

Trinity Newsletter - July 2024

Headteacher's Update



As you will read in this newsletter, the final summer term has been filled with exciting events! From a wonderful Sports Day to the Year 6 play, transitions to our new classes and welcoming in our new reception children, Major of Henley Expeditions, Headteacher for the Day, a whole school Archery Day and more...

I wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the wider school community for your support in my first year as Headteacher at Trinity. I have really enjoyed getting to know the children and learning about all of the wonderful things that make Trinity such a unique and special environment. The year has not been without challenges but I feel incredibly proud of everything my staff team has achieved and particularly our positive Ofsted rating. I very much look forward to the next academic year where we will continue to focus on delivering the very best learning experiences for the children across the school. I hope everyone has a restful and fun summer break!

Dates for your diary

JULY

15th - 19th - Yr 6 Residential

Thursday 18th - EYFS (Reception) Graduation

Monday 22nd - Yr 6 Leavers assembly - Parents / carers and siblings welcome

Tuesday 23rd - End of term church service at 10:30am. Term ends at 1:15pm

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 4th September - Return to School

Term dates for the next academic year have been published on the school website, along with a calendar of events and activities that is continually updated. Please visit

www.trinityprimaryschool.org/parents

Stars of this half term



We are delighted to share that the following children have been awarded 'Star of the Week' so far this half term:

Bryon: Amelie, Elle, Teddy, Amber, Henry and Maria

Jeffers: Martha, Meva, Willa, Kerem, Isla R and the whole class!

Murphy: Lottie, Evan, Sofia, Arlo and Ben

Rosen: Charlie, Millie, Maddie, Wesley, Maggie and Clark

Dahl: Rosie, George, Emily, Freddie, Wilbur, Finley G, Ted, Finley S, Archie, George, Charlotte and Millie

Cowell: Alfie, James, Oscar L, Matilda, Jamie and Max

Coehlo: Noah G, Lottie, Elliot, Max, Avani and Lottie

Pilkey: Maisie, Winston, Eve, Max H, Eva, Bailey and William

Palmer: Filip, Mason, Dougie, Izzy, Sienna and Lucas

Zephaniah: Eloise, Joey, May, Evie T, Seb and Augustus

Rundell: Martim, Lucas, Jasmine, Marley, Ben C and Ben T

Early Years (Reception)



This term in Learning Means the World we have been exploring the topic No Place like Home. We looked at the different kinds of homes in Henley. We looked at different buildings around the world and how the architectural design of buildings is different and how buildings can look different for different reasons. The children talked about their own homes and what rooms they had in their own homes. They designed and created (with wooden blocks) their dream building.

We also talked about transitioning to Y1, talking about what will happen, who the new teachers will be and answered any questions the children had.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)







KS1 have continued their journey into the Arctic this half term, starting with a discussion about global warming and the effects it will have on the Arctic in the future. The children learnt about the latitudinal lines around the globe and located the Arctic Circle, following this they discussed the countries within it. The children learnt about the Arctic only having two seasons - Long, cold winters and short, cool summers - and the changes in daylight which cause polar nights and the midnight sun. The children developed their geographical knowledge by identifying the physical features in the Arctic.

Following this, they learnt about the animals that live in the Arctic and how they adapt to their environment to survive. A particular highlight was the blubber experiment where the children used lard (blubber substitute) to compare what it feels like to dip their hand into ice cold water with and without a layer of blubber. Following this, the children learnt about the various plants which grow in the Arctic and how they adapt to survive the freezing cold climate - shallow roots to avoid the permafrost layer; hairy stems to trap in heat and protect them from the wind; small leaves to reduce water loss.

The children learnt about the inuit people, including their clothing, shelter, diet and traditions, including inuit throat singing. They enjoyed trying to build their own igloos using sugar cubes, lego and wooden blocks. As part of their Design & Technology work, the children explored using levers, sliders and pivots to make an Arctic themed moving picture.

It has been a very busy term of learning in KS1!

Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4)



This term, LKS2's focus was the captivating unit "Under the Canopy." We explored the rich biodiversity of rainforests, uncovered the mysteries of ancient Mayan civilization, and delved into the fascinating world of plants. The topic kicked off with an amazing trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, which the children absolutely loved.

