

St. Matthew's

Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

29th June 2018



Dear Parents,

This week we have been talking about the parable of the lost sheep, comparing how well the good shepherd cares for his sheep in comparison with Little Bo Peep, who leaves them to fend for themselves. We introduced the idea of Jesus as a shepherd who cares for his sheep and the children suggested that we could be his sheep. We talked about how we can sometimes be like lost sheep, wandering away from God's love and how Jesus is a kind shepherd who understands mistakes. We learnt a new song to the tune of Little Bo Peep:

*Jesus is Shepherd of his sheep,
He knows each one by name.
Whatever we do, his love is true,
He'll find us again and again.*

Well done to Isabella for her wisdom certificate from home for 'Giving all her pocket money to Christian Aid. Isabella said that there are people in the world who need money more than her.' What an amazing attitude Isabella; and to Genevieve J for 'tidying her desk and making her bed without being asked. This helps mummy very much.' (lovely writing Genevieve!)

Yesterday, Callum from *Sight for Surrey* visited our school and talked to us about what it is like for him being blind and how *Sight for Surrey* supports people like him with visual impairment – blind or partially sighted, deaf or deaf-blind or hard of hearing. They help to deliver a specialist, hands-on service for many people. Callum, blind from birth was really inspirational, telling us all about how he gets around using his cane and how *Sight for Surrey* helped him to develop his independence. He told us some funny stories from his past, such as the time when his dad was teaching him to ride his bike told him to turn left when he really meant right. Callum and his bike ended up in the canal and his dad fell in trying to pull him out! Luckily this story had a good ending so they are able to laugh about it. He told us how he knows what is on his plate by likening the plate to a clock, so his chicken could be at twelve o'clock and his potatoes at quarter past. The children asked some really good questions and we didn't have time to answer them all so Callum has said that we can email him to get more answers. Callum emailed me after his visit, saying 'The children were magnificent and I found the school to be one of the most welcoming and supportive I have ever been to.' Thank you for sending your children in wearing sunglasses today with a donation – we are pleased to be supporting this local charity as a school.

This week Rabbits Class have been doing lots of problem solving in maths, looking at some subtraction problems together on the whiteboard. They have talked about how to approach problems such as *If there are six birds and 2 fly away, how many birds will be left?* They have then written the corresponding number sentence and worked out the answer. They have done some amazing writing this week about how much they enjoyed the weekend and the school fair – their handwriting is super and they have written some great sentences: 'I got a toy and bought colour for my hair. I played with Ella, Freddy, Harley and Josie' (Charlotte); 'I helped my mummy at the clothes stall and splashed my daddy and I got some arm paint and got some hair chalk.' (Edith); 'At the fair my mum was there and I went to her stall and won some wrestlers and I got a coke. I did a hula hoop game and I came with my mum and dad and I had lots of fun.' (Franklin) Rabbits have been learning about recycling and watched a video clip of Maddie on CBBC to find out what happens to our rubbish after it has been collected from our bins. They also talked about the properties of plastic and found lots of things in

their classroom that are made of plastic. They did a floating and sinking investigation and talked about their predictions of what might float or not. Freddy predicted that the teddy would float for a while and would then sink when the fur became wet, and he was spot on.... Sue didn't get the teddy to dry before Mrs Selencky came back and found a wet teddy!

Otters Class have been looking at some recount writing, talking about features of a good recount and what makes it interesting for the reader. They spent time recalling their lovely day out at Southsea last week, acting out different parts of the day to remember what it was like and then they ordered some pictures of the day. They planned and wrote their own recounts, carefully thinking about all the features they needed to include, such as time connectives, joining words, adjectives and also making sure it was written in chronological order. In maths they have been comparing different coins and have been counting up in 2s, 5s and 10s, using 2p, 5p and 10p coins. They have been thinking about using money when shopping and paying for things, using their addition and subtraction skills to calculate the correct totals. On Tuesday, Otters went to St Teresa's for a fun sports afternoon and had a lot of fun -joining in enthusiastically in all the different sports activities. The Otters teachers were very proud of everyone as they were all excellent ambassadors for the school, being smart, polite and showing great team attitude. In RE they have recalled their trip to the chapel and have taken a virtual tour of a church, talking about the significance of key parts of a church, such as the font and pulpit. Next week they will be making their own models of a church, working together in teams.

Badgers Class have been really busy training for their Top Sports Day events, developing skills of balance, cross-overs, sprinting and relay. The team spirit, support for each other and the sounds of healthy competition are shining through. They have carefully designed their model plastic boats, all of which looked spectacular on the day of the Plastic Bottle Boat Challenge. The ideas that they came up with were very creative and unique and thanks to the careful planning, they all floated brilliantly! Preparations are also underway for another of Badgers' super design projects where each child has had the opportunity to measure, saw and smooth their own pieces of wood that they will need for... you will have to wait and see as that is being kept a secret for the Leaver's service! Badgers have started their new RE topic with the Big Question: *How do Christians worship God?* They started this topic by thinking and reflecting on all the wonderful things in our world that would make people want to worship and say thank you for, such as rainbows, lightning, fire, flowers, our pets and families.

