



June 2018 Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

Normally, I like to do a newsletter earlier in the month, but as I knew that June would be so packed with trips and events, I thought that I would wait until the end of the month. In this newsletter, we will be covering our parent voice and our numerous trips and events. You will also see that we have had some extraordinary visitors, who have hopefully inspired our children to go beyond their potential.

Parent Voice

As you are aware, I posted an online survey as part of our ongoing drive for school improvement. Your views and support is vital and I would like to thank the parents who took part in our parent voice survey. Our results were positive as you can see below, but together with your comments we have some work to do next year.

Number	Question	% Strongly Agree and Agree
Q1	My child enjoys school.	88%
Q2	My child feels safe at school.	92%
Q3	The school supports my child living a healthy lifestyle.	94%
Q4	The school and staff are approachable if I have a problem or concern regarding my child.	92%
Q5	My child makes good progress at this school.	92%
Q6	My child is taught well at this school.	97%
Q7	My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	89%
Q8	This school ensures the pupils are well behaved.	97%
Q9	This school is well led and managed.	94%
Q10	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	77%

Our percentages, although not dramatically low, tell us that we need to increase pupils' enjoyment at school and improve on how we report your child's progress to you. We had some fantastic comments, which made us smile but also offered constructive suggestions on what we need to further improve. These ranged from parents being concerned about our school community not parking/driving safely, which could potentially cause a fatal accident and parents wanting to set up a curriculum group to enable our parents to support their children more effectively with their learning.

All of these will be included in our school improvement plan, discussed with staff and our Aquinas Advisory Council. However, in the meantime, if you would like to put yourself forward to be part of a working party then please either speak to Caryn Wescott, Kate Ingleby or Tanya Siqueira.

Our improvement plan, will also include a drive on raising attendance, which still remains a disappointingly low at 94.3%. Historically, we have had excellent attendance but unfortunately our attendance is being affected by parents allowing their children to have odd days out during the school week. Consequently, we would urge you to send your child in unless they are medically unable to attend. Thank you to all our parents who support their child's education and well-being by making sure that they come to school every day and on time.

I am pleased to say that there are no changes and our staffing levels are at present stable. Mrs Evison, who will be the new interim Head, will be visiting frequently, as we complete our handover. I know that she is keen to learn all the children's names and get to know everyone. I am sure that you will make her feel very welcome should you come across her.

Thank you in advance for all the support you give to our great school!

Mrs Sophie Sear
Head of School

Health Week 2018 – by Mrs Willsher:

Well what can I say, the 2018 Cudham health week exceeded my expectations. After working long and hard to squeeze in as much variety as possible, I was delighted to see children come to school full of enthusiasm and leave exhausted having got fully involved in all that was offered.

Activities ranged from learning new circus skills and healthy recipes, trying out golf and archery and personal survival swimming, to learning the value of relaxation and having talks from Olympians and the firemen, to name a few.

Everyone I spoke to, children, staff and parents alike were very upbeat about the week and said what a positive effect it had on them.

For me the highlight of the week was an impromptu run around the playground on Friday morning, and having 84% of the school volunteer to earn house points and try to better their time in the cross-country course.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible, and I hope the imperative underlying message of healthy living remains with you for a long time to come.



Darwin Day – Aquinas More Able Science Day

Darwin Day

On Friday 15th June we held our annual Darwin Day at Cudham. We invited four Year 4 children from each Aquinas school. We also invited Charles Darwin's great, great grandson, Mr Atherton from Bishop Justus and some very knowledgeable biologists.

During the day we carried out some investigations that Charles Darwin did. We had a great day pond dipping, worm charming, setting bug traps, identifying plants in the hedgerow and the meadow and lastly we went to the pond in our forest school where Charles Darwin carried out mud investigations.

We had a great day!

By Giovanni, Chloe, Aimee and Oliver in Hawk Class



Robin Class - Problem Solving at Downe Activity Centre by Parise (Year 3)

Downe Activity centre was the best trip ever. It was so fun! During the day we completed three different activities. The first one was the zip wire it was really high and I was quite nervous but I conquered my fears and it was exhilarating. The next activity was crate stacking you really had to use problem solving skills in order to build the highest tower. Team work makes the dream work. The final activity was

grass sledging, it was really fast and at times hard to steer the sledge. I can't wait to go again and try other activities there.

Parise



FOCS- Resounding Success at our Annual Quiz!

Last year's quiz event was a resounding success and FOCS raised over £1600! A huge THANK YOU to all involved in the organisation, taking part and the clearing up. One of the projects they will be funding is to provide an interactive whiteboard in the staff room, so it can become a functional teaching space for phonics teaching and small group work. With all the funding cuts we are facing, your support and generosity is of huge value to the educational and well-being outcomes of our children.

Health and Safety in Hot Weather

We have noticed that children are not coming to school with hats or bottles of drink. In accordance with Public Health England, please ensure that your child brings in a hat and water to drink in a labelled bottle. Our staff will endeavour to make sure our children stay safe in the heat. This can sometime be unpopular especially amongst some of our very active children. These are some of the top tips are recommended by Public Health England:

- look out for others, especially older people, young children and babies and those with underlying health conditions
- close curtains on rooms that face the sun to keep indoor spaces cooler and remember it may be cooler outdoors than indoors
- drink plenty of water as sugary, alcoholic and caffeinated drinks can make you more dehydrated
- never leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle, especially infants, young children or animals
- try to keep out of the sun between 11am to 3pm
- walk in the shade, apply sunscreen and wear a hat, if you have to go out in the heat
- avoid physical exertion in the hottest parts of the day
- wear light, loose fitting cotton clothes
- make sure you take water with you, if you are travelling

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Sports Day

A huge well done to our Green Team for their outstanding performance at sports day! Every Friday, we come together as a school to celebrate children's achievements in class and for embodying our school values and expectations. This half term our children are nominated under the **Christian value of truthfulness** and for **growth mind-set**.

Celebrating our Wonderful Children!		
Achievement Board for June		
Classes	Christian Value of Trust	Growth Mindset
Kingfisher	Annelise, Elsie, Isla C, Keiki, Alannah.	Dolly, Lenny, Agnes-Fleur, Bella, Elvie.
Robin	Amelia, Caroline, Lucas, Beatrix-Bo, Alex	Joe, Ria, Parise, Caroline, Mia M, Teddy.
Hawk	Charlotte, Renee, Chloe, Giovanni, Albert, Tesddy.	James, Oliver, Frankie, Ruby
Merlin	Harrison, Olivia, Scarlett, Danny, Mia, Alex	Jonathan, Millie, George, Solly, Mia,
Young Leaders Awards	Olly D and Lewis,	

This Week's Winning House is Blue! Well done Blue!

Summer 2 Clubs

Monday Lunchtime 1230-1315	KS1 Athletics on the field	KS1	PE kit
Monday After School 3.15-4.30	Athletics	All	PE kit
	Glitterbox		
Tuesday After School 3.15-4.30	Rounders Club	Y2-6	PE kit
Thursday After School 3.15-4.15	Swimming Club – first 3 weeks Water Polo (Y3-6), second 3 weeks organised games (YR-3)	Y3-6 YR-3	Swimming costumes, towels and goggles (if required)
Mon, Tues, and Thurs AM 8-0830	Fitness Carousel	All	Sports clothing
Friday AM 0900-0945	Parent Fitness Friday	All	Sports clothing

And finally...our prayer for our Christian value of truthfulness:

