the rules for the 'board' games Tali and Calculi and the reconstruction of a hypocaust brought topic work to life. We all agreed with George, we would all enjoy even more time in this beautiful museum.



LET'S GET SNAPPY AS YEAR 4 VISIT CROCODILE WORLD

On Friday 5th October Year 4 pupils enjoyed a fascinating day out at Crocodiles of the World in Brize Norton. Before meeting the crocodiles, the children learnt all about meerkats and otters whilst watching them being fed. After that they moved on to see the Nile crocodiles being fed and found out some interesting

facts. Colin, the croc man, enthralled the children with an interactive talk about Sultana, Laurence and Ricky! The pictures show the children having a great time handling the reptiles. Can you spot the Extreme Reading?

We were lucky enough to meet and handle a small four year old alligator called Ricky - apparently he could live until he is seventy! We discovered that the top jaw of an



alligator is bigger than the bottom jaw so when they close their jaws you are able to see only their top teeth pointing down. Next we met Sultana, an African tortoise who was only six years old. Colin explained that Galapagos tortoises can live up to 120-150 yrs. Finally we were introduced to Laurence who was a very friendly boa constrictor and two years old. He could grow to eight feet long and live for twenty five years.



YEAR 5 AT LAND AND WAVE IT'S ACTION PACKED

After a smooth journey down to the Jurassic Coast the Year 5s arrived at their campsite by Purbeck Valley Farm. There were some extremely excited pupils ready for the amazing opportunities ahead. After a quick packed lunch they were straight into wetsuits and buoyancy aids and heading down to North Beach in Swanage. Despite the rain, all four groups were in the water doing a variety of activities, from relay races across the jumbo paddle boards to body boarding in the surf. It really was action packed. Pupils also had a go on the individual stand-up paddle boards after which they headed back to base camp, tired and ready for some warm food.



Day two hit and as the first glimmer of sunlight shone through the trees the morning mist was dispersing. Some groups headed off for coasteering and some went to pioneering which involved lots of team games and culminated in a challenge of building a catapult to fire tennis balls at inanimate objects, precariously balanced on the top of an upside down dustbin! The results were impressive and amusing in equal measure. Coasteering was great fun, groups went to either Dancing Ledge or Winspit and conditions were excellent. The sun was shining and pupils enjoyed experiencing the waves, doing some ledge jumps and exploring old smugglers caves. On our last morning they had an extensive bushcraft and den building session



where pupils learned how to make and sustain a fire safely, as well as trying their hand at archery.

Our Glamping site had been a great home for the two nights. The secure campsite was a beautiful setting, with Corfe Castle as a backdrop, as the pupils embark on their journey into Upper Prep.



MATHS CHALLENGES

TESTING TIMES

The Autumn term is always a very busy time for Maths competitions.

A Year 4 team of Arnav, Jaya, Georgia and Louis went to Summerfields and competed against other schools. After 7 exciting rounds, both Chandlings pairs were placed in the top 20 out of 48 pairs, and one of our pairs came second overall. A brilliant result.

Later that week, a Year 6 team of Lakshay, Kai, William and Etai competed in a Maths Challenge at Headington Prep. They answered three rounds of tricky questions and had to sprint to the marker with each answer before being given the next problem. Fast, frantic and fun! The boys worked in pairs and showed great focus and teamwork.

We were delighted that out of 57 pairs, Etai and William came 3rd and Lakshay and Kai came 14th.



On 12th November many of our Year 5 and Year 6 children sat the Primary Maths Challenge at Chandlings. This is a national competition which requires both logic and 'thinking outside the box' to solve problems. A really good mental workout. All children tackled the challenge with enthusiasm and confidence. We were very proud to present 14 Bronze certificates, 8 Silver and 5 Gold certificates in Assembly. Well done!

The Gold certificate winners - Guy, Joseph, William, Etai and Josh did exceptionally well and will be taking part in the Bonus round early next year. This is great achievement!

YEAR 6 MAGDALEN COLLEGE QUIZ

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE CONTENDERS!

