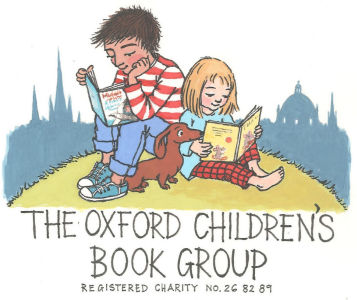
News from Cumnor School

Autumn Term Number 2 *16th September 2022*

Dear Parents,

Book Swap

We are delighted that the Oxfordshire Children's Book Group have agreed to arrange a 'Book Swap' for next Friday afternoon. (23rd September) We hope that this will give all our children a chance to look through their bookshelves, take out books which they are unlikely to read again and fill their shelves once more with new and exciting literature.



- Children should bring to school (in a carrier bag) any books from home that are in good condition and they no longer want.
- They will receive a token for each book they bring in.
- During the afternoon the children will then go to the school hall to look through all the books brought in, using their tokens to pick up new books.
- If they would like additional books, these can be purchased: £1 or 50p for hardbacks, 30p for paperbacks.

Pupils will have the opportunity to swap their books during school time in the afternoon.

Reading volunteers

Continuing the theme of books, volunteers to listen to children read in school are always hugely appreciated and can have a significant impact on children's progress in this area. If you would be willing to help in this way, you can fill in this Google form here to let us know what you can offer: https://forms.gle/Lt1sBk6LVW8WUcMt8

Clubs

All club places have now been notified. Please contact the school office if you have not heard about a club you applied for.

Choir/Singing Club: Singing is a great way to have fun with friends and enjoy singing popular tunes and seasonal favourites. Usually oversubscribed, there are still a few places left for this club so sign up before it is too late! This year it will be even better as the two teachers leading this free club both have backgrounds in professional music and so have lots of fun and exciting ideas to ignite your musical talent! AND you get a day out of school to take part in a brilliant Christmas festival in Oxford Town Hall, where families can come and watch! Sign up before 20th September by emailing the office cumnorschool3223@cumnor.oxon.sch.uk to secure your place.

Parent questionnaire

Thank you for completing the parent questionnaire sent out last term. All the responses were very positive and extremely helpful for us to ascertain your views and identify areas of strength as well as areas for development. The two key areas where improvements were requested most were '*The school gives me information I need to help my child's learning'* (85% of parents agreed) and *'I am kept well informed about the progress my child is making.'* (87% of parents agreed.)

We will keep this feedback in mind over the course of the year, but I wanted to share with you some work that has already been done to try and improve this area of work:

- To provide curriculum information meetings. Initially this has focused on Reading but other areas such as maths and science will be included if this proves popular.
- Parents evening after half term with a focus on attainment, progress and ways in which school and home can support your child.

- Google classroom is being used more regularly to share work, especially homework (which usually follows up and reinforces work taught in class) and can also be used to ask questions of staff in relation to homework set.
- Curriculum overviews and class newsletters are sent home each term.
- The full curriculum for each class in each subject is published on the schools website: www.cumnorprimaryschool.co.uk - information - curriculum information
- An item 'What has my child been doing this week' in the newsletter each week. (see below)
- And don't forget that if you have any questions about what is being taught in school, or ways of supporting your child at home, you can always email your child's class teacher.

If you have any other feedback, or ideas for further improvements, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Phonics / English Meeting
On Wednesday we held a meeting for parents in Reception and KS1 to look at how we teach phonics and early reading at school. I do hope you found this useful. If you weren't able to make the meeting, the handout given and a summary video with all the key strategies we use are both available on the school website: www.cumnorprimaryschool.co.uk - Information - curriculum information - English including phonics.

Parking outside school
Please be aware that our bus stop should be kept clear before and after school, to allow the school transport bus to park and safely drop off / collect the children. Please park responsibly on the surrounding roads taking care not to block driveways or access routes. Thank you.

What has my child been doing this week?
In the parents survey last summer, some parents expressed a desire to know more about what their children have been learning at school. I fully understand that sometimes when the children get home and you ask them what they've been doing, the answer is invariably 'nothing'. We hope to provide a remedy to this by giving you a brief outline of what's been happening in each class during the week so that this can help act as a stimulus for your discussions and you may be able to elicit more detail from your children!

School Value of the week:	**Passion for Learning - quality**
Reception	We have been drawing our family members, experiencing our first phonics and maths lessons and have enjoyed tasting breads from around the world based on our book 'All Are Welcome'.
Year 1	We have learned the order of the planets, practised forming numbers 0 to 9 and learned about baptism in the church.
Year 2	We have been practising counting in 5's, using commas in a list and continuing to focus on healthy lifestyles in English, Science and PSHE.
Year 3	We have been practising adding 3 digit numbers, looking at words that create mood and exploring our own art ideas using the text 'Tell me a Dragon' by Jackie Morris.
Year 4	We have been identifying and writing about the things which ignite our passion for learning, rehearsing and performing Roald Dahl's poem Cinderella and catching, examining and releasing newts which live in our forest school pond.
Year 5	We have been counting in the powers of 10, writing a diary entry for Journey to the River Sea and making Guatemalan worry dolls.
Year 6	We have been looking at decimal and negative numbers, exploring the historical mystery of Amy Robsart and developing our tag rugby skills particularly focusing on push passes.

