

April Newsletter 2025

How is it April already? There has been a buzz of Easter in the School this week, as the children in Key Stage 2, have been preparing for their Easter Service at the Church to mark the end of another "Egg-traordinary" term. Thank you to all who attended the assembly at St Michael's Church yesterday, it was lovely to welcome so many of you and the children, as always, were fantastic! Special thank you to Mr Cornish for leading the service and for ensuring the children were in fine voice for the occasion.

Mother's Day Assembly

Last week, Unicorns Class delivered the most wonderful, heartfelt assembly for Mother's Day. They celebrated their Mums and Nans and treated them to songs, poems and reasons why their Mum was simply the best! The pride on the children's and Mums' faces was priceless and the assembly was a pleasure to watch. I am in awe of the confidence, even our very youngest child shows, when speaking to an audience. Each year, my personal highlight of the afternoon is always the "Mum's Gallery."



World Book Day



As always, the children came to school in all sorts of wonderful outfits, we even had our own dinosaur for the day! Our World Book Day celebrations were fun packed- thank you so much for the support you gave the children with their whole school homework projects. The book themed hats were amazing, it was so difficult to choose the three winners. Well done to all who took part. Congratulations to Ellie, Piper and Jack, whose hats won them a book token each.

Team Events

We held a couple of Team events this term: pancake day races and science afternoon activities. The pancake races were great fun, the older children supported the younger children superbly and we all enjoyed a pancake at the end too! Science afternoon activities included the Lego Boat challenge, Rocket Launching, The Cup Challenge and tower building using marshmallows and spaghetti. It is so lovely to have all the children on one site, making these events possible.



NSPCC – Speak Out assembly and Workshops

We have held our Speak Out, Stay Safe assemblies in both KS1 and KS2 this term. The workshops had been booked for last week, these have needed to be postponed and will happen during the Summer Term, dates to be confirmed. Further information can be found at: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/speak-out-stay-safe>

Comic Relief – Red Nose Day

Thank you for supporting our fundraising effort this year. We raised a remarkable £85.

Parents Afternoon

Thank you to all who attended our recent Parents' Afternoon Meetings. It is always great to have the chance to share the progress your children are making. If you were unable to attend and would like to speak with your child's teacher, please speak to Miss Braithwaite in the office to arrange an appointment.

Uniform



Please can **ALL** uniform be clearly named! We do our best to reunite jumpers/cardigans etc with their rightful owners, but this is so much easier if they are named. If you do pass on out-grown items, please remove your child's name otherwise we do end up send them back to you!

Although there are signs that Spring is on its way, the weather is often variable at this time of year. Please ensure that your child/ren come to school with a named waterproof coat and a jumper. We do ask that children wear school shoes rather than trainers for non-PE days. Please ensure the children are wearing small, plain stud earrings only, no other jewellery (other than a watch) should be worn. We would really appreciate it if children could come without jewellery on their PE days. These are currently Mondays for Phoenix and Dragons Classes and Tuesday for Unicorns. Thank you for your support with this.

Coats

We have a few coats that have been gifted to us. If your child needs a coat, please speak to Mrs Silver or me on the gate as we may be able to help you! Likewise, if you have a coat that has been out-grown, please consider donating it to us as we could find a new home for it. Not only will you be helping the environment, but we may also be able to help people save a few pennies along the way!

Foodbank referrals

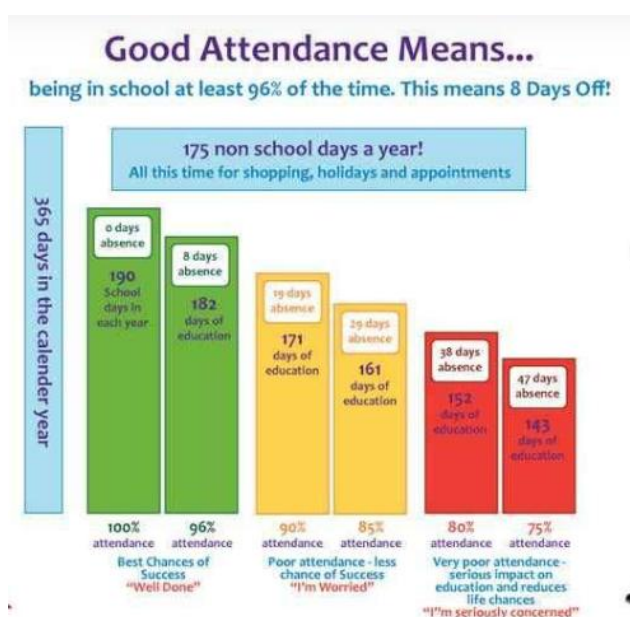
As a school, we can make referrals to local foodbanks. Should you find yourself in need of some support please do come and speak to Mrs Silver or myself, in confidence, we will do our best to help you.

