



Roots that strengthen.

Branches that Reach.

Fruit that flourishes.



Spring 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The Easter Story is a roller coaster of emotions: triumph and rejoicing (Entry into Jerusalem), reflection and remembrance (The Last Supper), despair and sadness (The Crucifixion) wonder and joy (The Resurrection). It certainly feels as though we have had our fair share of ups and downs this term.



The sudden and tragic death of Mrs Menzel shocked us all. She was dedicated to helping the children do well in their learning as well as making sure that they were happy in their work and play. She will be missed and we continue to keep Rene, Fabienne and Louis in our thoughts and prayers

We shall be seeing new faces around school in the coming months as some members of staff move on to seek new challenges in their life and careers. We wish Mrs Nichols and Mrs Towersey well and thank them for their work and service to the school.



This term we have been particularly hard hit by staff and pupil absence due to COVID and illness. We have lost over 60 working days from staff needing to isolate or being unwell which is a very high proportion of working hours for a small school to manage. Yet, we have continued to keep all our classes open, supported children who needed to work from home and we have actually seen the majority of children make accelerated progress in their learning this term.



This is down to an incredibly tenacious and dedicated group of staff who I have the privilege and joy of working alongside. Their positive 'can-do' attitude and willingness to 'step up and step in' to make sure the learning, safety and well-being of the children always comes first is incredible. Thank you, Team Standlake!

Through it all, there are the children who continue to amaze and enthral us with their love of life and learning. And as ever, we have tried to ensure that we are making lasting, happy memories for them. Be it reaching the Oxfordshire County finals in Boccia and Cross Country, World Book Day excitement, completing more of the '50 Things to Do' activities, competing in our science competition, performing dance routines, developing their karate skills, going on a residential trip, we continue to make sure the children have an enriching experience in school.



The local, national and international communities are facing tough times at the moment but like the Easter Story we have shown that out of sadness and despair can come hope, wonder, new life and a school community spirit to be proud of and celebrate.

Have a lovely Easter break.

Andrew Denham



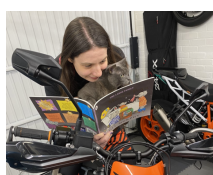
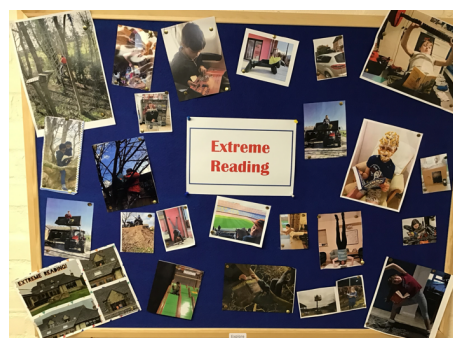
Our Values: **Courage** **Love** **Forgiveness** **Compassion** **Tolerance** **Thankfulness** **Honesty**

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WORLD BOOK DAY: The children enjoyed spending the day doing activities associated with their class author - from writing Shakespearean Sonnets to making Julia Donaldson's Paper Dolls. Well done to all the children (and parents!) who made an effort with their costume. Congratulations to Miley who won our Extreme Reading competition; Darragh, Martha & Seren who were runners up and Aaron, Henry and William who made us smile with their picture.



Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body!

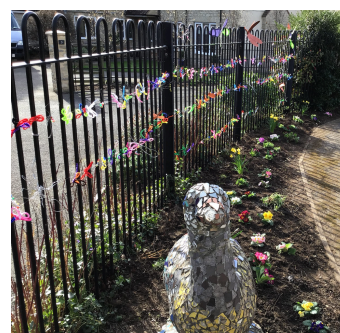
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REMEMBERING MRS MENZEL: To coincide with Mrs Menzel's funeral we had a special afternoon to remember and celebrate her life. We had a short, whole school assembly during which we read The Dragonfly Story that helped to explain the death of a loved one to children. After the assembly, the children had a craft afternoon when they made dragonflies and wrote down their fond memories of Mrs Menzel. These dragonflies were then be displayed along the fence above the flower bed in the front playground. Morpurgo class also planted seasonal flowers and bulbs that will appear later in the year.



We are mindful and sensitive to all our community at this time. This not only includes those who worked with or met Mrs Menzel but also those for whom her death triggers feelings of sadness and loss due to events in their own lives. Our emphasis was focused on the fond memories we have of her and any others we know who have died.