PTA Committee News

Welcome back! We are already busy planning a variety of social events for everyone to enjoy throughout the school year and look forward to seeing you at all of them!

What is the PTA? Did you know, all Cumnor Primary parents/carers and teachers are automatically members of the *Cumnor Primary Parent Teacher Association* (PTA)? That includes you! Our PTA is led by a Committee consisting of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and several General Committee Members - all volunteers.

The main role of our PTA is to provide opportunities for parents, staff and pupils to get together socially and have fun! Events include the *Christmas Fayre, Santa's Sleighride, Quiz Night, Family Bingo, Pre-loved Uniform Sales, Easter Hunt, Community Carwash Summer Fete, Raffles* and *End of Year BBQ*. We also arrange things like *Cauliflower Christmas Cards* and *Bags for Life*. We put on refreshments at the *Nativity shows, Carols by Candlelight* and *Sports Day*. Phew!

The PTA also fundraises for the school so that our children can have the best and brightest time possible in and out of the classroom. Things we have funded over the last few years include reading books, Chromebooks, digital class cameras, electronic whiteboards, outdoor play equipment, the KS1 climbing frame, movie days, Year 6 Leavers activities, Forest School and science equipment, fish tank upkeep, friendship benches, various visitors to school (poets, authors, musicians, puppeteers, cooks, illustrators…), Year 3 music lessons and of course, ice-lollies for all the students on Sports Day!

We need you! Please join Ailsa, Amanda, Ed, Emma, Jonathan, Kat, Melanie, Rachel, Robert, Rosanah, Sarah, Simone, Tara and Tiffany on the PTA Committee! Whether it's planning an event, shopping for the best burgers and sweets, gathering prizes from sponsors, setting up or taking down tables, cooking pizza to perfection, painting a sign, booking the DJ or bouncy castle, thanking sponsors, counting and taking pennies to the bank, researching new fundraising opportunities, decorating the hall, maintaining the second-hand uniform shop, sourcing Christmas lights, completing a risk-assessment, running a stall, collecting and ticketing items for the tombola, selling raffle tickets or any number of other helpful things, it takes a brilliant team to do it all.

We would welcome new members from ANY year and would especially love for some Reception class and more Year 1 parents to join us. If you're thinking about joining us this year, now is the time! Come along to our **Autumn PTA meeting at The Bear & Ragged Staff on Monday October 3rd at 8pm**. If you are unable to join us then, please contact us at cumnorschoolpta@gmail.com to express your interest or find out more.

Next week:

Monday 19th Sept	**All day**	**Holiday for the Queen's Funeral**
Friday 23rd Sept	**PM**	**Book swap in the school hall**

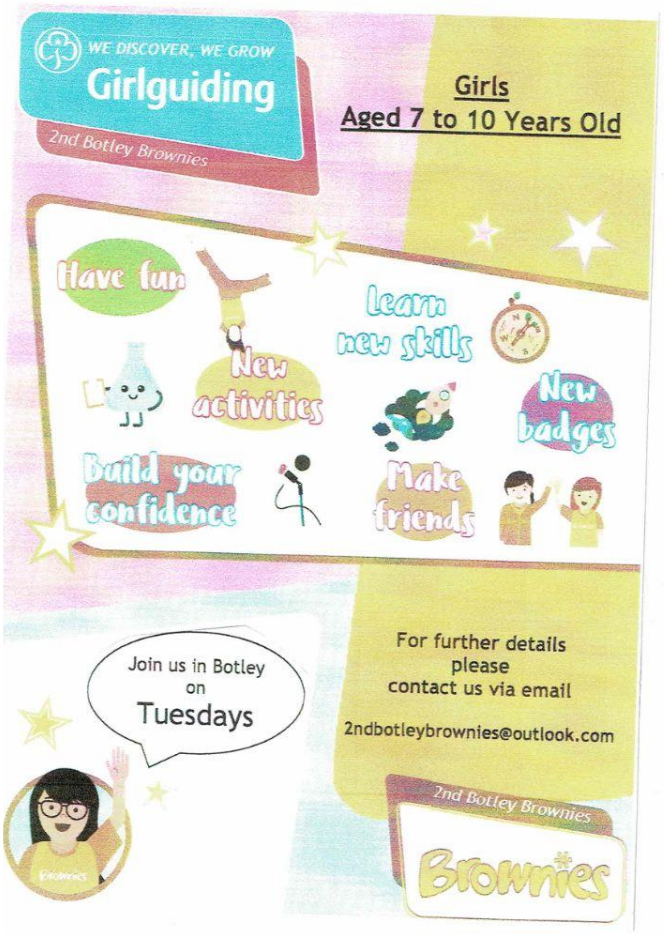
As you are aware, Monday is a Bank Holiday for the late Queen's funeral. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Read

Meals next week (week 3)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BANK HOLIDAY	Chicken & Sweet Potato Curry OR Macaroni Cheese OR Jacket Potato and Cheese	Roast Chicken OR Vegetable Bake OR Jacket Potato and Beans	Sausage in a Bun OR Veggie Sausage in a Bun OR Jacket Potato and Tuna	Fish Fillet OR Crispy Quorn Dippers OR Jacket Potato and Cheese



CANDLELIT VIGIL FOR HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

7:45pm-8:10pm
in St Michaels Churchyard
Sunday 18th September

One-minute silence will be held at 8:00pm
Bring a candle, lantern or torch