Year 6 Bikeability Reminder

A reminder that the children in Year 6 will take part in Bikeability on Wednesday 23rd April. Details have been sent out. Please can you ensure that you watch the video links, which will have been sent out directly via the Bikeability team, prior to the course.

The children will remain at Othery this year, for this and Mrs Higgs will accompany them for the day.

Attendance



Our whole school aim for attendance is 96%.

Our current attendance, for the academic year to date, is 96.6% for children registered to Othery and 96.1% for children registered to Middlezoy.

Please note that all absences due to illness are recorded as authorised. Parents and carers of children whose attendance is below 96% will receive an attendance letter, at the end of each half-term, notifying them of their child's/ children's current percentage.

E-safety Guidance and Advice

Under the **Parental E-safety Guide**, on our website, you will find a wealth of information and support to help keep your child/children safe online. There are links to a few sites who will help to support you further. The link for the webpage is:

<https://www.middlezoyandotheryschools.co.uk/parental-e-safety-guide/>

Wrap-around Care.

We continue to offer Breakfast Club, daily, from 7:45am. After-School Care is currently available until 5pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you wish to use either of these provisions please speak to Miss Braithwaite, in the School Office, who will be able to set the booking option up for you on ParentPay. The cost remains at £4 per session for Breakfast Club and £7 for After-School Care. Bookings need to be made by 4pm on Thursday for the following week. We can run sessions on Wednesdays, if required, but we do need notice to ensure this can happen.

School Lunches

Our Lunch supplier, Lavender Kitchen, offer a range of hot and cold lunches on rotation. Orders for School Lunches need to be made a week in advance via ParentPay. The ordering window closes by midnight on Monday, for the following week. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept bookings after this time.

PTA and Donations



The PTA continue to work hard to support the school. Thank you for your on-going support with the fundraising efforts. Your donations help to enhance the enrichment and learning opportunities available to all the children. The PTA have bought the Maypole for Mrs Brown's dancing club. Please keep an eye on the PTA Facebook Page for upcoming events and meetings. Your help with events and planning would be warmly welcomed.



VE Day Celebrations

We have been busy organising a whole school afternoon celebration at Othery Village Hall, which will also be open to the local community. The event will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 8th May at 1:45pm.

We would love for the children to dress-up for the day, there are some ideas below:

1940S GIRLS

A STRAW HAT OR BERET

IF YOU HAVE LONG HAIR, WEAR IT IN PLAITS WITH RIBBONS AT THE ENDS

IF YOU HAVE SHORT HAIR, TIE A RIBBON IN A BOW AROUND YOUR HEAD

A PLAIN SKIRT, WHITE BLOUSE AND V-NECK JUMPER OR CARDIGAN

A DRESS WITH SLEEVES - PLAIN, CHECKED OR DITSY FLORAL PATTERN

A PINAFORE (SLEEVELESS) DRESS WITH A BLOUSE UNDERNEATH

WHITE ANKLE SOCKS OR LONG SOCKS

SIMPLE BLACK SHOES



1940S BOYS

A FLAT CAP

SHORT HAIR COMBED IN A SIDE PARTING

A PLAIN BUTTON-DOWN SHIRT AND PLAIN GREY OR BLACK SHORTS

A V-NECK JUMPER OR TANK TOP

A BLAZER OR PLAIN JACKET

WHITE OR GREY LONG SOCKS WITH PLAIN DARK SHOES OR BOOTS

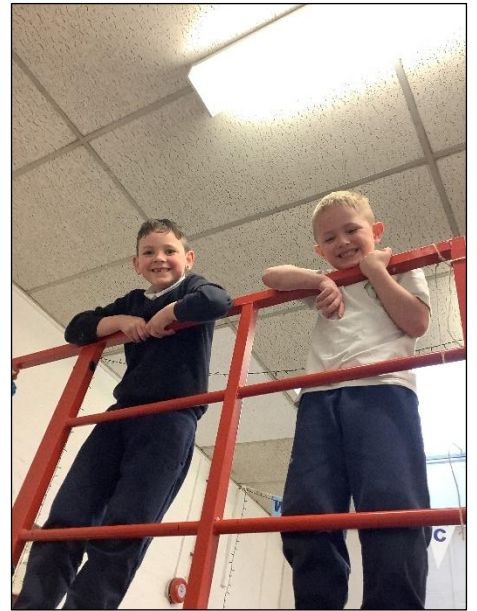


Unicorn Class

What a busy spring term Unicorn Class have had! The children continue to astound us with their hard work and achievements - they should all be very proud of themselves. Our reception children are now confident readers and writers, our Year 1's are demonstrating their increasing independence, whilst our Year 2's are becoming self-driven, motivated and resilient individuals, showing that they are almost ready for the challenges that KS2 will provide. Apart from reading, writing and number there has been an abundance of memorable activities taking place, ensuring that learning is both informative and fun. These experiences include activities around British Science Week, World Book Day, Mother's Day, Chinese New Year and our Easter Assembly at Othery Church. We wish you all a super Easter break and look forward to welcoming you back for the summer term!

