At the beginning of this school year, we’ve been thinking about the value of co-operation and the importance of teamwork. The children understand that if everyone works together, the job really does get done more effectively. They’ve thought about what co-operation might look like in their classrooms - everything from helping someone who is a bit stuck, to tidying up the classroom so everyone can get out to play quickly, to working in a group to solve a tricky maths problem.

The Reception children got to know their buddies this week, and it was lovely to see them venture out into the big playground under the watchful eye of the older children.
News from Reception

An exciting week for the children in Reception class this week with the introduction to lunch times and a new buddy from the year 5/6 class.

It was lovely to see the children grow in confidence as the lunch room environment became more familiar and they got to know Bronte and Mrs Sam, the members of staff that serve their lunch and supervise them as they eat.

Out on the big playground, once lunch has been enjoyed, the children can meet and play with others from the wider school community. Our buddy scheme is now up and running, providing another layer of support for the youngest children as they face the sometimes daunting new experiences at school. A friendly face, a point in the direction of the toilet or a hand to scoop them up and find help if they fall down. There were some lovely first interactions on the playground, ballet lessons, songs, hopscotch games, chatting and chasing! Don’t forget to ask your child who their buddy is.

A reminder, please, to check that all items of property are clearly named. We have several pairs of shiny new school shoes that are not named and with multiple pairs all looking very similar it is only a matter of time before a pair loses its owner. Please also note that long hair must be securely and fully tied up at school.

News from 1 & 2

This week we’ve been full steam ahead with our learning. Our English topic at the moment is poetry ‘patterns on the page’ which has involved us looking closely at patterns of repetition, rhyme and the actual words written on the page themselves forming a picture or pattern. We have already written two of our own poems using original poems for inspiration and are working towards producing our first class book.

Our topic this term is all about the weather and so far we have have discussed in great detail the various different types of weather we experience in the UK, the passing seasons along with the weather that they bring and of course the different types of clothes we wear throughout the year.
News from 3 & 4
The children have been taking advantage of our beautiful new dictionaries and thesauri in English. They have become quite the experts at finding a plethora of exciting and powerful verbs to use in their writing.

In Maths the children spilled out into the hall to investigate different ways of representing two and three digit numbers. They used dice, base 10, counters, digits, Numicon, Cuisenaire and whiteboards/pens. They have presented some of their findings on to our new Working Wall to show their understanding. In Computing we discussed Internet Safety and were very impressed with the new e-safety game 'Band Runner'. It's replaced the old Cyber Cafe. The website is worth a good look for all members of the family, providing plenty of advice on keeping your children safe on the internet.
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Sporting Hero: Lucy S - for being such a good role model and for her excellent leadership skills during ball handling activities.

Home Learning Hero: Arthur M - for the expert way he investigated the lasting effects that the Romans had on Britain.

News from 5 & 6
Bletchley Park provided us with the perfect way to hook the children in to their World War II topic this week. We began by exploring the huts in our groups where we discovered Alan Turing's office, his role in the codebreaking that took place and exactly how he did it with the Bombe machine. Huts 3 and 6 then took us back to where the codes were intercepted and translated from German to English. After a busy morning investigating, we then made a quick pit stop and enjoyed a very civilised lunch on the deck chairs by the lake. After all, you can take the children out of Great Tew... Engaged and completely immersed, the children loved being shown around by Martin - our tour guide - who brought history to life with his animated stories and secrets from the 1940's. We were then passed over to Phil, who allowed the children to experience an exciting, practical and fast-paced code breaking session which involved determination, logic and mathematics. Every single child was motivated and enthusiastic at the opportunity to show case their skills!

Year 5 and 6 have also been beavering away in Maths this week with lots of equipment to represent numbers in our place value unit. We have been looking at negative numbers and crossing the boundary over zero. One group in particular really had to persevere during a 'mind workout' that required them to use written clues to locate the office of an employee who worked in a 50 storey building without, I hasten to add, being told what floor he started on. Very well done to Florence, Rosie, Otterlie and Louis who were fiercely competing to calculate the correct answer. We even trialled the question on Mrs Miles and Miss Hardy, who also had to take a few moments to suss out the required method under pressure with several pairs of beady eyes on them - mine included!

