

# Newsletter 5

Friday 8th October 2021

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## Black History Month

Each October, we celebrate Black History month. Now in its 34th year, the focus is on those men and women who have fought against racism and have made a substantial contribution to the country. In our assemblies this week we have been learning about the lives of some of these incredibly brave people who fought against injustice and inequality such as Mary Seale, who nursed soldiers in the Crimean War, and Walter Tull, the first professional black footballer who played for Tottenham Hotspurs in 1910 and was tragically killed fighting in the trenches in France in WWI. We were amazed to learn that black people were making a huge contribution to our history as far back as the Roman era, when the emperor Septimius Severus travelled from Lepcis Magna, modern day Libya, to repair Hadrian's Wall and in the reign of Henry VIII, John Blanke, moved from Spain with Catherine of Aragon to become the king's trumpeter.

Please ask the children to tell you about some of the incredible people they have been learning about this week and how they are a part of all our history.

Mrs Howell

## Individual and Sibling Photographs

Just a reminder that Van Cols will be coming to school on Monday 11th October to take individual and sibling photographs. Please can you ensure that your child comes to school dressed in their correct school uniform, which includes their school sweatshirt or cardigan. The backgrounds used by the photographers are white and so the dark green sweatshirt provides the necessary contrast. Please be aware that if you have not given consent to the school office we will not be able to take your child's photograph.



## Covid-19 Update

You may have heard the Director for Education for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough speaking about the rapid rise in Covid cases in Cambridgeshire yesterday. This has resulted in the Director for Public Health recommending that schools should reintroduce some further measures to try to control the transmission rates. At Monkfield Park, we have continued with many of our Covid measures e.g. timetabled hand washing, increased ventilation and sanitising of frequently touched surfaces. We had already taken the decision to hold many of our large events virtually this term, and following on from the announcement we will continue to do this. It has been recommended that staff socially distance and wear face masks in busy areas of the school. Any visitors entering the school building will be required to wear a mask, so please be aware of this when coming into the school office or to speak with teachers. Please do not be offended if staff maintain 2m distance from you and wear face coverings when at their classroom doors. These measures will be in place for the next two weeks until 22nd October.

### Extracting DNA !

We always like to be at the cutting edge of science but I was amazed to find Year 6 extracting DNA from bananas when I popped into the classrooms this week. I was also astonished to discover that 60% of my DNA is the same as that of a banana!

Using some basic equipment the children carefully followed the instructions and were delighted to see the thin cotton like strands of DNA appear in their test tubes. I hope this has inspired some of the children to think about how they might use the study of DNA to make sure there are enough crops to feed the world, cure inherited diseases or design vaccines to prevent the transmission of viruses such as Covid-19 in their future careers.



### Outdoor and Adventurous Tournament

On Thursday, Mr Yates accompanied a team of Year 3 and Year 4 children to an Outdoor and Adventurous competition at Comberton Village College. It was a fantastic event, with the children taking part in lots of different challenges including battleships, orienteering and the pipe teamwork game. All of the children represented the school well, throwing themselves into the activities with great energy, enthusiasm and determination. A very big 'well done' to all the children who took part. We are very proud of you all.



### Parent Consultation Evenings

If you haven't already done so, please can I remind you to book an appointment to speak with your child's class teacher at parents consultation evening on Tuesday 12th or Thursday 21st October. The appointments will be taking place via Zoom as we are unable to hold mass events in school at the moment.

# Headteacher Roll of Honour

Each week this space will provide a celebration of children who may be especially noticed for demonstrating learning or behaviour that we feel should be recognised and commended. This week I would like to congratulate:

Daniel in Cygnus Class: Daniel, you are a fantastic ambassador for our school. You impressed so many of the Sports Leaders at the Outdoor and Adventurous competition with your teamwork skills and support for others. Thank you.

Harmony in Violet Class: Harmony has been listening very carefully to the advice and feedback from adults in school, which in turn has helped her to make great improvements to her writing. I loved reading your beautifully edited recount of your visit to Woolsthorpe Manor this week.

