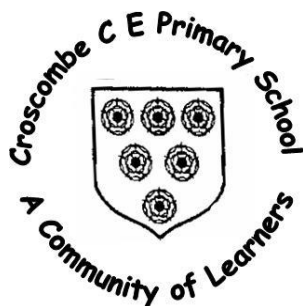


CROSCOMBE

Church of England
Primary School

HEAD TEACHER Steve Heath



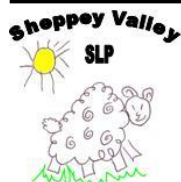
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19th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Story Tellers - On Monday, we had a visit from no less than 'The Bard of Glastonbury' himself; otherwise known as David Reakes. (<https://www.tortheatre.co.uk/poetry-storytelling/>) The whole school enjoyed a story with a twist; 'The Three Keys'. The three keys turned out to be a don-key, a mon-key and a tur-key which helped a young girl rescue her farmer friends from the Castle of the Three Gates.



Jeans for Genes Day

Jeans were worn last Friday and the school raised £59.00 to help half a million children in the UK who are affected by a life-altering genetic disorder. Thank you to all who donated.

Tracey's Wing Walk - This was bought as a surprise birthday present for Tracey from her husband, and

enabled her to tick off another item on her bucket list. Tracey decided to seek sponsorship and raised a total of £400.00. She has very generously donated £200 to Croscombe School for classroom resources and the other half to Pilton Pre-School. "Definitely a thrilling experience" said Tracey who is Ellie-Mae's mum. Thank you Mrs Witcombe for braving Wing Walking in aid Croscombe School.....wow!



Admissions - Secondary School Admissions 2020 - Applications are now open for admissions for Year 6 children starting secondary school in 2020. The deadline for applications is Thursday 31st October 2019. For more information or to apply please visit: www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september.

Primary School Admissions 2020 - Applications are now open for admissions for Reception children in 2020. The deadline for applications is Wednesday 15th January 2020. For more information or to apply please visit: www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/apply-to-start-school.

continued

Acorns Class – On Monday the story tellers visited and the children produced some great ideas to create their own narrative. The children developed their ideas through role play and dressing up.

Year R are now with us full-time, and thoroughly enjoying the lovely hot school dinners. The hot dogs are a firm favourite. The lunches are free for R/Y1 and Y2 a new menu will be sent out at the end of this month, planning ahead for after half-term. In RE we are looking at Hinduism and the class had lots of questions about the story of Ganesh. In Maths we have been using the words greater than, less than and equal too. We sing a great song about this from 'Go Noodle', where we learn and dance at the same time. For Year R parent/carers, please join us for a phonics presentation on Monday 7th October at 9.00 am in the school hall.

Acorns are so grateful to everyone who supported our cake and book sale on Monday. *We raised an amazing £65.00* which has been used to buy compare bears, measuring worms, double sided and plastic counters and a selection of counting vegetables, fruits, sea life creatures and dinosaurs, which the children chose themselves through a class vote. Thank you so much.

Acorns would like to have a sensory outside area and would appreciate any potted herbs which could be used. If you have any, please bring them to Acorns Class. Thank you. **Mrs Chester**

Croscombe Tiddlers - £120 was donated by Croscombe Tiddlers who meet in our school hall on a Tuesday morning. They have requested their donation is to be used for the playground fund. We are very grateful to Tiddlers and would like to remind anyone who has, or knows any families with pre-school aged children that they are welcome to join them (£1 per family).

Conkers Class - Conkers worked with David in building a setting that will become part of a live drama performance. The project is called Theatre in The Play Ground and brings live performance directly to children and communities.

We studied the ceramic work of Ancient Greek artists; paying close attention to their use of form and imagery. We produced our own vases developing our skills in collage and pattern design.



Chestnuts - This week in Chestnuts the themes have been creativity and investigation. On Monday we were joined by a 'real' storyteller. We heard a fantastic story and then worked with the story tellers to create our own story set in the future. We had to think about what it would be like - would things be better or worse and would people be the same as now? In literacy, having learnt our portal story, The Time Slip Scarab, we are now thinking of innovating our own versions using elements of the original. Some of us have decided to be transported back to the Roman times or World War 1, whatever the era we are trying our hardest to use some great adjectives to set the scene.

continued

Finally, in science, we have been creating circuits and testing materials to see if they are conductors or insulators. Our investigation led us to the conclusion that metals make a good conductor.