The Plastic Bottle Boat Challenge was a great success on Wednesday – a huge thank you to everyone that was involved in this attempt to be part of a World Record Challenge. The children had spent time in the previous couple of days planning their boat designs and carefully making their model boats. The designs were all amazing and the children listened carefully to instructions on the day so that all of the boats were launched simultaneously as was required by the rules. The boats floated very well for the challenge minute, with 39 out of 40 boats staying afloat for this time. The paperwork from Mrs Rook, Gill and Jo (our kind volunteer witnesses) and Mr Stocker (our steward) will now be sent off with the video and photographic evidence – hopefully the Guinness World Records will approve our attempt and it will be counted along with 72 other schools across the UK. If successful then it will be the most plastic bottles to be launched simultaneously!

Each class took part in the NSPCC PANTS activities yesterday, designing their own pants (some amazing designs!) and making a list of people that they can trust, talking about what makes someone trustworthy. They talked about the PANTS rules and wrote their own version to help them to remember the rules – the Pantosaurus song was popular throughout the school.

Yesterday we also had a fantastic production of *The Hobbit* for the whole school in the hall, and everyone enjoyed the story of Bilbo Baggins and his journey with the dwarves to find the treasure, along the way meeting Gollum who gives them a riddle to solve. The children had a good laugh at the funny, clumsy dwarves and at the enormous spider's legs coming away in the dwarves hands. The real hit was when Bilbo Baggins showed that he knew how to 'do the floss' and the whole school joined in with the dancing.

The children have enjoyed supporting the Just Different charity by dressing up in some 'just different' outfits – they all look amazing and have had a lot of fun looking at what everyone is wearing. Thank you for supporting our 2 charities today, we raised £100 which means that *Just Different* and *Sight for Surrey* will be sent £50 each.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards making the school fair the huge success it was last weekend. It was lovely to see and feel the great community spirit of our school and to watch the children having such fun. We were lucky with the weather and certainly made the most of it – The fair raised just over £2,000 which is amazing! Holly's Dance were fabulous and the children singing some of their favourite songs of the year made a super end to the afternoon.

Next week is our 'Feeling Good' week, focusing on Resilience – we will be doing lots of activities to help the children think about how we can learn to practice skills that can help us to bounce back in response to life's stresses. In an ideal world childhood would be free from any hurts or traumas but in reality, we all face problems from time to time – so it is important to find a way to stay motivated and to be able to deal with setbacks and problems in a constructive way. The children will be identifying words that encourage them in a challenge, will be talking about what resilience is and learning what it means to 'bounce back'. An important part of being resilient is being kind to yourself and to find the right help when you need it.

On Wednesday morning, 4th July, children will be spending the morning in their new classroom, getting to know their new teachers and teaching assistants while they explore the room and do some fun activities. Parents are reminded that they are invited for the first half-hour, from 9 to 9:30 – during this time the teachers will be telling you and your child all about classroom routines and what will be happening next year. If you are unable to make this session, we will send some information home – but do please feel free to pop in and see your child's new teacher before the end of term.

On Thursday 5th July at 3:30pm we are holding our second film club for children in the school hall. Do sign up – it will be *Trolls*, lasting for 1 hour 30 minutes. The children really enjoyed the last film club – popcorn and all!

The children have all been practising their sports day races and are very much looking forward to their events next Friday. We hope that the weather stays sunny and not too hot – fingers crossed!

There are more slots available for any parents and children who would like to do a talk for the school about their cultural background – contact the office if you would like to do this.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Hutt.





AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Rabbits:	Dominic and Tom for coming up with great ideas how to build their boat.
Otters:	Sam for super design of football pants to remind us of the PANTS rules and Dexter for managing so well with his broken arm particularly at playtimes.
Badgers:	Lottie for always listening so well and setting a great example to others.

Wisdom Award:	R - Franklin and Ella T for making a wise decision and working very hard when writing – writing 2 whole pages of sentences also remembering fingers spaces and full stops. O – Phoebe for excellent discussion and wise thoughts and questions about the PANTS rules. B – Luca for showing great wisdom in RE when talking about the wonders of how a chick can emerge from a tiny egg.
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Golden Tickets	Charlotte B, Lukas D, Michelle H, Evie, Xavier, Thomas M, Dexter and Isabella
Sticker Chart	Genevieve J



DIARY DATES

Wednesday 4 th July	9.15am Moving up morning for all classes (including new Rabbits) (no chess club today)
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Thursday 5 th July	3.30pm Film club (PTA event)
Friday 6 th July	10am Sports Day followed by family picnic

GATE DUTY w/c 25th June Parents of:
(8.40 – 9.00am)

Monday 2 nd July	H Price
Tuesday 3 rd July	D Rennie
Wednesday 4 th July	A Roussot
Thursday 5 th July	S Weisz
Friday 6 th July	F Williams