This year was as hotly contested as ever with 24 teams attending this annual event. The minibus journey was tense and the excitement levels were rising beyond the top of the scale as we rounded into the MCS car park. The competition was fierce and the quiz content more at home on University Challenge than a Year 6 school quiz. That said, our teams performed admirably answering 70 questions in total over 7 rounds with varying topic content. Many thanks to the parents who attended. A great evening enjoyed by all.





PRE-PREP ART

Pre-Prep children have been busy creating mushroom sculptures, Roman clay figures, beautiful Jurassic giants and Lollipop trees inspired by Austrian artist F. Hundertwasser.

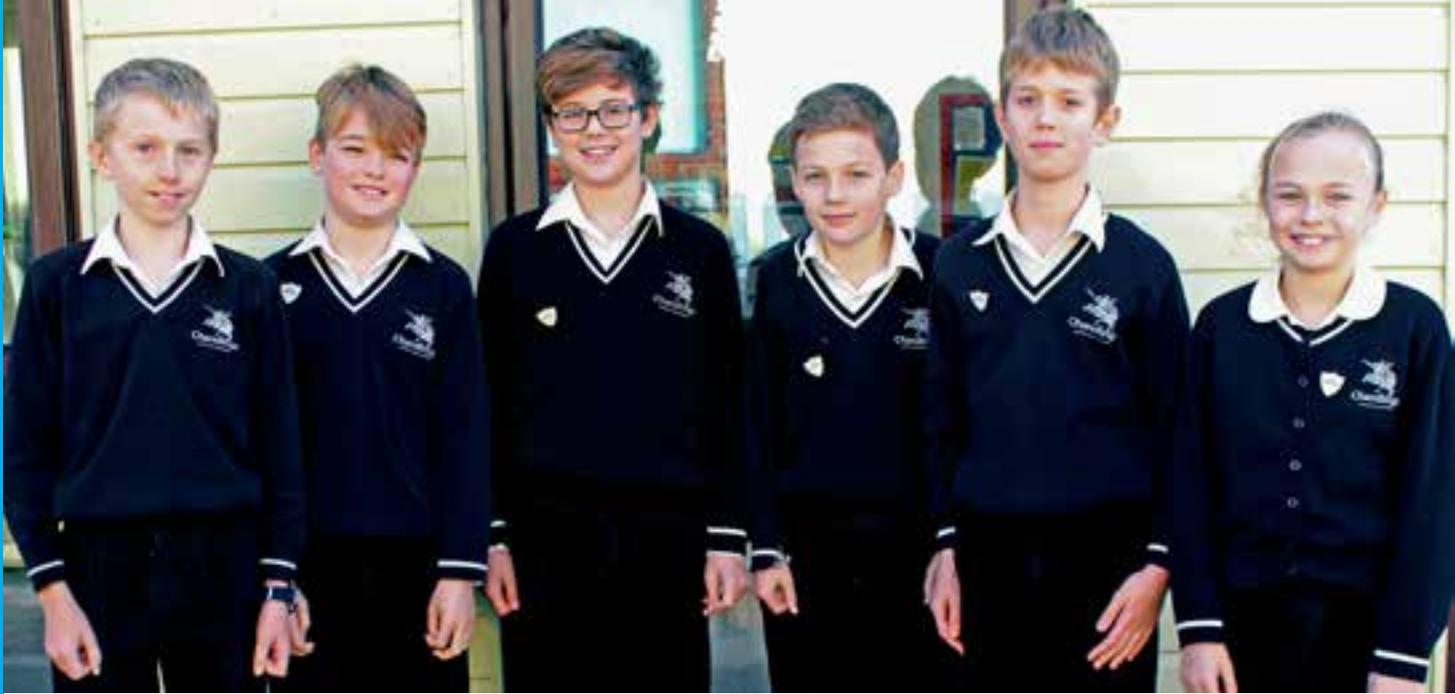




PREP ART

It's been a colourful term for the Prep children who have created some fantastic pieces ranging from Pop Art to Fireworks to Pumpkins.





