



Lewknor C of E Primary School Newsletter



Monday 15th November, 2021

WANTED -

PARENT GOVERNOR

Just a reminder that the deadline for parent governor nominations is this Friday 19th November. Please see page 5 of this newsletter for more information.



EXTRA HOLIDAY TO CELEBRATE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Queen celebrates her platinum jubilee next summer, and she will be the first British monarch to have reached this historic milestone of 70 years of service.

To mark this special occasion the usual late May bank holiday has been moved to Thursday 2nd June. As there is a bank holiday already in place on Friday 3rd June, everyone will have a four day extended weekend holiday.

Because the May bank holiday now falls during half-term, Oxfordshire County Council has said all schools can book an extra day's holiday during the school year.

So Lewknor Primary will be closed on Monday 6th June, in lieu of the extra bank holiday.

Headteacher's Welcome

CHINNOR WAR HORSES RETURN FOR REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



The Upper Juniors (Years 5 and 6) and Peter with war horses Lily and Abbie

We had a very special Remembrance Service at school on Thursday. First of all the Chinnor War horses made a welcome return and owners Maurice and Lucinda Britnell, who dress as First World War soldiers from the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, were on hand to answer all the children's questions. The children in Upper Juniors are currently studying the First World War in history and have been reading War Horse by Michael Murpurgo in English lessons. They were particularly interested and knowledgeable about the experiences of horses used in war.



*Husband and wife soldier team Lucinda
(on 11-year-old Lily) and Maurice
(on 19-year-old Abbie)*



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Lewknor C of E Primary School



The whole school, pictured above, gathered in the playground for our assembly, which was organised by Mrs Wakefield who is responsible for RE and collective worship at school. Mrs Wakefield explained that we not only think about the courage and bravery of those who went to war but also of the families of those people too. Four Year 6 children — Jayden, Noah, Sophie and Livvy — read a number of poems, including In Flanders Fields by John McCrae, and prayers.

Sarah Hodge very kindly volunteered to play The Last Post on her E flat horn. This was followed by two-minutes' silence and then Sarah played Reveille. After that Peter talked to the children and gave a blessing to end the service.

The children had also learnt about the significance of the purple poppy, which is often worn to remember animals that have been victims of war.

Amelie, pictured below, sported a very smart poppy hairband. Mummy may not have had any purple crepe paper but I thought the blue looked just as good!



Jayden, Noah, Sophie and Livvy read poems and prayers



Above: Sarah Hodge

Left: Amelie with her beautiful poppy hairband



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*Left: The Lower Juniors
(Years 3 and 4)*



Right: The Infants (Years 1 and 2)



Left: The Reception class



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Above: Mrs Wakefield's window display of red and purple poppies



Above: Maurice with a cavalryman's sword

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.

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 you can hear him blow a whistle as the soldiers went over the top. Maurice has also got a part as an extra in the upcoming Ridley Scott film Napoleon, which is due to start filming in Oxfordshire in January. For both films he had to undergo fitness training and for Napoleon he is growing some mutton chops!



Quick march! The Upper Juniors get their marching orders from SAC Read

School had another special visitor on Thursday when Miss Baker's fiancé Senior Aircraftman Read, who is based at RAF Benson, came to school to talk about his career. SAC Read has just returned from a six-month stint in the Falklands (much to Miss Baker's relief!). The children had lots of questions and were very surprised to learn just how strict RAF life can be.



Above; Riley and Charlie have a close look at a SAC Read's gas mask

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WANTED...NEW PARENT GOVERNOR!



We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor on the Governing Body, which is open to all parents of children at Lewknor Church of England Primary School. Being a governor will afford you the opportunity to help shape and guide the ethos and development of Lewknor Primary.

For the last seven years, Oxfordshire County Council has said we are an outstanding school. The Oxford Diocesan Board for Education also agreed that we are an outstanding school following an inspection in June 2017. This could not be achieved without the on-going active engagement of parents and governors.