Mrs Hooper/Mrs Bloom

Head Teacher's Availability - Mr Heath will be available next week in Croscombe on Monday, Tuesday and Friday and will be at Stoke St Michael on Wednesday and Thursday. Mr Moore, our senior teacher will be available as usual.

FOCS - The FOCS Annual Halloween Disco will take place on Thursday 24th October at 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm at Croscombe Village Hall. We would love the children to dress up in their finest Halloween fancy dress! This is the kids' favourite event of the year and we want to make it as fantastic for them as possible! There will be fun and games from our entertainer Jonny G. We will be selling Hot Dogs, plus popcorn and sweets. There is also a bar for parents. Entrance is (as always) is £5 per family. As with all FOCS events, we need a number of volunteers to make this event possible. A rota will go up on the middle door this week. * Please note that parents must stay with their child at the disco. This is not a drop-off-and-go event. Hope to see you all there!

School Governors - The Governors would like to thank the organisers of Croscombe Charter Market for their generous donation of £1400 at the last market. Croscombe Charter Market nominated the school as their charity of choice for 2018/19 and have donated the proceeds of their fundraising over this year to us. We will be putting it towards the refurbishment of the playground and the purchase of new play equipment for the children.

School Finances - We have had a few discussions with parents recently about the way that the school is funded, so we thought that it might be useful to try to explain some of the developments that have taken place or are planned in school, and also to explain some of the constraints upon spending.

The school receives its money from the County Council, who, in turn, receives its education budget from central government. There are very few "centrally" provided services, so everything from toilet rolls and pencils to IT support to specialist SEN provision must be purchased from that budget. Whilst schools receive more money than they have in the past, they are also required to spend it upon more and more services once provided for free by the Local Authority and, in real terms, it is acknowledged that primary schools funding has fallen in recent years.

The vast majority of our spending is on staffing – as it is in most businesses - and Governors have sought to protect our staff budget whilst making difficult decisions. Of the remainder of the budget, a fairly large proportion is ring fenced for use on specific subject areas. For instance, a sizable part of our funding can only be used for capital spending – on buildings or IT hardware- and cannot be spent upon anything else. As a church school, we are also occasionally granted funding from the Baths and Wells Diocese (who own the school building) for specific projects that they deem necessary. These are usually linked to safeguarding or pupil safety in some way. For all of these capital projects, the Governors have to pledge to raise 10% of the cost from other sources, which is why our Governors run fund raising activities that are separate to the good work of FOCS.

In recent months, you will have noted that we have spent money on improving the playground. Installing the fencing, to help Acorns class use the playground as an extension to their outdoor area when needed. We are also improving the safety of our children by installing new fire doors with vision panels to all three classrooms. There will also be quite a major investment in much needed new IT resources so that we can successfully deliver the curriculum. All of these expenses have been incurred in cost centres that we are not allowed to use for other purchases.

continued

We hope that this answers any queries that you might have, but please feel free to contact Mr Heath for any further information if needed. There will be a parent meeting with myself on Monday 30th September at 2.45 pm.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Heath
Executive Head Teacher
Croscombe and Stoke St Michael Primary Federation



Celebration News

In each class we celebrate children for showing progress in their learning and for shining in a particular area. Celebrations for last week (week ending 20.09.19):

Acorns

Cassius- for trying really hard filling in missing numbers

Georgia - for writing lovely ideas about, what happens throughout the seasons and using her phonics.

Jack - for focusing on neat writing on his cake sale poster

Chestnuts

Reader of the Week – Hayden for always working hard and reading regularly at home.

Mathematician of the Week – Lilly for excellent work on place value and using exchanging.

Writer of the week – Mason for using excellent adjectives for describing.

Chestnuts have been working hard on their descriptive writing over the last couple of weeks. They have planned and written some wonderful 'portal' stories, explaining what objects their characters touch and which period in history they are transported to.

Conkers

Conkers Certificate: Berenice for innovating her Talk for Writing warning tale and facing a challenge **Diamond**

Declan for trying really hard in his Power Maths **Emerald**



Children with their certificates at last week's celebration assembly.

Useful Dates

30.09.19 – Parent Meeting with Mr Heath – 2.45 pm in the school hall

30.09.19 – Writhlington Leisure Gym Club 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm

01.10.19 – Swimming for Yrs 3 & 4 am

02.10.19 – Egyptian Workshop (Chestnuts Class) am

02.10.19 – Forest School am Yr 2 & pm Yr 4

07.10.19 – Phonics Meeting with Reception Parents – 9.00 am in the school hall