YEAR 6 SPORTS AMBASSADORS RESPONSIBLE AND INSPIRING

Newly appointed Year 6 Sports Ambassadors worked hard to inspire children in the Prep and Pre-Prep Departments to engage in sport. During break and lunchtimes they ran a Basketball club for Year 4 and Year 5 children and also delivered a fun session to Reception Children who came

away excited and inspired not only to take part in sport but to become future Chandlings Sports Ambassadors themselves. The Ambassadors also drove a charity initiative close to their hearts. They gave a presentation about the MT Foundation and encouraged all pupils to bring any unwanted

football boots to school so that they could be donated to those less fortunate, coupled with a kind message to the new recipient. Our Ambassadors; Georgia, Charlie, Edward, Robert, William and Adam should be tremendously proud of their work this term.

PRE-PREP SPORT

In outdoor lessons Pre-Prep children have developed their A, B, C's agility, balance and coordination through individual challenges and small sided games. Whether throwing, catching, kicking or hitting balls of all shapes and sizes, their playful experiences culminate in producing a well rounded child with a broad base of abilities. Some of the team challenges require thought and promote an enquiring mind

whilst others are simple races which bring out their competitive spirit.

Indoors gymnastics is always a popular lesson as the children build upon their natural desire to move and balance. Whenever possible they use the apparatus and ropes to gleefully climb up, balance on, jump from, slide up and down or simply hang and swing. They create their own sequences and work together to synchronise and coordinate their movements.



GIRLS' HOCKEY GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

All girls in the Prep department enjoyed a full term of Hockey which featured a busy and challenging fixture list. In Year 3 the focus has been on basic passing and dribbling techniques. They played 5 a side against schools such as Cokethorpe, Rupert House and Beachborough and developed their ability to perform basic skills under pressure.

In Year 4, girls began to play the full 7-a-side version of the game with the A team even experiencing play with a goalkeeper. In an exceptionally encouraging season, the U9 teams recorded notable victories against The Manor, Swanbourne, Beachborough and Rupert House as well as a first place finish at the Yateley Manor tournament for the A team. All players have shown a tremendous amount of promise in the sport and an enthusiasm which has led to many joining external Hockey Clubs.



The girls in Year 5 and Year 6 benefited from training sessions at Tilsley Park twice a week this term. Working as one squad, the girls

pushed each other to improve the speed of their decision making and confidence when under pressure. Specific goalkeeper training was also provided to a number of the players and all girls in Year 6 had the chance to 'kit up' and have fun diving around saving goals. In fixtures against Akeley Wood, Beachborough and Swanbourne, the U10 and U11 teams recorded wins across the board. At the Yateley Manor and Cokethorpe U11 tournaments, teams which combined Year 5 and Year 6 players together finished a highly commendable 2nd overall.



The squad performed well at the U11 IAPS qualifier and grew throughout the day as a team. There were plenty of encouraging signs for both this season and the seasons ahead.

BOYS' RUGBY PROUD COACHES ALL ROUND

The boys have played a high standard of rugby this term whether they were starting out playing Tag Rugby in Year 3 or playing in the U11 A and B teams who were unbeaten over 7 games at the Cheltenham Prep festival.

Rugby is safely introduced during games lessons by some of the most experienced staff in the area with Mr Boyle and Mr Brodley being Directors of Rugby at Oxford Harlequins and Oxford



Rugby Clubs. We give emphasis to playing games rather than just skills and drills so the boys have maximum fun whilst learning.

Inter-school competition, where everyone is included, is an important cog in their cycle of learning and a barometer to indicate their ability. In accordance with RFU protocol, results do not lead to trophies but it was obvious that Chandlings were one of the leading schools.

The Year 3's won far more games than they lost throughout the term, including a clean sweep at the Abingdon Prep Festival. Year

4 were mightily impressive whilst Year 5 looked good in front of the Abingdon Senior school staff by winning every game they played at their festival.

Year 6 were strong across all teams as the D's were unbeaten in a triangular against Claire's Court and Moulsoford and in their final festival for Chandlings the A and B's went into the heartland of the west country and were victorious against Clifton College, St John's Chepstow, Hereford and Dean Close. They epitomise Chandlings children - so humble in victory and gracious in defeat.