Students engaged their writing skills by crafting magazine articles on natural disasters, learning about events like floods, droughts, and wildfires. The children researched various natural disasters, including flooding, wildfires, and earthquakes. This integrated approach aimed to foster a deep understanding of our natural world and its history.

We also had a writing activity on Elon Musk which was a major highlight this term. After researching the famous inventor Nikola Tesla, the children delved into the life and achievements of Elon Musk. They crafted detailed pieces that included key features such as subheadings, metaphors, adverbs, and inverted commas.

In maths lessons, Year 3 students learned about time and shape, progressing to topics of mass and capacity. They enjoyed hands-on activities, using measuring jugs and plastic containers to work out liquid volumes.

Year 4 students also focused on time and shape, studying perpendicular and parallel lines, angles, and symmetry. They explored statistics, position, and direction.

Our "Under the Canopy" topic had a strong Geography focus. The children learned about the different layers of the rainforest, where rainforests are located, various climates and biomes around the world, and the differences between weather and climate.

In History, the children studied the Ancient Mayan Civilization, discovering when and where it began and how the Mayans lived. They made comparisons with other civilizations and even tried playing Pok-a-tok in PE—a Mayan football game *without* human sacrifice!

In Art, the children explored the use of layers in their artwork, focusing on foreground, mid-ground, and background. They tried silk printing with different species of Macaw and created observational drawings of plants.

Our PE lessons this term involved cricket, tennis and athletics. The children also participated in a mini Ekiden at school (a Japanese marathon), which they thoroughly enjoyed.

As we wrap up this incredible year, we reflect on the hard work, enthusiasm, and growth displayed by all our students. It has been a joy to witness their curiosity and dedication, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. The children have been truly lovely, bringing energy and positivity to every activity and lesson. We thank them for their continuous effort and the joy they bring to our school community. Here's to a fantastic year past and an exciting journey ahead!

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)





It's been another great term for Year 5 and Year 6. Whether it's been our normal lessons, sports competitions, school vision workshops, production rehearsals or transition days in our new classes and at Gillotts, we've been super busy making sure everything is done and ready for the well-earned summer holidays!

Year 5

This term in English, the Year 5 children have been busy learning all about speeches. We have used Greta Thunberg, a climate change activist, as our inspiration and the work she has done in trying to persuade the world to be more climate conscious. Through the unit, we have watched Greta's speeches, learnt about climate change and used our sentence stacking lessons to write our own speeches about climate change. We even got to do a quiz to look at how big our own climate footprint is - there were some surprising and shocking results!

In maths, we have moved on to look at position and direction, as well as working with decimal numbers. In the decimal unit, children have used their previous knowledge of decimal place value to help them secure the knowledge of adding and subtracting decimals, as well as multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000. It's really lovely to see all the 'lightbulb moments' and connections the children have made to secure the new knowledge they've been exposed to.

Year 6

This term has looked a bit different for the Year 6s as their main goal has been putting on the production - 'The Greatest Show'. The children worked hard to learn their lines, master their acting and dancing skills and sing their songs. The final production for parents and friends was just brilliant. It takes a lot of work to put on a production, but I'm sure the parents will agree with us when we say that the children did a fantastic job and they should be very proud of themselves.

As we speak, we are making the final preparations for the Y6 residential to PGL Liddington in Wiltshire. The children are VERY excited to be going on their first ever residential and are eager to get stuck into all the activities they will be doing whilst there. Every time staff go on residential, they are always amazed by the growth and resilience of the children, and we are sure this time will be no different.

LMTW

We have continued our Learning Means the World topic on The Americas and this term we have learnt about the artist Jackson Pollock, listened and appraised National Anthems from all over the world, learnt about the discovery of America and created our own Dream Catchers after learning about Native American tribes. The children have loved the topic, and have been immersed in exploring all the different elements including its history and culture.

We saw this passion continue into the American projects that the children worked on at home, and as parents you came in to see. It was really clear that the children had really got stuck into the topic at home - there was a vast range of areas explored from skateboarding to food and National Parks and American flags! Thank you to all the support you gave to the children at home to complete the projects and the time you spent coming in to see the showcase.



