



NEWSLETTER No. 10

Friday 25 November 2011



Introduction

It's been a strangely quiet week after the excitement of Children in Need. Preparations continue for our various Christmas events, but work still carries on!

As teachers we are often asked about reading and phonics. Of course, the teaching of phonics is crucial if children cannot learn to turn the symbols on the page into sounds, they will not be able to read. Phonics, however, is not the whole answer. A recent report on Teaching Reading in Europe draws attention to what children really need to be taught – comprehension, helping children to make sense of what they read. Without comprehension, pupils will never reach the all important stage of reading for pleasure. So when you are helping your children or hearing them read, don't forget to ask them about what they are reading - ask them questions that will help them to develop a recognition of characters and plot.

It might be my imagination, but I am sure there are an increasing number of occasions where I go to the staff room and leave it without asking a question or passing on a message. Do you forget why you walked into the room? Blame the door, say psychologists. We've all walked into a room only to find that the reason for doing so has suddenly and entirely vanished from our mind. Psychologists have discovered the so-called 'senior moments' that can leave us utterly bemused and retracing our steps may actually be caused by the way the brain processes information as the body leaves one room and enters another. It appears the mind regards a doorway as something experts call an 'event boundary', signalling the end of one memory episode and the beginning of another. Psychologists found the brain tends to file away events and memories from one room as soon as it exits into storing information in successive chapters or episodes. The latest research, published in the Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, shows doorways act as a kind of trigger for the brain to file one chapter and move on to the next one.

So it would seem that I am not the only person to experience this phenomenon!

Best wishes

Kaye Lovejoy



Epping Christmas Tree Festival

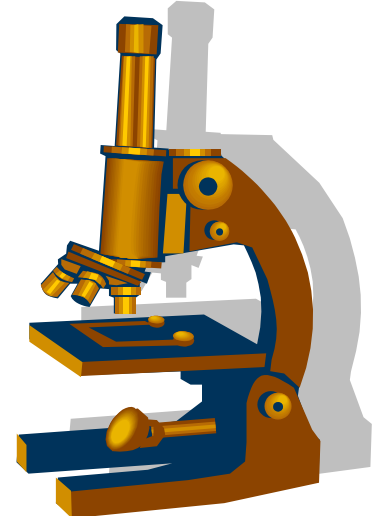
St. John's Church in Epping is holding a Christmas Tree Festival between Friday to Monday, 2/5 December 2011. We have been invited to sing a medley of Christmas carols on Saturday 3 December and our children from year 1 to Year 6 will be performing in the church at 11.00am for about 30 to 40 minutes.

There will be a competition for the best designed Christmas tree. Sixty or so local organisations take part and our school will be entering a tree of our own so you will be able to wonder at the various ideas that create such a warm and festive atmosphere. Refreshments will be available and it is a great way to start the Christmas Festivities. We do hope you will join us there.



Scientist of the Week

Year 1 Allen	Milan Raven
Year 1 Daly	No lesson this week
Year 1 Davis	Ava Brown
Year 2 Bragg	Arda Alhaslioglu
Year 2 Leeks	Jack Humphrey & Giovanni Berto
Year 3 Watson	Oliver Kelley
Year 4 Wheeler	Alice Holland
Year 5 Lane	Sophia Bond
Year 6 Watson	Olivia Clare/Olivia Elvins/Izabella Penman/Lucy Judge



Well done to these children.



Update from FOCHS

Donations for the Mummy and Daddy shop

Thank you to all those of you who have donated gifts so far. If you haven't done so yet please do have a look at home for any previously unwanted gifts that maybe suitable and drop them into the office asap.

Santa's Helpers

Thank you SO MUCH to all those parents who have kindly volunteered their time to help set up Santa's Grotto and assist in the Mummy and Daddy shop.

We will be in touch very soon with the schedule of when exactly we need you.

Christmas Raffle

You will be receiving a few strips of raffle tickets on Monday. For just £1 a strip they give your child/children the chance to win a fantastic basket of gifts. These baskets will be on display outside the office for the week commencing 5 December so do please take a look.

