



Lewknor C of E Primary School Newsletter



Monday 14th November 2022

Headteacher's Welcome

CHINNOR WAR HORSE RETURNS FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



We had a very special Remembrance Service at school on Friday 11th November. First of all we had a visit from Abbie the 20-year-old Chinnor War Horse. Owner Maurice Britnell (pictured below on Abbie) came dressed as a First World War soldier from the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, and he was accompanied by his wife Lucinda. Maurice and Lucinda were on hand to answer all the children's questions about the role horses played in the war. The whole school, pictured above, gathered in the playground for our assembly, which was organised by Mrs Wakefield and Miss Baker. Charlie, Camille and Heidi read three poems, while Isaac said a prayer to remember those who had died.



Above: all the children at school helped to make this huge and very beautiful poppy display



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At 11 o'clock the children, staff and parents held a two minutes' silence and then Sarah Hodge, whose late husband Frank was a governor at Lewknor Primary, played The Last Post on her E flat horn followed by Reveille.

The children sang three songs beautifully: Make Me A Channel For Your Peace, Amazing Grace and Bind Us Together. After that Peter gave a blessing to end the service.

The children then lined up in their classes to meet Abbie and to talk to Maurice and Lucinda. It turned out to be a very memorable morning.



Maurice told the children that initially 470,000 horses from Britain and Ireland were sent to France, but a further 600,000 horses from countries such as the USA and Canada and even Brazil followed. Only 60,000 horses came home and these belonged to officers. The other horses that survived the war found good homes in France.



Above: Sarah Hodge



Camille, Charlie, Isaac, Heidi and Hattie with the poppy display

Charlie read the poem Lest We Forget, Camille read In Flanders Field by John McCrae and Heidi read We Shall Keep The Faith by Moina Michael.

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Left: the children in the Reception and Infants classes get a close-up look at Abbie

Maurice had three ancestors who served in the First World War. Albert Britnell, who came from the Lewknor area, served in the 2nd Battalion Berkshire and died at the age of 24 on the first day of the Battle of Loos on 25th September, 1915. Another ancestor, who was also called Albert Britnell, came from Postcombe. He was in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars and survived the war. Frederick Britnell, who got married in St Margaret's Church, Lewknor, was part of the Royal Flying Corps 203 Squadron.

Right: the children in the Lower Juniors were able to hold an unloaded First world War rifle

Maurice himself has seen some war action but of a very different nature. He was an extra in the Sam Mendes film 1917, which was partly filmed on Salisbury Plain. Maurice spent a month filming in a trench and said that if you watch the film you can hear him blow a whistle as the soldiers launch themselves over the top. Maurice also got a part as an extra in the upcoming Ridley Scott film Napoleon, which is due to be released next year. He said: "One morning during filming I was a soldier in the French Revolutionary Army and I died at the Battle of Waterloo. In the afternoon I was a British soldier!" For both films Maurice had to undergo fitness training and for Napoleon he even had to grow some mutton chops!



Left: the children had lots of questions for Maurice and Lucinda

Maurice has also played a medieval witch hunter riding Abbie in a film called Gossip, and he appears dressed in SWAT gear in Shooter, an upcoming Netflix series (though this time without Abbie). We hope to see Abbie back at school next year - our Remembrance Day service just wouldn't be the same without her.

BUBBLE RUSH RACE—FOAMY FUN RUN



Elexia-Rose

I love these photos of sisters Lilly and Amber with their friend Elexia-Rose. The girls took part in a 5K Bubble Rush Race at Oxford's Cutteslowe Park recently and between them they raised a whopping £95 for the Helen and Douglas House charity.

At a Bubble Rush race, the participants start in a sea of coloured foam and around the course they will encounter four other bubble stations filled with masses of coloured bubbles.

Our girls did two laps of the course so they had to go through each bubble station twice.

Though it is not strictly a race because participants are not timed, there is an expectation that runners have fun, get covered in bubbles and end the race with a smile on their face.