Leavers

Sadly, at the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to the Year 6s as they make their way to their different secondary schools. The staff have really enjoyed watching them grow and wish them all the best for their future - you've got this Year 6!

Sports

What a busy half term. Here are just a few sporting highlights:

HOCKEY

On Friday 14th June, many Y5 and Y6 children took part in a hockey training day and tournament. The children were brilliantly behaved and Mrs Aiken was very pleased to announce in assembly that some of our children won medals for third place. Absolutely fantastic, and very well done to all those who participated. Once again, you made us super proud!



CRICKET

On Friday 7th June, some Year 6 children attended a Cricket Tournament at Shiplake College. They played well and were commended by other schools for their impeccable behaviour and sportsmanship. Medals were awarded in assembly. Very well done to all those who participated.

On Tuesday 11th June, Year 2 children had the opportunity to attend a Cricket Festival at The Henley Cricket Club. We had a marvellous morning and once again, our children behaved impeccably. They played against Badgemore and Rupert House and had lots of fun learning how to bat and field.

On Wednesday 26th June, it was Year 5'S turn to attend Henley Cricket Club to play cricket. Mrs Aiken and Mr Clarke said the children behaved really well and they all had a superb time. Well done Year 5, hopefully you will be seen more often at The Cricket Club now!





FOOTBALL

On Thursday 20th June, many children represented Trinity in the end of term Football Tournament with exceptional behaviour and enthusiasm. This was a great success and both Y3/4 and Y5/6 boys brought home the trophy, our Y3/4 girls came second and our Y5/6 girls came third so a fantastic result from all of our teams. Well done!

Y3/4 boys - This was the stand out group. We did not have a 'manager' for this group because we didn't have the adults which meant they voted for the team captain (Max) who then had to decide on the formation and all the substitutions. He was amazing! He captained with maturity and made sure everyone was involved... a real star!

Y5/6 boys - A very skillful team in the competition. Special mention to Zeph who displayed incredible talent, Orson for great goalkeeping and Jack who showed real determination and was great at tackling.

Y3/4 girls - Captained with great skill by Tabitha. If there was an award for teamwork and determination they would have won it. Some cracking goals scored. They are a team to watch for the future.

Y5/6 girls - Captained by Emily and a fantastic hattrick from Ella. They showed fantastic sportsmanship and great team spirit.

SWIMMING

Y5 and 6 have been swimming this term at Henley Leisure Centre on Tuesday mornings. Many thanks to all parents/carers who have helped walk with the children there and back. The children were brilliant and all have improved their swimming stroke or have learned how to swim having never been before. All of the children were taught self-rescue and survival skills; it is imperative that children learn to swim, especially since we are so close to the river so thank you also to the teachers and support staff who have made this possible, it's definitely no mean feat trying to organise the logistics of who goes when and with whom.

TENNIS

On Friday 21st June, several Y3/4 children went along to Henley Tennis Club to play in a tournament against children from other local schools. The mayor came along and was very impressed with our children and their talents and the Y4 children brought home the trophy. Very well done everyone who took part.





ARCHERY

Children in Years 1-6 participated in an archery lesson where they learnt the correct stance, how to put the arrow on the arrow rest part of the bow and how to draw the bow before aiming and releasing it towards the target (mostly!). Coach Billy from Premier Education commented on how well-behaved, enthusiastic and skillful the children were. Opening and closing 'ceremonies' were held at the start and end of the day, with medals and certificates presented to individuals for participation, resilience and perseverance. Well done everyone!





SPORTS DAY

What a day! We started the morning with an England win, the sun was shining, music pumping and the day went brilliantly. Huge thanks to our House Captains, Head Girl and Head Boy as well as eight incredible helpers from Dahl Class who assisted in the KS2 sports day in the afternoon. Our children certainly did us proud as they worked together as a great team and cheered everyone else on. Very well done to everyone but the results are...

Orwell - 468 points

Springfield - 434 points

Gainsborough - 413 points

Harrison - 404 points

Congratulations also to the following winners in the long distance run.