Our '50 Things to do before you leave Standlake Primary School' is an ongoing curriculum project aimed at enhancing and enriching the children's curriculum experiences and creating happy, lasting memories. We want our '50 Things...' to engage the children in a wide variety of activities and to broaden their horizons and enable them to become more **AMBITIOUS**, **RESILIENT** and **CONSIDERATE**. We also hope our **TERRIFIC TOP TEN** increases their cultural knowledge and understanding, while our **JUST FOR FUN** activities are a reminder that life is to be enjoyed along the way! Here are the '50 Things...' the children have done this term...



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SPORTING SUCCESS: We had some great success in the sporting field this term with our Boccia team coming 2nd in the Oxfordshire County Finals and our Under 9 and Under 11 girls and boys teams all making it through to the Cross-Country final. Unfortunately, most of the Under 11's were away on residential so couldn't take part but Annabella Harvey flew the flag for them all and our Under 9's competed well, with William Costar coming 13th! We were also delighted by the team effort of our Under 11 girls' netballers who took part in the EPA competition



SCIENCE COMPETITION: This term we ran a science competition as part of the Science Oxford project. The children got into groups and came up with a question that they had to investigate and then present to their class. The best investigation in each class then presented to the whole school where one team were selected by a panel of judges (Mr Denham, Ms Gurga and Mrs MacDonald) to represent the school in the next round of competition.



The finalists had the following questions:

- Are (shop) branded items worth it? (Shakespeare) **WINNERS!**
- What is the best way to get muddy shoes clean? (Donaldson) **RUNNERS UP!**
- Which seed grows fastest? (Murphy)
- What ingredients make the stretchiest and smoothest slime? (Blake)
- How many dunks does it take for cookies to break? (Dahl)
- How many rubber bands does it take to explode a watermelon (Morpurgo)

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STAYING HAPPY AND SAFE IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL: This term we have been had a focus on helping the children understand how we help them to stay happy and safe in school and how they can keep themselves safe at home, especially when online. This page summarises the messages we have been giving them...



How do we keep you happy and safe in school?

 School Safe	 Entrance Safe	 Body Safe	 Calm Safe
 People Safe	 Building Safe	 Activity Safe	 Emergency Safe
 Heart Happy	 Emotions Happy	 Mind Happy	 Brain Happy
 Friendship Happy	 Worry Free Happy	 Inspired Happy	 Healthy Happy

BE SMART ONLINE

Childnet International

S SAFE Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or memorable personal information that can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M MEET Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information – or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

A ACCEPTING Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R RELIABLE You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T TELL Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel scared, worried or confused. This could be if an or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 1111 or www.childline.gov.uk

BE SMART WITH A HEART Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or need by anything that happens online.

THINK KNOW

Teacher Policeman Doctor Coach Family

Who can you talk to?

Trusted Adult



Teacher Policeman Doctor Coach Family



You can find out more about how to keep your children safe online by going to the parent page on our school website and clicking on the links in the document Parent Zoom Session: Staying Safe Online: <https://standlakeschool.co.uk/parents/parent-communication>

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STANDLAKE SCHOOL GOVERNORS: The school has faced some unprecedented challenges this term, and it is with huge admiration and respect that the Governors have watched, supported, challenged and contributed to the difficult decisions that the school have had to make.

As already mentioned in the Headteachers report, the sudden and tragic death of Mrs Menzel, left the school reeling from shock. The Governors have been supporting staff and children as much as possible, to enable the community to come to terms with sadness and loss, and to move forward with happy memories. In memory of Mrs Menzel, the Governors provided plants, and with the help of the children planted the colourful flower bed in the front playground.

The departure of some members of staff is exciting for them as they move forward to pastures new. The Governors have been fully involved in the recruitment of new members of staff and have been impressed with the strong candidates at interview. We are confident that, sad as we are to lose staff, the school will welcome new members to the team, and they will swiftly and confidently become part of the school community.

The community spirit in Standlake school is very important, and the Governors have witnessed the strength and tenacity that has prevailed this term and would like to thank not only the staff for all their hard work to support each other, but also the children and their families for their understanding and positive attitude, and their ability to adapt to change when challenges arise.

Thank you to our governors Karen Armeanu, Jenny MacDonald and Amy for helping us with. Lunchtime duties this term. From Mr Denham.