Easyfundraising

We have raised £80.94 so far and now have 33 supporters. Thank you to everyone that has used it so far and to those of you who have joined this week. Don't forget there will be a prize for the child of the supporter who raises the most by the end of term.

The link is as follows: <<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fochs>>

FOCHS December Dates For The Diary

3rd - Woolston Manor Christmas Party

6th - Junior Pantomime at Harlow Playhouse (2pm) 6th - Next FOCHS Committee meeting (7.30pm) 8th - Kindergarten (10.30am) and Infants Pantomime (9.15am) 8th - Visit from Santa 9th - Mummy & Daddy shop



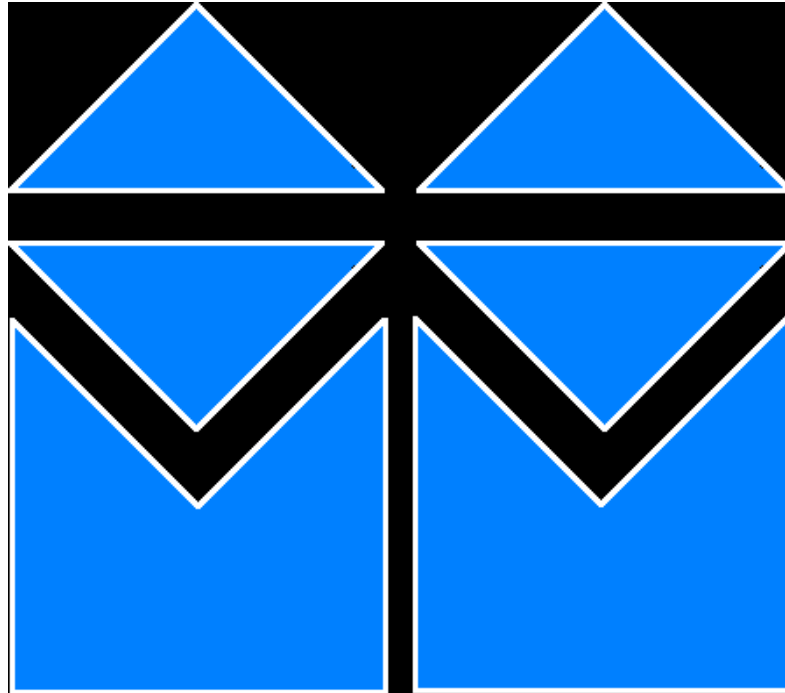
Maths Challenge – Week 10



Congratulations to Ishika Rattan who won last week’s maths challenge.

Can you cut out the blue shapes and rearrange them so they make an add sign (+)?

When you have done this, stick them onto another piece of paper, write on your name and class and put it in the Smartie box.



House Points

	Beech (Blue)	Chestnut (Red)	Oak (Green)	Willow (Yellow)
Weekly Total	38	46	54	49
Running Total	343	268	394	259
Current Position	2nd	3rd	1st	4th

Well done to Oak house who are in the lead at the moment.



Merit Badges

Trans Cambridge	Milla Vilke	Trans Goddard	Oliver Simpson
Trans M. Gash	Erin Marks	Year 1 Allen	Alexander Kelsey
Year 1 Daly	Arabella Duffy	Year 1 Davis	Freya Stanley
Year 2 Bragg	Charlotte Peach	Year 2 Leeks	Pia Gabrielli
Year 3 Watson	Mollie-Mae Fletcher	Year 4 Wheeler	Toby Crook
Year 5 Lane	Ellie Cooper	Year 6 Watson	Joshua Simmons

Well done to these children named above. Keep up the good work.



Netball Team 'A' Report (By Olivia Elvins Year 6)

On Friday 18 November the netball team had a tournament at Redbridge Sports Centre. We played excellently and won 4 games. We drew 1 and lost 1 so unfortunately we didn't get into the semi-finals. We scored 29 goals in 6 matches. As a team we played fantastically. Thank you to Mrs Lane and Tracy and to all the parents for supporting us. Well done team!



