

# CRADLEY NEWS

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## Letter from the Schools Minister

We were delighted to receive a letter from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP concerning our phonics teaching.

*Dear Mr Greaves*

*I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2017 phonics screening check.*

*Early fluency in decoding is a necessary step in acquiring the key skill of reading. There is a substantial body of evidence demonstrating that systematic phonics is the most effective method of teaching pupils to read. We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics, which is why I am delighted to see your results. With 95% of pupils at Cradley reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 8% of all primary schools in the country.*

*Your success in teaching phonics means your pupils are developing a firm foundation in reading, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.*

*Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations to you and your staff for all you have achieved.*

*With best wishes*

*Yours sincerely*

*Nick Gibb*

## Healthy Schools Week

On Friday we had our Mental Health mix up day where all the children were mixed into 7 groups and undertook 7 activities through the day. The children loved all the activities and have already asked that we make this a regular occurrence. Many thanks to Katharine and Ruth for organising a healthy eating workshop.





**Guide Dog Visit**

On Tuesday, we were visited by Shirley, Jean and Dorothy from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. All of Key Stage 1 listened to a talk by Jean about training guide dogs, then Shirley told us about life with her guide dog, Taylor. Years 1 and 2 then had the chance to meet Taylor, as well as Quaver who is a guide dog in training. It was a very interesting and the children learned how important it is not to distract a guide dog when it's working.



**NSPCC visit**

On Wednesday we welcomed the NSPCC into school to talk to the children about keeping safe. You will have received a letter on Wednesday giving further information about how you can support your child in this area.



**Caerleon trip for Class 3**

On Thursday last week Class 3 visited Caerleon, the site of a Roman fortress. We visited the atmospheric Roman baths, the amphitheatre, ruins of the barracks and the National Roman Museum. We saw many amazing artefacts including a 2000 year old skeleton and an almost complete mosaic floor. We tried on Roman armour and experienced life in a Roman school. It was a fantastic day that really inspired us to find out even more in our topic this term.





### Children in Need Silly Socks

The School Council would like to announce that our school have raised a massive £142 for Children In Need. We would like to thank all those who participated and gave so generously.

### Clubs

After school clubs finish on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, apart from Choir which will have one more session on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

### Christmas Concert

Every year, we do a small concert in school for the elderly residents of The Leys. This has expanded to include a care home in Malvern as well. If you know of any elderly people who would enjoy coming to school on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10am please can you let Mrs Booth know. They are very welcome to join us.

### Stir Up Saturday

It's Stir up Saturday at Cradley Church on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Come along between 2-4pm and have fun stirring up your own Christmas pudding. We supply the ingredients (at cost), you supply the non-metallic bowl and the elbow grease. For further information, please contact Julia on 01886880402

### Nursery

We have been on a bear hunt this week. We're not scared! During our P.E. session, Carol had us using our bodies to act out the story together - whirling around in a snow storm and getting on our highest tiptoes to creep towards the bear. Charlie took us on a real bear hunt on Tuesday. She set up puddles, a mud slide and even shaving foam for snow and the children chanted the words to the story as we went on the hunt. Lauren tested our maths brains with a teddy bear themed maths activity. It was tricky but we were up to the challenge. The children went on a colour hunt on Thursday, exploring and sorting together. Yasmin then topped off the adventurous week by acting out this now favourite story with little characters. It was beautiful to watch so many remember it so well and use expression to perform it. Next week Christmas begins in nursery. Can I hear sleigh bells?



### Class 1

Money, money, money has been our theme in Maths this week. We have been working out just how many little pennies would be in a £1 and £2 coin. Then we have looked at notes, too, and decided it's a good job we don't have to carry that many pennies in our purse! Year 1s have been busy doing their big write in English, whilst Reception have been learning three new phonemes and doing their handwriting practice to get those graphemes small and on the line. We had a wonderful afternoon with the guide dogs on Tuesday, listening to how Taylor changed Shirley's life when she became blind. The children were able to walk Quaver up and down the hall through obstacles and took part in lots of sensory activities, which relied on all our other senses apart from sight.