Below you will find some useful information about being a governor. We are especially looking for people with any of the following skills: financial, analytical and or strategic, as well as an interest in special educational needs.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us via the school email. Mrs Seston will be stepping down as a governor in November – her son has now moved on to secondary school. Mr Hall and Mrs Reid, our current parent governors, would be more than happy to talk to you about the role of parent governor.

If you would like to stand as a candidate, please complete and return the nomination form in a sealed envelope to the school office (marked Parent Governor Nomination Form) to arrive no later than 3.15pm on Friday 19th November. The nomination form is available on our school website under the vacancies tab and with this newsletter. Please also include a short statement about yourself including reasons why you wish to become a school governor and how you can contribute to the work of the governing body.

If more than one parent applies then we would hold an election and all parents would be invited to vote for a candidate.

All new governors are required by law to undergo a check on their suitability to serve. This will be a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Eligibility to stand

All parents at the school are eligible to stand as candidates except:

If s/he is an elected member of the local education authority (county councillor);

If s/he is paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any 12-month period beginning on 1st August and finishing on 31st July (during one academic year);

What is the composition of the Governing Body?

The governing body consists of parent governors, staff governor, the head teacher, foundation governors, co-opted governors, a local authority governor and an associate governor. Our school currently has three parent governors (one vacancy). Parent governors have all the same powers and duties as other governors. Governor information, which includes a list of governors and their roles, is available on our school website. The Clerk to the Governors is Emma Palmer.



How much time will it take up?

The full governing body meets five times a year. Most meetings run from 7pm to 9pm except for the July meeting, which is held straight after school. If possible, every governor joins at least one of our committees, for example, resources or teaching and learning. The resources committee meets five times a year, while the teaching and learning committee meets three times a year. We also invite governors to come into school occasionally during the school day so they can see how the school operates. Governors also help out at school events such as parent evenings.

What do governors actually do?

Governors are responsible for the strategic direction of the school: they make long-term decisions about the progress and the development of the school. Governors may help to appoint senior staff, they make decisions about the school's budget, they decide on policies for every aspect of the school, and they set targets for pupil attainment, progress and attendance. Governors ensure that the school provides the highest standard of education for every child.

Can I get help to understand what happens at meetings?

Yes. The Chair will meet new governors before their first meeting to talk through the agenda. New governors would be expected to attend the induction course provided by Oxfordshire's Governor Services so that you are fully aware of your role.

Can I talk to parents or other people about what goes on in meetings?

You can talk about matters in a very general way, but you must not identify any individual member of staff or any child. As the governing body acts as a 'corporate body' you cannot talk about any differences of opinion during the meeting, you can only report the final decision of the governing body. Part of the agenda is strictly confidential (it might cover special educational needs or exclusions) and you must not talk about anything discussed during these sessions. Governors are asked to agree to a Code of Conduct that will be explained at your first meeting.

What are the benefits of becoming a governor?

You will learn how the school manages its budget, personnel and buildings, and how school policies are developed.

What are the restrictions on becoming a governor?

Governors must be over 18 years of age; not be bankrupt, nor have served a long prison sentence, nor have been disqualified from working with children.





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NOMINATION FORM FOR PARENT GOVERNOR

Name:

Address:

Children in Year(s)

I am willing and eligible to stand for election as a parent governor at Lewknor Church of England Primary School. I confirm that I am able to fulfil the role including attending meetings as required, and by contributing to governance work outside formal meetings.

Signed:

Date:

Nomination forms are available on our school website under the vacancies tab.

Mrs Cole



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

Dear Lord

We know that sometimes you were excluded by the people that you wanted to help, yet you still showed them love and compassion. Please help us to be aware of the impact of bullying and have the courage to act to stop it.

Amen



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WORD OF THE WEEK

Ferocious

Adjective

A ferocious animal or person is violent and fierce.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Ephesians 4: 25-26, 29, 31

Therefore, each of you must put off lies and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body.

In your anger do not sin: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, fighting and lying about others, along with every form of nastiness to each other.

Mrs Cole