One question in particular that really got us thinking and applying our reasoning skills this week was: A block of flats is being being built with 20 being the top floor, and -20 being the bottom. If we said there would be 40 floors in total, why would we be incorrect? I'll let you ponder on that one yourselves...
Good Manners’ Champion

This week’s Good Manners’ Champion is William in Year 3. William has made a fantastic start to the year, showing a very mature attitude towards his learning, his friendships and the younger children. We’ve all been proud of William, who has shown us how grown up he can be and we know he has been a real support at home too. The children told us: William was really good at learning at the end of Year 1&2 as well; he never plays with the same person and he always looks after his little sister; I always want William to be on my team, because he’s very kind; William is good at sorting out problems; William doesn’t mind which team he is on - he doesn’t make a fuss; when we were making an obstacle course with Reception children, William was very kind and he helped them make it and go through it; William always smiles a lot and makes people happy. Well done William - we are all very proud of what you have achieved. Keep up the great work!

Stars of the Week

Well done to the following children, who have been showing a Growth Mindset towards their learning, both in and out of the classrooms.

Years 1 & 2

Max - for having a really positive attitude towards his learning, giving everything a go, and behaving beatifully all the time too.

Years 3 & 4

Elena - for a fantastic start to the year, being such a caring and considerate member of her class

Years 5 & 6

Mya – for a fantastic start to the year, making a huge amount of effort with her writing in particular
Coming Up! - Dates for your Diary

| SEP | Wed 19 | Y5/6 trip to Bletchley Park |
|     | Tue 25 | Y3/4 trip to Chedworth Roman Villa |
|     | Wed 26 | Meet the Teachers (6.00pm) and Governors (7.00pm) |
|     | Fri 28 | Macmillan Coffee Morning |
|     | Wed 10 | Whole School Event - Life Bus to visit |
|     | Mon 15 | Parents' Evening - 4.30-7.00pm (not Reception) |
|     | Tue 16 | Parents' Evening - 3.30-6.00pm (not Reception) |
|     | Wed 17 | Y1/2 trip to Blists Hill, Ironbridge |
|     | Mon 19 | Y6 residential visit to Yenworthy Lodge in Devon |
|     | Wed 21 | Flu Vaccinations - Reception to Y5 |
|     | Dec | Reception & KS1 Christmas performance - 2pm and 6pm |
|     | Tue 11 | Whole school trip to the pantomime - Oxford Playhouse |
|     | Dec | Whole School Christmas Feast |
|     | Thu 20 | Christmas Service - 9am St Michael’s Church |
|     | Fri 21 | End of term - please note term will end at midday |

Meet the Teachers and Governors

On Wednesday 26th September we will be holding our “Meet the Teacher” sessions. The teachers will tell you more about the children's learning and how you can support this at home, as well as routines and expectations for the year. You will also have a chance to ask any questions you might have. Please do try to come along if you can; there will be 2 sessions in every class, the first from 6.00-6.30pm and the second from 6.30-7.00pm.

Following this, at 7.00pm, there will be a drinks reception and a chance to meet some of the Governing Body and Supporters Club and find out more about priorities for the coming year.

Term Dates 2018-2019

**Autumn Term 1**
Wednesday 5th September to Friday 19th October
*(INSET day on 4th September)*

**Half Term** – Monday 22nd October to Friday 26th October

**Autumn Term 2**
Monday 29th October to Friday 21st December AT MIDDAY

**Christmas Holiday** – Monday 24th December to Friday 4th January

**Spring Term 1**
Monday 7th January to Friday 15th February

**Half Term** – Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February

**Spring Term 2**
Monday 25th February to Friday 5th April at 2pm

**Easter Holiday** – Monday 8th April to Tuesday 23rd April

**Summer Term 1**
Tuesday 23rd April to Thursday 23rd May *(with INSET day on Friday 24th May and May Day Bank Holiday on Monday 6th May)*

**Half Term** – Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May *(with INSET day on Friday 24th May)*

**Summer Term 2**
Monday 3rd June to Friday 19th July at 2pm *(with INSET days on Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th July)*

**INSET (Staff Training) DAYS**
*no school for children on these days*:
Tuesday 4th September
Friday 24th May
Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th July

Whole class music in Year 3&4. We have a magnificent collection of instruments now, thanks to the Supporters Club!