Mrs Silver, Mrs Greedy, Mrs Hale and Miss Lester





Phoenix Class

The Spring Term has just flown by! We have been very busy in Phoenix Class, improving on our previous skills and knowledge whilst learning lots of new and exciting things too.

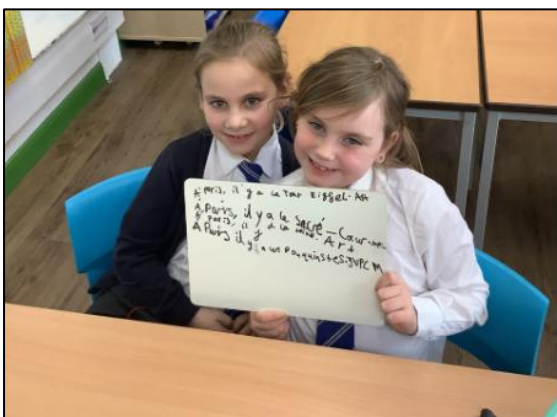
In English, we were absorbed by the magical world of Leon and the Place Between and wrote our own adventure stories. We researched monarchs from our History topic about the Stuart era and wrote a non-chronological report about them. This half-term we have explored Fairy Tales, including some with modern twists. We wrote an alternative fairy tale and a newspaper report.

In Maths, we have been learning about length, perimeter, area and fractions. Year 4 have also learnt about decimals and worked hard at their times tables, keep practising them over the holidays! Whilst Year 3 have learnt about mass, volume and capacity. In Science we learnt all about the states of matter and worked scientifically to conduct experiments on melting and evaporation and even the viscosity of ketchup!

We enjoyed seeing the children's creativity flow as we learnt all about Pop Art and when making our castles in DT, thanks for all your cardboard contributions for that - they look amazing! In Computing we had fun making stop-motion films and recording our own podcast. In Geography, we have learnt all about Europe: it's flags, currencies, capital cities and physical geographical features.

We hope you all have a happy and healthy holiday and look forward to welcoming you back into our shiny new classroom after the Easter break.

Mr Cornish & Mrs Hall



Dragons Class

This term has been a fabulous term in Dragons Class. The children have continued to work incredibly hard and have brought fun into everything we do. Our learning has taken us on a tour of Mexico, learning about the Ancient Maya civilisation in history and this continued in to geography where we compared Mexico to the UK, taking a particular interest in the capital cities: Mexico City and London.

In English, we looked at the story of Charlotte's Web and the children wrote persuasive letters, made predictions and created information texts about spiders! They have created newspaper articles about Science Afternoon and written their own explanation texts about a chosen sport. Their writing has gone from strength to strength, with some fabulous short stories about the adventures of a small dragon in their pocket! They have also created some wonderful pop-up books in DT.

Science has seen us investigate forces and light whilst in Maths we have focused on fractions, decimals and percentages, learnt about angles and developed our understanding of all four operations.

We are eagerly awaiting the Summer Term, with Year 6 set to complete their bikeability testing, Year 6 Sats, the KS2 Production and of course, the most anticipated event of the year- the residential trip to Okehampton.



Wishing you all a safe and fun-filled Easter Break!

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 23rd April.

Mrs Hayward and the Middlezoy and Othery Team



Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 1

- ❖ Tuesday 22nd April – Inset Day
- ❖ Wednesday 23rd April – Term Starts – Gates open @ 8:30 a.m.
- ❖ Wednesday 23rd April - Unicorn Class Trip to Dunster Castle
- Year 6 - Bikeability
- ❖ Thursday 24th April – Phoenix Class Swimming commences
- ❖ Thursday 8th May – VE Day Celebrations -1:45pm at Othery Village Hall
- ❖ Monday 12th May- year 6 SATs week. Breakfast club available Monday to Thursday from 8am for all year 6 pupils.
- ❖ Wednesday 14th May – Class Photos and Year 6 Leaver's Photos (PM)
- ❖ Thursday 22nd May – Unicorn Class Trip to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm
- ❖ Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May (Half-Term break)
- ❖ Monday 2nd June – Inset Day
- ❖ Wednesday 3rd June – All children back to school for Summer Term 2
- ❖ Wednesday 25th June – Friday 27th June – Okehampton Residential

Details for Sports Afternoon and the KS2 Production will follow once confirmed.