Summer Term Class Organisation

Class	Term 5	Term 6
Murphy	Monday: Mrs Pullin (Teacher) with Mrs Kinchin, Mrs Morgan, Miss Kinchin, Ms Turner & Mrs Jones Tuesday to Friday: Mrs Kinchin (Lead) with Mrs Morgan, Miss Kinchin and Mrs Jones	Monday to Thursday: Mrs Pullin (Teacher) with Mrs Kinchin, Mrs Morgan, Miss Kinchin & Mrs Jones Friday: Mrs Kinchin (Lead) with Mrs Morgan, Miss Kinchin and Mrs Jones
Donaldson	Monday & Tuesday: Mrs Sibley (Teacher) with Ms Jones & Mrs Moore Wednesday to Friday: Mrs Sibley (Teacher) & Ms Gurga (Teacher)	Monday to Friday: Mrs Sibley (Teacher) with Mrs Jones
Blake	Monday to Friday: Mrs Fleet (Teacher) with Mrs Mitchell	Monday to Friday: Mrs Fleet (Teacher) with Mrs Mitchell
Dahl	Monday to Friday: Mrs Salter (Teacher) with Mrs Lee and Miss Fenwick	Monday to Friday: Mrs Salter (Teacher) with Mrs Lee and Miss Fenwick
Morpurgo	Monday: Mrs Conroy (Teacher) Tuesday to Friday: Mrs Pullin (Teacher) with Mrs Moore	Monday to Thursday: Mrs Conroy (Teacher) with Mrs Moore Friday: Mrs Pullin (Teacher) with Mrs Moore
Shakespeare	Monday to Wednesday, Friday: Mr Brown with Mrs Peachey Thursday: Mrs Abraham with Mrs Peachey	Monday to Wednesday, Friday: Mr Brown with Mrs Peachey Thursday: Mrs Abraham with Mrs Peachey

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MURPHY CLASS: Our topic for this term has been Once Upon a Time. We have been enjoying reading lots of traditional tales as well as new twists. We particularly enjoyed Jack and the incredibly meanstalk which led us to asking the big question in Science ‘Where is the best place for a bean to grow?’ We have placed beans in the oven, in the fridge, hidden in a dark cupboard and on the windowsill...the results have been very interesting!

As part of our topic, we have also been learning about castles, knights and dragons. We found out about the different features of castles before making our own castles using a variety of materials. We were particularly proud of the one we made outside that had a drawbridge, battlements and turrets!



DONALDSON CLASS: This term in Donaldson we have been reading a book called ‘Wild’. We’ve written a description of the main character and a newspaper article inspired by the story. In D&T we’ve made our own wild pictures of minibeasts with moving mechanisms. We’ve learnt about charts and tallies in maths, which we’ve then put to good use in science, where we have been working in teams on our own investigations for the Big Science Event. We have investigated: the best way to clean muddy shoes; tuck shop preferences across the school; whether packed lunches or school dinners take longer to eat; and which play equipment is the most popular. We’ve presented our results in our own charts, which we’ve hand-drawn and then recreated in computing on the chrome books. We’re pretty pleased with our posters! We’ve also been trying to grow our own cress which we are looking forward to eating in an egg sandwich at the end of term.



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BLAKE CLASS: The children in Blake Class have been learning about Anglo-Saxons this term. We created our own timeline to show the location of this period in British history. We have compared our lives with everyday lives of people during these times, thinking particularly about how they coped without supermarkets! We explored why Britain was attacked by different tribes and learned about the Vikings. We have also been working towards designing and making shields. In Science we had lots of fun with Mrs Pascoe, working on our investigations for the Big Science Event.

After writing a setting description based on this term's book: Arthur and the Golden Rope, we learned about using inverted commas in direct speech ready for writing our newspaper reports about Arthur's quest. We had fun acting out interviews with Arthur and the god of thunder: Thor. In Maths, we enjoyed learning about angles and turns, as this took us outside! We have also learned about bar charts, which linked with our computing lessons; we now know how to create bar charts using spreadsheets.

Finally, a big thank you to Mrs Isard for our brilliant dance lessons!



DAHL CLASS: This term has been good fun in Dahl class! Our topic has been Anglo-Saxons where we have compared our lives to how they lived and learnt about Alfred the Great. This fitted in nicely with art where we made Anglo-Saxon shields. In English, we have been reading the book 'Arthur and the golden rope' which has enabled us to write newspaper articles about Arthur defeating the wolf, as well as creating our own narratives. We were even able to enjoy the little bit of sunshine we had by acting out scenes on the field. Our big science events have been great fun! The range of experiments from looking at how far sound travels, to which toothpaste protects teeth the most from coke, sure have been eventful! We have learnt all about the Easter story in RE, creating our very own last supper with bread and wine... (Ribena).



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MORPURGO CLASS: This term Morpurgo have learnt all about rivers and mountains around the world and how they are formed. In science, the Big Science Event had children forming their own questions to conduct an experiment and using a range of skills to record their results and presenting a poster on their investigation. Exploding a watermelon was definitely one of the highlights of this term!

Children have been thoroughly engaged reading 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo and we have produced some amazing pieces of writing which include a setting description and a persuasive leaflet. In RE children have explored the events of Holy Week and considered the question whether Jesus was aware of his impending crucifixion and compared this with a sense of purpose and destiny.

We are all looking forward to our Easter holidays and look forward to returning to learn all about the Amazing Mayans!



SHAKESPEARE CLASS: Shakespeare Class have worked incredibly hard this term, with learning inspired by our 'River Deep, Mountain High' Geography topic. Michael Morpurgo's brilliant book *Kensuke's Kingdom* has provided a captivating stimulus for our writing – first setting descriptions and then first-person narratives from the perspective of a different character.

In this term's Big Science Event, we have proven our creativity: we managed to convince Mr. Brown that dropping watermelons, toasting marshmallows and eating ice cream could all be part of our experiments!

As always, Mrs. Abraham helped us to excel in our river and mountain-based artwork and we have been challenged as to what sacrifice means during RE lessons.

On top of all of this, we have been revising hard for our SATS, enjoyed a transition day at Bartholomew and taken part in Boccia and netball tournaments.



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ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY: Every Friday we have an Achievement Assembly when we celebrate the children for being Super Stars (class star of the week), Marvellous Mathematicians and Wonderful Writes. We also praise the children for the number of 'reads' they have completed since the start of the year, give all of the children an opportunity to 'Share Success' they have had at home or in sports clubs and congratulate children who have taken part in inter-school competitions. Here are some of the children who achieved something this term...



We look forward to welcoming parents back to our Achievement Assembly next term...

YEAR 3 DANCE PERFORMANCE: We are very grateful to Mrs Isard who taught Blake class their dance this term. The children were delighted to see so many parents come and watch their performance. Being able to perform in front of an audience takes courage and bravery so it was great to see all of the children step up to the stage (hall floor!) and show off their terms work.



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Reading Achievements



These children have read 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175 or 200 times since the start of term...

MURPHY: 25 reads: / 50 reads: Rupert 75 reads: / 100 reads: / 125 reads: Evie-Mau & Gracie 150 reads: Sylvie, Erges, Patrick, Lottie & Axel 175 reads: Aiden, Ezra, Beatrice & William

DONALDSON: 25 reads: / 50 reads: / 75 reads: / 100 reads: / 125 reads: Henry 150 reads: Oliver, Ellas, Arthur L, James & Eadie 175 reads: George, Martha, Seb & Finley

BLAKE: 25 reads: / 50 reads: Miley 75 reads: Fin 100 reads: Emiliee, Annie, Jasmine & Rosie 125 reads: Elleni & Ella 150 reads: / 175 reads: Ezra & Luis 200 reads: Sienna & Alexander

DAHL: 25 reads: / 50 reads: Breanna 75 reads: Charlie & Jude 100 reads: Ferris & William 125 reads: Scout 150 reads: Aaron & Rhys 175 reads: / 200 reads: Mara-Jade & Oscar

MORPURGO: 25 reads: / 50 reads: Chloe 75 reads: Eliza 100 reads: / 125 reads: Darragh & Lucy 150 reads: / 175 reads: Rosie 200 reads: Grace

SHAKESPEARE: 25 reads: / 50 reads: / 75 reads: / 100 reads: / 125 reads: Kassia & Kate 150 reads: Maira, Niall & Abi 175 reads: /

The **MORE** that you
READ, the more things
you will **KNOW**.
The **MORE** that you
Learn, the more places
you'll **GO**.

Dr. Seuss

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LIVING WITH COVID

From the start of the summer term, we will be following this guidance:

- Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to an education or childcare setting when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough.
- If a child has a positive COVID-19 test result (i.e., families have chosen to buy a test for themselves) they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test. *The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after 3 days if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.*
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days.
- Children and young people who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

In summary, if your child is well enough to be in school and they don't have a high temperature, they should come in. There is no expectation or requirement for anyone to complete a lateral flow or PCR test. Note: we will no longer be putting up Google Classroom work if a child is off with COVID.

ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR... (as of Friday 1st April)

EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS

Year Group	Whole Class Average Attendance*	Unauthorised Absence** (days learning lost since start of year)	Number of children with less than 90% attendance***
Reception	95.6%	21	2
1	94.9%	19	2
2	95.4%	7	1
3	93.7%	30	4
4	93.7%	22	6
5	94.5%	10	2
6	94.1%	15	2
School	94.5%	124 days missed	19

*The government has indicated that 97% attendance is satisfactory

**Holidays during term time, parents' not explaining absence, request for absence for other reasons declined

***COVID isolation/illness has contributed to some children being below 90%. Below 90% is deemed

'Persistent Absence' by the government and will dramatically impact on your child's learning.

These children have not missed any school since the start of the year:

MURPHY: Aiden, Ergi, Ezra & Beatrice

DONALDSON: Charlie & Beth

BLAKE: Elleni, Luis, Finley & Jasmine

DAHL: Jessica

SHAKESPEARE: Kasper



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CLUBS ARE BACK!

After a Spring term of putting school led clubs on hold due to the likelihood of staff and children being absent with COVID and to help give Vicky's After School Club a boost, they will be returning in the summer term, **starting in Week 2 of Term 5**. We will be sending out ParentMail sign up after Easter. They will include, athletics, bush craft, playdough, art, cricket, computing and Go For It!

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY'S

MONDAY 25TH APRIL (INSET)
MONDAY 2ND MAY (BANK HOLIDAY)
TUESDAY 3RD MAY (INSET)

YOUNG VOICES

We are delighted to announce that the Young Voices Concert (for Year's 3-6) has been rescheduled for **Wednesday 18th May**. If you did not sign your child up for this the first time round, please contact the office and we will try to organise a ticket for them. All of the KS2 staff and children will be going for the day.

THANK YOU!

We are incredibly grateful to some wonderful parents who have helped us this term.

Mrs Walwyn, Mrs Isard,
Mrs Sheehan, Mrs Barnas

PARENT'S MEETINGS

Thank you to everyone who came along to the parent's meetings and SEND reviews. These are an important part of communication and working together between school and home.

BLACK HORSE DONATION

We were delighted to receive a donation of £415 from The Black Horse pub in Standlake who have been raising money for local causes. Thank you so much!



Class	Parent Attendance
Murphy (N/R)	85% (30/35)
Donaldson (Y1/2)	89% (26/29)
Blake (Y3)	100% (21/21)
Dahl (Y4)	96% (23/24)
Morpurgo (Y5)	100% (15/15)
Shakespeare (Y6)	75% (15/20)

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PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Every year we ask the parents to complete our school questionnaire so we can celebrate what is going well and try to address anything that could be better. Staff work tirelessly to try and do the best by the children, so it is always nice to hear the **appreciation** from parents. Equally, we know that we don't always get it right and that there can always be something to improve. We are genuinely very keen to hear your **solutions to problems** (rather than a list of grievances) and will take your comments seriously - just remember to **be kind** because we are only human!

COMPETITION TIME!

Next term we all celebrate nationally the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen. The children have been asked to celebrate this event by entering a competition to create a design to be printed on mugs that the Parish Council would like to present to the children as a memento of the occasion. The competition will be in 2 age groups – older and younger children, and the artwork should be drawn on to a piece of A5 paper – landscape, and to be a bold and colourful design. The closing date for the competition will be on **Wednesday 4th May**. Entries (with child's name and age) to be handed in to the front office by that date.

Key Dates

SUMMER TERM HOLIDAY DATES

INSET Day: 25th April

Bank Holiday: 2nd May

INSET Day: 3rd May

Term 5: 26th April – 27th May

Summer Half Term: 28th May 5th June

Extra Bank Holiday: 4th July

Term 6: 6th June – 20th July (1.15pm finish)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Week beginning 9th May: Year 6 SATs week

Week beginning 16th May: Year 2 SATs week

Wednesday 18th May: KS2 Young Voices Trip

Friday 27th May: Year 5 & 6 to Houses of Parliament

Week Beginning 6th June: Year 1 Phonics Screening

Friday 24th June: Year 6 Transition Day

Saturday 25th June: School Fete

Friday 15th July: School Reports go home

Monday 18th July: Sports Day

Tuesday 19th July: Awards and Presentation Evening

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