The drapes and stage are now up, so that means it's nearly show time! Rehearsals for our 2017 Nativity are well underway, as we sing our way through the days, counting down to Christmas!

### Class 2

Class 2 have been busy rehearsing but have also managed to fit in some Maths and English lessons, too! We have been learning about multiplying and doubling in maths and have made use of different apparatus such as weights and bead strings to help us. In Science we have been measuring our hands and feet. In our next lesson we will be seeing if there is any relationship between these two measurements.

### Class 3

Class 3 have been learning all about Myths and Roman gods. We have made fact files about different gods and have been learning the myth about 'how the bee got its sting'. We have finished making our Roman shields and practised being legionaries and forming the famous 'testudo' or tortoise formation. In maths we have been dividing by sharing, grouping and chunking. In PE we had a great game of bench ball. In French we have been learning the colours of the rainbow.



#### Class 4

Class 4 have continued their work on the Victorians and have been using *Oliver Twist* as a basis for exploring life in this period. We are looking forward to designing and making our own Victorian dolls' house.

#### Class 5

This week we have been reading and interpreting *Night Mail*, a poem written by WH Auden to celebrate the London to Glasgow postal train which operated from the 1930s. We will be writing a contrasting poem based on our modern forms of communication. In Maths we have been working with negative numbers. We concluded our Science topic with a look at how plants adapt to their environment and in topic we studied the latter years of the Anglo Saxon/Viking era ending with the Norman Conquest. In R.E we brought ourselves up to date with our link school in Sierra Leone and reminded ourselves of the history of Bethesda School as an example of expressing faith through charity and generosity.

#### Value of the Month

##### Service

The greatest among you will be your servant.

##### Matthew 23:11

Chosen by Mrs Jones

#### Stars of the Week

**Nursery:** Clem Tambling for being positive

Dexter Wyatt for taking a risk

**Class 1** Amelia Philpotts for her independence & co-operation

Mya Oseman for her persistence and co-operation

**Class 2** Daniel Unwin for his positive attitude

Sebastian Brooks for being independent

**Class 3** Freddie Jackson for being independent

Henry Jackson for taking care in his presentation

**Class 4** Chloe Norris for her outstanding recognition in her maths

Emil Meager for persistence in his writing skills

**Class 5** Max Kite for taking pride in his work

Lilly Collop for her attentiveness and application in her work

#### Dates for the Future

##### NOVEMBER SERVICE

24<sup>th</sup> ASC Film Night - Trolls

28<sup>th</sup> Litter pick day

30<sup>th</sup> Choir singing at the Advent Cathedral Service

##### DECEMBER THANKFULNESS

1<sup>st</sup> Class 4 trip to Judges Lodging

4<sup>th</sup> Breaking Bread Collective Worship - all welcome

Sportshall Athletics @JMHS 09:00-11:00

FOCS Meeting 7:30pm @ School

7<sup>th</sup> Girls' Football @ JMHS 11-1

ASC Christmas Party

8<sup>th</sup> Nativity Dress rehearsal to school

11<sup>th</sup> Nativity 13:30

12<sup>th</sup> Nativity 13:30

13<sup>th</sup> School Christmas Lunch

14<sup>th</sup> Concert for the Community 10am

Carol Service 6pm

15<sup>th</sup> Break up

ASC Film Night - Nativity 2-Danger in the Manger

##### JANUARY ENDURANCE

2<sup>nd</sup> INSET Day

3<sup>rd</sup> Term Starts

9<sup>th</sup> Football matches@ Bosbury

24<sup>th</sup> Class 5 Collective Worship - parents welcome

29<sup>th</sup> Multi-Cultural Week

30<sup>th</sup> Football matches @ Bosbury

31<sup>st</sup> Trudge Cross Country competition @ JMHS