

WHADDON CE FIRST SCHOOL SUMMER NEWS 2011



BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

We were so lucky that the sun shone on Friday 1st July for our bicentenary celebrations. The day began with a service in St. Mary's Church at 10.30.am led by Rev Philip Derbyshire. The service included a welcome by Hazel Hedges, Chair of Governors and an address by Rt .Rev. Dr. Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, songs from the children and excerpts from the school log books read by Year 3 children. We returned to school for a demonstration of country dancing and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by Rt. Honourable John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons. This was followed by the blessing of the classrooms by the bishop. Parents joined the children for a family picnic. A big thank you to FOWs for providing a buffet lunch for guests. Special thanks to Hazel Hedges for all her hard work in organising the event. It was a very special and memorable day.

ROALD DAHL FESTIVAL - ARTIST IN SCHOOL AND FESTIVAL PARADE

We had a wonderful day on May 20th working with artist Stu McLellan. George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl was the theme for all the activities. Starfish Class used silk painting techniques to create colourful flags. Year 1, 2 and 3 created a herd of fantastic black and white cows and the children also made grass head-dresses. It is always great fun to work with Stu, and the children really enjoyed the day. The artwork formed part of the Roald Dahl Parade in Aylesbury on Saturday 2nd July. Twenty two children from Whaddon School took part in the parade and Mrs Ash, Mrs Bloomer, Miss Kilsby and Mrs Travis were all there. The parade featured the artwork from many school and steel bands. A big thank you to all the parents who transported children to the parade on Saturday and to the staff who gave up their time.

HOT MEALS

We are delighted that our hot meals service began on Monday 13th June. The meals are freshly cooked, delicious and nutritious. They are very popular with the children and there has been over a 90% take up. Everyone here has been working hard to support children and staff in the introduction of the new system. Feedback from parents and children has been very positive. So far, the roast dinner, fish and chips and sticky toffee pudding have been the favourites!!

SMALL SCHOOLS SPORTS FESTIVAL – JUNE 23rd

Children in Years 1 and 2 took part in this event which was organised by the Buckingham School Sports Partnership at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. Mrs Ash and Mrs Bloomer accompanied the children as they took part in a fantastic range of activities including athletics, dance, tennis, skip2bfit and multi-sports. Everyone had a great time and each child received a special t-shirt to wear on the day and a certificate and medal which was presented in our celebration assembly.

VISIT TO WHIPSNADE ZOO

The whole school had a fantastic day at Whipsnade on 29th June. Activities for each class were linked to the topic for this term. Starfish Class looked at sea animals and birds including penguins, otters and a sea lion demonstration. Seahorse Class focused on fur and feathers while Dolphin Class looked especially at animals from a rainforest habitat. We were very proud of our children who behaved very well and were a pleasure to take on the visit. A great day was had by all.

NEW INTAKE VISITS

Children who will be joining the Reception Class in September enjoyed induction visits on the afternoons of July 4th and 11th. Starfish Class eagerly showed their new friends around the classroom and outside area and helped them to settle in. There was a familiarisation meeting for parents at 2.30 pm on July 11th to give parents more information about the process of starting school and to answer any questions.

BICENTENARY BARN DANCE

A great evening was had by all who came to the barn dance at Hickman's Barn on Saturday 11th July which raised over £2.000. A big thank you to everyone who supported the event and to Hazel Hedges, Helen Hickman and FOWS for their hard work in making it such a success.

BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday 14th July parents and governors joined us to celebrate Bastille Day at 9.05 am. There was a concert of French songs given by the children followed by a parachute colour game. FOWS served a French breakfast of croissants, pain au chocolate and hot chocolate.

STARFISH CLASS ASSEMBLY- JULY 15

All the children took part in the assembly on our two topics this term – ‘Space’ and ‘Beaches and Seas’. The children showed some of the work we have done through songs, poems, artwork and drama. The children had used the internet and information books to investigate facts about planets and sharks. Their favourite part was singing ‘Hello Mr Sun’.

SEAHORSE CLASS ASSEMBLY – JULY 19

This exciting class assembly presented work on the topic of ‘Clothes and Coverings’. The children dressed their teddies and made a wonderful film entitled ‘Catwalk Cavemen’. The children performed a drama production based on the traditional Jewish tale called ‘The Patchwork Coat’. Well done to all the children who spoke their lines so clearly.

DOLPHIN CLASS AND LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

Our end of year celebration assembly took place on Wednesday 20th July at 2.00pm. First Dolphin Class showed us some of their fantastic work from their topic of the Rainforest which included impressive presentations on the interactive whiteboard. Next there was the presentation of Bronze, Silver and Gold awards to children from Years 1, 2 and 3 who had achieved 50,100 and 150 merit points respectively this year - very well done everyone! We said our very grateful thanks and goodbye with bouquets and cards to our two members of staff who are leaving us - Mrs Bloomer and Miss Kilsby. We will miss them both very much. The Fred Green Citizenship Award was presented by Rev Derbyshire to Rose Parkinson for her exceptional example to others in her behaviour, hard work and thoughtfulness to others. Finally and with much sadness, we had to say goodbye to Rev Philip Derbyshire who has moved to take up a new post in the parishes of Soulbury and Stewkley. Philip has been a very strong supporter of the school for the past six years and together we have developed close links with the church. He will be greatly missed and we wish him well in his new post.



Congratulations to Rose who received the Citizenship Award from Rev. Derbyshire

AFTERNOON OF PRAYER

Rev Derbyshire led a discussion with the children about the meaning of prayer. He introduced the hand of prayer and the children all wrote their own version with a short prayer or picture.

DRUMMING WORKSHOP

Dolphin Class were invited to join the children at Padbury School on the afternoon of Thursday 7th July for a workshop of African drumming with Mrs Sue Snell. The children had great fun making music with their friends from Padbury. Thank you very much to all the parents who provided transport.

SPORTS AFTERNOON ON TUESDAY 19TH JULY

We were lucky that the rain held off on Tuesday afternoon. Mixed age teams were led by Year 2 and 3 children and everyone cheered on their team mates. Points were earned in each activity and congratulations go to the Magpies team led by Evelyne who were presented with the Whaddon Sports Cup.

BICENTENARY REFURBISHMENT

Building work to refurbish the original school building started on Monday 25th July. This will include a complete new roof with replaced battens, tiles and insulation, redecoration of windows and doors and replacement of all guttering and downpipes. The building should look fantastic in September and be ready for the next 200 years!!

WITH BEST WISHES FROM EVERYONE AT WHADDON CE FIRST SCHOOL.

MRS DIANA TRAVIS HEADTEACHER