Football Report (By Jacob Bennett Year 6)

On Wednesday 23 November Coopersale Hall played Lambourne. We got off to a good start, so did Lambourne and they got a goal. Jonathan went off so we were down to six but luckily didn't concede. We came out stronger in the second half and Josh's shot hit a defender and went in. Lambourne played really well and they got another 2 goals, but at the end from Alex's corner I scored. The final score was 3 – 2 to them. Thank you to Mr Robinson and all the parents for their support. Well done team!



Update - Coopersale Hall School CD

Many apologies for the delay in receiving your Coopersale Hall CD. Unfortunately the company who are producing the CDs for us have had some problems with staff absence. They now assure us they are back on track and the CDs will be with us in plenty of time for Christmas. Anyone who hasn't already placed their order can still do so via the office so please don't miss out on the opportunity of a CD with your own child singing along. They will make excellent Christmas presents!



Grand Opening of the Coopersale Hall New Block

Now that our new classroom block has been completed we are delighted to announce that it will be formally opened by Mr and Mrs Rod Steward during a short ceremony due to start at around 9.15am on Wednesday 30 November.

The children will gather in their classes on the playground in front of the new block beforehand and we would like to invite as many parents and friends of the school as possible to participate. Teas and coffees will be served from 8.45am on the playground to keep you warm after dropping off your children to their normal places.

The new classroom block provides extra new resources for the school and will allow us to reorganise internal space in the main building to further add to our facilities. We are aiming to organise brief tours of the building after the ceremony, which will last for approximately 20 minutes.

We will send out a Groupcall text message that morning if we need to reschedule due to rain.



Christmas Post

The Coopersale Hall post box will be in the reception hall from Monday 28 November. All Christmas cards for children and staff can be posted there and will be delivered accordingly.



Reminder – Drama Course – December

Please note there are still some places left to join the “One Day Drama” course that will be taking place at Coopersale Hall on Friday 16 December from 10am until 3pm. The course is open to children from Coopersale Hall, Oaklands and Normanhurst and available to all children from Year 1 to Year 6. Siblings may also attend if they fall within this age bracket. Please obtain your application form from the office and return asap.



Ça y est! On a un lien avec l'Europe! (By Mr. Goodman, French Teacher)

That's it! We're linked to Europe! I've been working on the idea of having a partner school in France with whom we could exchange mail and video information about our school and receive by return of mail details of a French school. Thanks to a contact through Mrs Perrin-Cocon (mother of Aléonor UK and William 1 Daly), I have contacted the GERSON Ecole, (<http://www.gerson-paris.com/ecole/ecole.htm>) in the 16th department of Paris (16^e arrondissement). The Headmistress, Madame Laurence LEBLANC has kindly agreed to arrange an exchange of letters between our children in Year 4 and Year 5 and the French equivalent age group CM1 and CM2. I am sure the children will be excited to receive details of their French partners.

I would like to get our letters sent out soon so I would be grateful if you could remind your child (in Year 4 or 5) to bring in to school any small items that they would want to stick on their letters, a small photo of themselves or family, or small items of interest that could be sent via the post. Stamps, small badges, mini stickers, sweet wrappers and similar items are always fun for children to see in another country and provide a great resource for the foreign language teacher.

It is my intention to visit all the classes in school and exchange a video giving the French children a feel for life in our school and I hope to show the children the French video when it arrives. This will be done at a later date. If you have any reservations about your child being in the class video, please do let me know in advance.





And Finally

All year 1 pupils have been learning about light and dark during science lessons this term. This week, each class went on an adventure down into the school cellar. They compared various light sources and some reflective surfaces, experiencing being in the pitch dark.

Afterwards, each pupil made a wish and listened for their penny to drop into the well.

All the pupils were very brave and have been awarded a “special scientist of the week” award. Well done to you all.