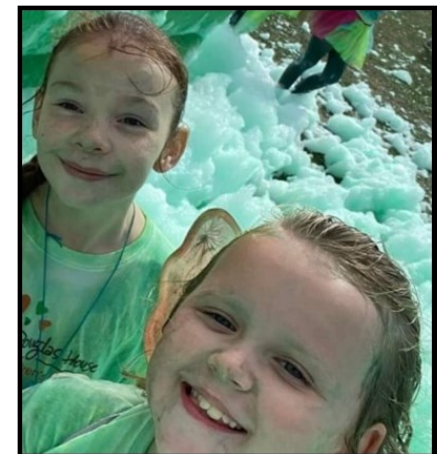
And judging by these photos and the fantastic smiles, I think we can conclude that the three girls were champions on the day! Well done girls for raising funds for this very worthwhile charity.



Lilly



Elexia-Rose and Lilly, who is wearing some butterfly wings



Above: Friends Elexia-Rose and Lilly

Left: Lilly with her little sister Amber

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I think this is the cutest photo ever! Laura had fallen over in the playground and her best friend Henry brought her into school so that we could check she was all right. After wiping her down (there was a little mud on the knees of her trousers) and making sure she was tickety boo, the children asked if they could see my office. Here they are looking out of the window watching the children play in the playground. I just love that Henry took such good care of his friend. By the way, the 'And...Away!' card on the windowsill was a card from Miss Harjette. Victoria and I are big fans of the Mortimer and Whitehouse Gone Fishing television programme. I think she misses us a little bit!

FANTASTIC FOLS HELPS TO FUND SCHOOL TO THE TUNE OF £5,400



Cinderella illustration by Korky Paul

The staff, governors and I would like to say a massive THANK YOU to all the parents who have dug deep into their pockets this past year to donate funds to the many events organised by Friends of Lewknor School. School was presented with a cheque for an incredible £5,406 at the FOLS AGM last week. The funds will be used for a range of exciting trips and resources that will help bring learning to life for our children.

The children will be heading off to the Oxford Playhouse to enjoy Cinderella on Thursday 8th December. And this jolly trip has been made possible because of the funding received from FOLS. The children and staff will also be enjoying another treat on Monday 12th December. On that day we are off to the Lambert Arms for a slap up Christmas dinner. We are asking parents for a voluntary donation of £2 per child—FOLS will very generously be funding the rest. Watch out for more FOLS news in the newsletter over the coming weeks.



Every week in our school newsletter, we will include a prayer and a Bible reading. These are taken from our new Jigsaw scheme of work for PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and RE (Religious Education) and are shared with the children in class and at whole school assemblies.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

**Celebrating Difference
(include others when working and playing)**

Lord

Thank you that we are all equal in your eyes and that you love us all. Please help us remember this example if we are tempted to exclude others. Give us the words to encourage each other to become the best community we can be.

Amen



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**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP THEMES
FOR SPRING 2022**

CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

James 2:1-4 and 8

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here's a good seat for you,' but say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit on the floor by my feet,' have you not discriminated among yourselves? If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbour as yourself, you are doing it right.'

WORD OF THE WEEK

Flimsy

Adjective

Something that is flimsy is made of something very thin or weak.

Mrs Cole



DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER

Friday 18th November: Children in Need Day. Children can come to school wearing something spotty. Please would children bring in a small donation of at least £1 for this worthy cause.

Friday 25th November: Inflatable Footy taster session at lunchtime.

Thursdays: After-school football club run by Exposure Sport.

DECEMBER

Thursdays: After-school football club run by Exposure Sport.

Friday 2nd December: Christingle service in the church after morning registration.

Thursday 8th December: Whole school trip to see the Oxford pantomime Cinderella. **Many thanks to FoLS for funding this trip.**

Monday 12th December: Christmas dinner at the Lambert Arms. **Parents are asked to make a £2 contribution per child—FoLS have very kindly offered to fund the rest!**

Wednesday 14th December: Afternoon performance of the Nativity and Christmas concert at 1.30pm.

Thursday 15th December: Evening performance of the Nativity and Christmas concert at 6pm.

Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December: INSET Days.

JANUARY 2023

Wednesday 4th January: Back to school—new term begins.

Friday 27th January: Whole school trip to the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford to watch Oxford Youth Orchestra perform. **Many thanks to FoLS for funding this trip.**

Tuesday 31st January: Travelling Book Fayre visits school until Friday 3rd February.

MARCH

Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day. Come to school dressed up as your favourite book character.

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Friends of Lewknor School



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