EYFS (1 lap) - Theo and Jessica, and Holly for perseverance

Y1 (2 laps) - Isaac and Nina, and Ben for perseverance

Y2 (3 laps) - Finley S and Alice O, and Harlem for perseverance

Y3 (4 laps) - Felix and Isabelle, and Avani for perseverance

Y4 (4 laps) - Frank and Maisie O, and Max H for perseverance

Y5 (5 laps) - Mark and Emily, James and Harriet with Filip for perseverance

Y6 (5 laps) - Zeph, Finley and Jasmine, and Florence for perseverance



Mayor of Henley

This year we've had over 50 children completing the Bronze, Silver and Gold Mayor of Henley awards. Children have completed their skills, physical and faith sections over varying periods of time. Activities included, litter picking, triathlons, bake sales, learning to cook, coding, sleeping in tents and much much more! Altogether the children have raised over £1750 for charity! It has been fantastic to see the children learning new skills, taking on new challenges and supporting their local community. To end the awards the Bronze group walked 3.5 miles, the Silver walked 8 miles and the Gold walked 9.5 miles! Everyone did brilliantly and their resilience was fantastic to see. Thank you to all parents, carers and staff who have supported the children this year and made it another successful year for the Mayor of Henley Award.





Charity

Big Green Week

This term, Trinity's School Council members took part in Henley's 'Big Green Week' by going on a litter pick around the local area to help keep the community clean and tidy.

Pen Pal Club

As well as receiving more letters and videos from the New Brainstorm School in Uganda, we also received a massive thank you for the money raised at Trinity's Talent Show. NBS put the money towards the desperate repairs of the current school; fixing the roof, draining water and a fresh lick of paint. The children and teachers are extremely grateful to the Trinity community for not only befriendng the NBS pupils, but for also helping to care and support their daily needs.



FOTS

Summer Ball

We are over the moon to announce that the FOTS Summer Ball raised more than £9,000! Thank you once again to everyone who came along to support the event, placed bids in the silent auction and got involved with the very energetic live bidding! A great night was had by all, thank you again! The money raised will go directly supporting projects that benefit all of the pupils in this school and this is only possible thanks to the parent volunteers who gave up their time to arrange this amazing event.

Cycle to Paris

A group of parents cycled 'non-stop' to Paris to raise money for Trinity, as well as The Chiltern Centre and Gillotts secondary school. They departed Trinity playground at morning break on Friday 14th June, waved off by the children.

To date, over £52,000 has been raised, which will be split between the two schools and the Chiltern Centre. Huge thanks to all the riders who committed to do this, raised sponsorship and personally covered all of the ride costs themselves. Thank you to anyone who sponsored them!

Sports Day Party

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Sports Day party and to all of the parents who manned the stalls (and provided spending money). A big shout out to the teachers who volunteered to be splatted with wet sponges. It's great to come together as a school community and to see how much the kids love events like these.







Childhood is too short to spend it on a smartphone

For any parents considering getting their child a mobile phone, the [Smartphone free childhood website](#) has a wealth of information around how to navigate this decision and the impact that Smartphones have on children and teenagers.

There is no denying there are many positive aspects of technology, but there is now a large amount of research that supports delaying the age at which children are given unrestricted access to social media and the internet.

By understanding the implications and grouping together with other parents, it's possible to buck the trend and avoid certain kids being alienated from their peers. Smartphones expose children to harmful content, raise the likelihood of developing a mental illness and are highly addictive, but it's possible to change the norm, as childhood is too short to spend it on a smartphone.

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/mission>

<https://www.anxiousgeneration.com/research/the-evidence>

Handling "I'm bored" over the summer holidays

As we approach the end of a busy school year we would like to share some resources that might be helpful for handling the dreaded "I'm bored" over the summer holidays:

- Simple and Effective Ideas For Children's Boredom: <https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/handling-im-bored/>
- How to Help Your ADHD Child With Boredom Intolerance: <https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/adhd-boredom/>
- The Importance of Child Directed Play: Parent Guide: <https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/child-directed-play/>
- Activities to Encourage Independent Learning: <https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/encourage-independent-learning/>