NURSERY PE AND SWIMMING SOMERSAULTS AND SPLASHES

All children in Nursery have once again made the most of their Physical Development opportunities. In twice weekly PE lessons, pupils developed their fundamental movement skills; travelling over, under and around objects. PE lessons have also developed children's specific skills such as forward rolls and balancing. For those that ventured into the water with Mr Brooks, weekly swimming lessons helped to build their water confidence with children

able to jump into the water and some growing more comfortable with being fully submerged.





WE DECLARE THE POLY-TUNNEL OPEN GET READY FOR GIANT VEGETABLES

It's not often that a school gets the garden shears out to cut the ribbon but Ms. Cook donned her wellies and coat in order to declare the new Chandlings Polytunnel open. The polytunnel, situated in the school's Eco-field, has been planned by the Eco-committee and the Gardening club over the past year and built by Mr Maskrey and his team. On Monday 5 November, the raised beds and irrigation system were finally in situ, to allow little hands to begin planting seeds.

The polytunnel was funded from a variety of initiatives organised by the Eco-committee including the proceeds of the annual apple pressing and juicing, as well as the selling of products such as bird



boxes made at school and sold at the school Christmas Bazaar.

Chandlings' Garden Club, which will be the main beneficiary of the new polytunnel, is a year round activity which seeks to promote a love of gardening and increases pupils' awareness of ecology, botany, and conservation. Children learn how to save and sow seeds, nurture plants and discover when and how to grow their favourite foods. Mrs Newman, head of the Gardening club said,

"We are so excited about the brand new polytunnel and its automatic sprinkler system. We can now try and grow more interesting plants such as chilli peppers or giant tomatoes and carrots, and our gardeners can directly compare the difference between what we can grow in the polytunnel and what grows in the outdoor allotment. It also means that on rainy days we don't have to get wet in the school allotment!"





ACTIVITY PAGE SPOTLIGHT ON POTTERY

Pottery club is a very popular activity for Year 1 and Year 2. This term the children have been learning to work with red terracotta clay and white Thomas clay for smaller projects. The techniques they have learnt have been hand building, rolling and a folding technique using a wooden roller and using simple tools to mould

clay surface. They also learnt how to use glazes and oxides safely and how to achieve a shiny finish. Parents will be pleased to know that as well as all the fun of creating fantastic works of art, they also learnt to be responsible in preparing and cleaning their workspace which is vital when using clay and glazes.



INTERVIEW WITH FIONA LOVE

DEPUTY HEAD ACADEMIC

Each term the School Council organises an interview with a different member of staff. They decide upon the questions and then follow this up with an interview. As you can see they came up with some more unusual questions. We hope you enjoy it.

1. How long have you been working at Chandlings?

I have been working at Chandlings for 18 years

2. Why do you like Chandlings?

I really like Chandlings because of the mix of people, I like the diversity of people and the mix of cultures.

3. Why did you want to become a Deputy Head?

I didn't! It sort of just happened. I actually wanted to be a teacher.

4. Do you like being Deputy Head?

I do. I love it. I love it because I can still teach and be in a classroom.

5. Why do you observe other classes?

For several reasons. As Deputy Head I do it to find out what your learning and it's fun to support the staff.

6. What job would you do if you couldn't be Deputy Head?

I would be a theatre designer or a set designer and design the Strictly come Dancing set. But I was an art teacher.

7. When you were younger, what did you want to be when you were older?

I don't think I knew. I might have wanted to be a vet, though.

8. Have you ever done any other job apart from teaching?

I taught at Coventry Cathedral, taking children's tours and I worked in a book binder.

9. What would you like to do once you finish teaching?

I would want to set up my own studio and have one part silver smithery and the other part pottery.

10. What's your favourite colour and why?

I don't know. It might be green. I do like bright colours. It might be a mediterranean blue, like the colour of the sea there.

11. Could you tell us something about your family?

My family is very important to me. My parents are Irish. Sadly, my mum passed away a couple of years ago. My kids are Mary-Kate, Anna and Ellie, I have a dog called Rusty, two cats and lots of chickens. I am also a granny. My granddaughter is called Isla-Rose.

12. What is your favourite animal?

My favourite pets are dogs but I like all sorts of animals especially in the wild.

13. Do you like to swim or dance?

Both! I would really like to learn to tap dance. Also, when I was a child, I used to Irish Dance.