Noah Q in Lacerta Class: Noah is loving his learning in Year 5 and has blown us away this week with some of the deeply thought out, philosophical questions he has posed. You are trying so hard and have proved that hard work really does pay dividends. We are all very proud of you.

## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to create a repeating pattern with natural objects. e.g. leaves and conkers.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you how to make a cloud forest terrarium.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you what they found out about Isaac Newton at Woolsthorpe Manor.

Ask your Year 3 child to describe the character of Smudge.

Ask your Year 4 child to tell you what life was like for the Celts in pre- Roman Britain.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain the features they need to include when writing a biography.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain what a composite number is.

## Earrings and Jewellery

Please can we politely remind parents and carers that jewellery should not be worn to school. The only exceptions are watches, cultural or religious adornments and studs for pierced ears, all of which **MUST** be removed during school PE lessons, for health and safety reasons. The school cannot accept responsibility for removing or storing studs and items that are removed cannot be stored communally to avoid contagion/infections. The Local Authority PE advisor has informed us that silicone studs, such as the ones pictured here, can be worn safely in PE lessons. These can be purchased online from Amazon or Claire's Accessories.



## Year 2 Visit to Woolsthorpe Manor

We were delighted that Year 2 were able to visit Woolsthorpe Manor this week—our first proper school trip in eighteen months. The children were so excited to visit the home of Sir Isaac Newton, to walk through the rooms he walked and worked in and even see the bed he slept in.

The trip was particularly poignant as in 1665 the University of Cambridge closed its doors to prevent the spread of the great plague, forcing students, including Isaac Newton, to return home. Sir Isaac returned to Woolsthorpe Manor and it is here that he is thought to have watched the apples falling from the apple trees in the orchard and came up with his theory of the three laws of motion.

The children loved exploring Sir Isaac Newton's incredible story of discovery in the Science centre and taking part in some activities associated with his scientific work.



## **FORTHCOMING DATES 2021 to 2022**

The arrangements for all these events may be subject to change if there are changes in Government and Local Authority guidance. Until further notice, most of the large events will take place virtually via Zoom.

11th October—Individual school photographs

12th October 5pm -7.30pm—Parent consultation evening

15th October at 9:15am— Indigo Class Assembly

18th October 10 am to 11 am—Parent/Carer drop in

21st October 4pm —6:30pm—Parent consultation evening

25th—29th October—HALF TERM

1st November—Children return to school

12th November at 9:15am—Blue Class assembly

w/c 15th November—Anti bullying week

16th November at 2pm—Year 2 Production

18th November at 2pm—Year 2 Production

19th November—Children in Need Day

14th December at 2pm—Year 4 Carol Concert

15th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

16th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

16th December at 6pm—Year 4 Carol Concert

17th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

20th December—3rd January 2022—CHRISTMAS BREAK

4th January—INSET Day (school closed for children)

5th January—Children return to school

### **Cash for Clothes**

A huge thank you to everyone who donated clothes for the recent cash for clothes collection. The pile of bags at the collection point in Priory Walk was enormous and I am pleased to report that FOMP made a very impressive

**£247.55**

This will go towards many of the projects that FOMP kindly support in school.



# THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Singing School was established in Cambridge in 2013 to provide children and young adults with the opportunity to sing great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing.

Two courses are available this Christmas  
in Cambridge:

Junior course for ages 7-12

Senior course for 13-18 year olds

Pupils will learn some beautiful seasonal music and at the same time gain a background in vocal technique, music theory, music appreciation and history. Families are most welcome to come and listen to an informal concert at the end of the course.

To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see [www.oxbridgesingingschool.com](http://www.oxbridgesingingschool.com) or email [oxbridgess@gmail.com](mailto:oxbridgess@gmail.com)

**20 & 21 December 2021**  
**Jesus College, Cambridge**

[www.oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk](http://www.oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk)