



February 2017

## Termly Tale

Once again we find ourselves at the end of another term which has gone so quickly. Pupils have enjoyed the activities of Feeling Good Week and French Week and everything else in between!

Gail Walker, teaching assistant, is having a year off to join her husband who is working in Kuala Lumpur. Her absence is being covered by Shakeela Fordyce. Natasha Willis, teaching assistant, leaves us today to go on maternity leave. We wish her well with her new arrival. Shakeela and Karen Thomas will cover Natasha's days. Luke Oosthuizen, midday supervisor and casual TA, has gone to Uganda for two months to work on a voluntary project. We have appointed Kelly Davis, who has been on college placement here, as a midday supervisor to cover some of Luke's hours and as a casual TA. Suzanne Ruddy, speech and language therapist, leaves us to move back home to Ireland. We will be sorry to see her go. Ryan and Ellie, president and vice president, presented Suzanne with her leaving gift. Heather Garner will be our new speech and language therapist - she will start on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

On 20<sup>th</sup> February we will be joining the other Gloucestershire special schools for a 'joint inset day'. Different workshops will run across the schools during the morning. In the afternoon our staff will be undertaking Gastrostomy and Asthma training here.

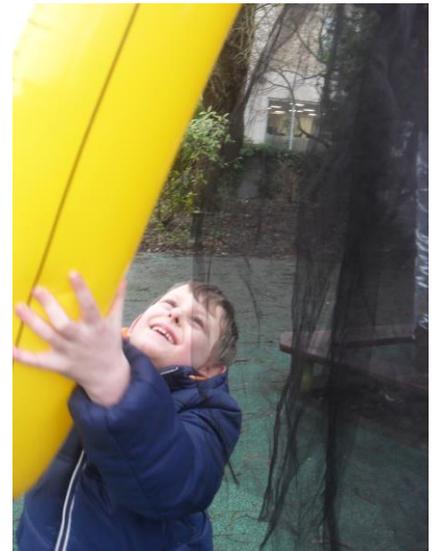
It is wonderful to be moving forward with the building plans after so many years of discussion. We are pleased to inform you that the Consultation event for the proposed building work will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 2.30pm until 6.30pm at school. Officers from Gloucestershire County Council and members of the Design Team will be here to share the plans with you and seek your comments. The plans will also be on display prior to and after the event for those who are not able to attend on the day. (A separate letter will follow about this).

There has been a marked increase in pupils arriving late during the past few months. This is disruptive to the rest of the class so please endeavour to arrive on time.

We hope the holiday week goes well for all our families.

Julie Mantell and Jennie Walsh

# Feeling Good Week



This term we had our first ever 'Feeling Good Week' for both staff and pupils. Staff were treated to bacon butties and croissants and pupils attended a daily 'hot chocolate café' which was enjoyed by all. There were lots of activities throughout the week, including a drumming session, sensory trail, music outdoors and a dancing session. Thank you Mrs Laslett for organising the event. We are all looking forward to doing it again next year!



## The Butterfly Garden

Based in Bamfurlong Lane, Cheltenham, the Butterfly garden is an educational, therapeutic and recreational scheme, based initially on gardening, but now offering woodwork, cookery, drama and dance. This is a free provision open Monday to Friday between 9.00 am to 3.00 pm and throughout the school holidays. This project has been used by some of our parents who say it is a wonderful safe stimulating environment. If you would like to know more please visit their website [www.thebutterflygarden.org](http://www.thebutterflygarden.org) or call them on 01452 713068.

# Boccia

We had an outstanding result for a group of pupils from Class 6 at the Boccia Competition on Wednesday 25th January, at Cheltenham College. They were competing against several other special schools and Paternoster's teams took the gold medals! The gold medal winning teams were Ryan, Henry, Dominic, Ellie, Michael and Crystal. We are so proud of them. They had a fantastic time and showed lots of perseverance during the event.



# French Week

This week we have been enjoying our Annual French Week. Activities have included a French cafe, French film (Ratatouille!), French Wake and Shake, a French disco and a French Village Fete. Thank you to Miss Moore for organising another highly successful week.





We shall be taking part in the Abbey 900 Festival and have been invited to a tree planting ceremony to mark the official opening of the Festival on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 3 p.m. in the Abbey Grounds (meet at the Parish church at 2.30pm) and a service in the Parish Church, Market Place at 6.30 p.m. followed by a drinks and canapes reception. If you would like to go to this then please RSVP them directly. Phone: 01285 644244 email [abbey900ciren@gmail.com](mailto:abbey900ciren@gmail.com)

Volunteers are sought for the various events and activities - please also contact the above address if you would like to help. Training for volunteers will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> February. There will also be a May Day event in the Market Square on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May. We are especially forward to taking part in the building of the Lego model of the Abbey and would welcome sponsorship for the bricks (a separate letter will follow about this).

## Governor update

We welcomed Rachael Fletcher as a new parent governor and Stephanie Knowles as a new co-opted governor. The governors held their annual Away Day in January to plan future developments. Governors are undertaking visits to classes this term.

### Dates for your diary

20<sup>th</sup> February Inset day

21<sup>st</sup> February Term 4 begins

21<sup>st</sup> February Leisure Centre swimming starts

W/c 27<sup>th</sup> February Book Week

2<sup>nd</sup> March World Book Day (our Book Day will be on Thursday, not Friday, this year in line with World Book Day)

2<sup>nd</sup> March Building work Consultation Event from 2pm

24<sup>th</sup> March Red Nose Day

April 7<sup>th</sup> Easter Egg Hunt and Parents' Coffee afternoon

April 7<sup>th</sup> End of term