



Lewknor C of E Primary School Newsletter



Monday 13th November 2023

Headteacher's Welcome

CHINNOR WAR HORSE RETURNS FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



There was the most wonderful turnout for our Remembrance Service at school on Friday 10th November.

We had our usual visit from Abbie the 21-year-old Chinnor War Horse. Owner Maurice Britnell 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.

Toby's dad Mr Hayden (both pictured below left), who is an officer in the RAF, also popped into school to talk to some of the children about his previous career in the New Zealand army as well as his work for the RAF.

The whole school gathered in the playground for our assembly, which was organised by Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Read. Several children took turns to read poems and prayers to remember those who had died during wartime and to remember those who are still fighting for freedom. Pictured above are the Upper Juniors class (Years 5 and 6) with Maurice and Abbie (also pictured below).



LEWKNOR C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGH STREET LEWKNOR OXFORDSHIRE OX49 5TH

Head Teacher: Mrs D Cole

Telephone: 01844 351542 E-mail: office.3184@lewknor.oxon.sch.uk Website: www.lewknor.eschools.co.uk



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Above: the Reception class

At 11 o'clock the children, staff and parents held a two minutes' silence and then listened to a recording of The Last Post. The children sang three songs beautifully: Make Me A Channel For Your Peace, Amazing Grace (thank you to Marley, Izzy and Mia for taking the lead here) and Bind Us Together. The children then lined up in their classes to meet Abbie and to talk to Maurice and Lucinda. It was a very memorable morning.



Left: Lucinda is pictured with the children in the Lower Juniors, who were able to hold an unloaded replica of a First World War rifle



Above: the Infants (Years 1 and 2)



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, 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.

Left: the Lower Juniors (Years 3 and 4)



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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 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 Ridley Scott film Napoleon, which is due to be released in cinemas this month. 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!

Maurice has also played a medieval witch hunter riding Abbie in a film called Gossip, and he appears dressed in SWAT gear in the Netflix series Shooter (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.



Picture above are some of the readers—Jeniece, Ariana and Isla W—at the practice the day before

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Left: Austin

Right: Tilly

Both children are pictured practising their speaking parts.



FANTASTIC FOLS HELPS TO FUND SCHOOL TO THE TUNE OF £4,400



Jack and the Beanstalk 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 £4,415 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 Jack and the Beanstalk on Wednesday 6th 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 Friday 15th December. On that day we are off to the Lambert Arms for a slap up Christmas dinner. Watch out for more FOLS news in the newsletter over the coming weeks.



Every week in our school newsletter, we 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 AUTUMN 2023**

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

Kingfisher

Noun

A kingfisher is a brightly coloured bird that lives by rivers and eats fish.

Mrs Cole



DIARY DATES

Creation Station Art Club runs every Monday from 3.20pm to 4.20pm.

NOVEMBER

Monday 13th November. Partnership of schools tag rugby tournament. Years 4, 5 and 6.

Thursday 16th November. Transformation Evening from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

Friday 17th November. Children in Need multi day— wear something spotty! £1 donation.

Thursday 23rd November. Lower Junior trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum.

Friday 24th November. Usborne book fayre. Children invited to wear pyjamas to school for cozy read.

Tuesday 28th November. Christmas Big Sing (Oxfordshire Music Service).

DECEMBER

Friday 1st December. Christingle service.

Wednesday 6th December. Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime at Oxford Playhouse.

Saturday 9th December. Lewknor Primary and Lewknor Pre-School Christmas Fair, 10am-2pm at Jubilee Hall.

Tuesday 12th December. School choir to sing for Hempton Field care home. 1:30pm.

Thursday 14th December. Nativity and Christmas carol concert.

Friday 15th December. Christmas dinner at the Lambert Arms (courtesy of FOLS).

Tuesday 19th December. Last day of term. School finishes at 1.30pm.

Wednesday 20th December. Inset day

JANUARY

Monday 8th January. New term starts.

Tuesday 30th January until Friday 2nd February. Travelling Book Fayre.

MARCH

Monday 4th March. Parents' evening 3.30pm to 5pm.

Wednesday 6th March. Parents' evening 5pm to 7pm.

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