14. What is your favourite food?

I don't have a favourite food but I love cake, I don't like mushy peas. I prefer Indian as an international food type.

15. What has been your favourite holiday destination so far and where do you dream of going?

I went on an around the world trip and visited South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Washington, New York and San Francisco. I especially liked South Africa because of the game reserve. I would like to go to see different species of animals in the Galapagos Islands and I would love to go to Machu Picchu to see the Inca ruins.

16. How early do you put up your Christmas Tree?

I put up my christmas tree on the Saturday we break up, although my children would love to put it up earlier!

17. What would you like for Christmas?

A rechargeable torch so I can walk the dog in the dark and so I don't have to remember to plug it in!

CHARITIES

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Chandlings PATCH hosted the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on the Friday 26 September. Some amazing cakes were baked and donated by the Chandlings parents, but the Star Baker Award went to Mrs Efremova for her colourful, massive masterpiece! The event was held to help raise awareness and funds to for those who face cancer. Our contribution was part of the £1,943,169 raised so far!



THE MT FOUNDATION

The Year 6 Sports Ambassadors pushed for this particular charity drive, which will continue to run all year. The MT Foundation is an organisation which collects any old, grown out of football boots and sends them to countries all over the world where teams and players are in desperate need of better equipment. The children of Chandlings have been donating steadily and we already have a couple of boxes ready to be shipped off. Inside each of the pairs of boots is a handwritten, heartfelt message from the child who donated them.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Children in Need arrived at Chandlings in "spotacular" fashion! All members of the school arrived covered in spots to support those living disadvantaged lives in the country. The charity had joined forces with Twinkl this year, so many activities were completed throughout the day as we helped to raise an impressive total.



JEANS FOR GENES DAY 2018

The children and staff of Chandlings arrived at school wearing their jeans on Friday 21 September as everyone joined in with the annual Jeans for Genes day. A donation of £1 was encouraged and we managed to raise £371.95. A portion of our donations will be going towards the Smith-Magenis Syndrome Foundation which directly helps to support members of the Chandlings Family.



BLUE SKYE THINKING - OUR SCHOOL CHARITY

This term, Chandlings looked at several local charities, suggested by PATCH, to support as its school charity for the rest of the year. After an initial vote by the School Council, the shortlisted charities were voted on by the whole school. The overwhelming favourite was a charity called Blue Skye Thinking.

Blue Skye Thinking supports research into the treatment of childhood brain tumours, striving to give all children diagnosed, a better chance of survival and improved quality of life during and post treatment. Run by volunteers, money donated goes directly to the forefront of research and wellbeing projects.

Various charity events, including the charity stall at the Christmas Bazaar, will focus on raising donations and awareness for our newest school charity. Early in the new year, we have a special guest, Sally Hall, coming in to give an assembly on the charity so that each Chandlings pupil will have a much deeper understanding of what the charity does, how it does it and the massive amount of good they are doing.

A BIG THANK YOU AND WELCOME

Firstly, a big welcome to all our new parents who have joined us this term. We hope you and your children join in and enjoy our many charity events. We've had a super start to our academic year. Our Macmillan Coffee morning was a great success, a huge thank you to all who came and enjoyed coffee and cake with us for this great cause. Thank you also for supporting our lovely - and hardworking! - team at the Second Hand Uniform Shop (SHUS) this term.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas Bazaar really got us all feeling festive. The Christmas tree was beautiful and the children's singing was wonderful. I hope you enjoyed browsing the stalls and finding the perfect gifts!



GIFTS FOR GROWNUPS



We're looking forward to running our ever-popular Christmas Gifts For Grownups event before the end of term. Your children really enjoy shopping for a secret present for you, and of course, a special visit from the man in the red suit himself!



LOOKING FORWARD

2019 will be a special year at Chandlings, and the PATCH team is hard at work planning a special celebration to mark the 25th Anniversary, as well as our usual run of events. Also, watch out for news about the Pre-Prep Movie Night and Prep Disco early next year.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas,
PATCH team





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Copyright ©2018 Cothill Educational Trust. All rights reserved.
Bagley Wood, Nr Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5ND
office@chandlings.org.uk
www.chandlings.org.uk
01865 730771

