



# Carrington Junior School



January was packed full of brilliant learning here at Carrington Junior School.

I have enjoyed visiting classes all over the school and have joined in with lessons from phonics in Year 3 to World War poetry in Year 6. What has been most impressive has been the children I have met in the corridors: the children who hold doors open, who ask about my day, and especially those who tell me about a piece of work they have done or a book they have been reading recently—they know I love to hear about a good book!



It's wonderful to see their enthusiasm and it makes even the greyest of winter days that bit brighter.

*Mrs Cameron*

**Believe. Achieve. Succeed.**

## Child mental health week

Child mental health week starts on Monday 6th February.

As part of the week, we are having a visit from the Zen Bus, so children from most classes will experience a relaxation session away from their classrooms. Children will also be discussing ways to stay healthy and relax in their classes during the week. Why not ask them what they've learned.



**Did you know?** - We are one of few primary schools to have an in-school Young Carers group that supports children with family members who have illnesses or special needs, as well as mentoring for pupils from Wycombe Wanderers Education Trust, peer mentors trained by MIND, and access to a counsellor in school one day a week.

## Wonderful writers

I've had the pleasure of a great number of pupils being sent to me with their great work this month. Two that stood out wrote so effectively that they made me have goose bumps.

Well done Charlie and Poppy!

### The Scientist by Charlie

Silently moving through the dead of night, I entered a vast lifeless expanse before me, and stepped down the perilous, spiral staircase. There was a sinister ambiance. Abandoned books adorned the shelves and there was a putrid stench that came from decaying house plants. Suddenly, a sinister pair of glowing yellow eyes glared at me, sending shivers down my spine.

I was paralysed with fear.

A light flickered in the distance, then, he appeared out of the shadows. His suit was pristine with pure gold edging. His head seemed to glisten and his silky yellow skin was unnerving. He spoke with teeth as white as snow, asking menacingly, "And who on earth are you?!"



### Waiting by Poppy

She's waiting, waiting, waiting,  
For letters to come home,  
As her children sit in trenches,  
Suffering alone.

She's waiting, waiting, waiting,  
For news of her sons,  
As her children sit worried,  
About the shots of guns.

She's waiting, waiting, waiting,  
For the bells to ring out,  
Hoping for war to be over,  
To get rid of this doubt.

She's waiting, waiting, waiting,  
For a knock on the door,  
And not just images of her son,  
Dead on the floor.



## SEND review

In January we welcomed Geoff Allen, a SEND consultant, to our school to complete a SEND review. Geoff brings with him decades of experience in education, as well as a significant period of time as the head teacher of a special school for children with autism.

While he was in school, he visited all classes two or three times and completed a thorough scrutiny of SEND paperwork .

We're pleased that he noticed many of the changes we've put in place since our Ofsted in May, including how well pupils are supported individually through their support plans and daily smart targets, as well as how well SEND pupils are integrated into classes. He was impressed with how well the children spoke about their learning and how much they knew about their strengths, and where they needed more support.

He's also given us some clear next steps for our action plan.

Well done to all children and staff for all their hard work.

## Visiting expert to Year 4 RE lessons—Passover

Year 4 had a visit from Mrs Marks (one of the children's grandparents) to talk about Passover with the children. She spoke to children in the hall, giving a short presentation about the story of Passover and how Jewish people mark the festival, and answering questions the children had. A particular highlight for the children was when the teachers had to taste the bitter herbs she had brought with her!

*Do you have a festival coming up in your religion that you would like to come and talk about in school? We enjoy having visitors to tell us about their lives. Please get in touch with your child's teacher if you would like to do this.*

## Sports fixtures

We've had a busy start to the year, with fixtures going on in football and netball throughout January. Thank



you as always to our sports club leaders Mr Meakin, Mrs Pilgrim, Mr Shand, Mr Reid, Mrs Lomas and Mrs Taylor for organising matches and opportunities for our children.

Some of our Year 6 boys attended a football festival in High Wycombe organised by Paul Withams from Wycombe Wanderers Education Trust.

The netball team played in home matches and our visitors thanked us for our hospitality.

The girls' football team played Spinfield School at home last night. Charlie-Rose did an excellent job as team captain welcoming the visiting team so brilliantly that they commented that they'd be changing the way they welcomed teams to their own school from now on!

We look forward to matches for all of our teams over the next two weeks. Good luck Carrington Juniors!

## Choir take part in Young Voices

On 20th January, 30 children from the Carrington Junior School Choir took part in Young Voices, a mass choir event at the O2 Arena in London.

The event was quite an undertaking, with thousands of children singing together and taking part in the performance of a lifetime, even including some brilliant beatboxing.

The choir had to travel to London early in the morning for a five hour rehearsal prior to the evening performance. Ms Gibbons reported that all the children were impeccably behaved as well as singing wonderfully. What an experience!



As one of the children said,  
*“When can we do this again?”*

## Uniform reminders

A few children are starting to bring in items of clothing which are not school uniform. I think there has been some confusion between what they wear for Forest School and PE.

On Forest School days, they come in school uniform and change into forest school clothes which can be their own clothes from home.

On PE days they should wear their PE uniform. This includes a uniform T-shirt, school PE shorts or black/navy tracksuit. They can wear their school uniform jumper, or a plain black or navy sports top. No children should be wearing alternative colours or items with words or other large logos on for PE. Children who do not come in PE uniform may be asked to change into another kit. The only exception to this is for after school football clubs, where children may wear either a football strip or their PE uniform.

## Earrings

Last year the uniform policy was changed to include the wearing of earrings on non-PE days. Please remember that these should be simple single studs for safety reasons– please leave shaped earrings for the weekend.

## Family involvement

School would not be what it is without the generous support of our children's families. Most of you are aware of the work that the PTA do to raise funds for both schools. Did you know there are two other ways you could get involved with supporting your child's school?

### Parent Forum

Parent Forum normally runs once a term and is a chance for families to meet with the school leadership and governors to discuss current issues. Meetings normally take 60-90 minutes and the chairperson (a parent) has a role both before and after the meeting, liaising with other parents and writing up the meeting. Previously discussed issues at these meetings have been school trips, new reading schemes and maths schemes, uniform, school houses and changes to school leadership. We are currently seeking a parent to take on this role and would also be keen to return to face-to-face meetings with tea, coffee and biscuits.

### Parent Governor Roles

Parent governors are part of the school governing body and attend meetings approximately 6-8 times a year, as well as completing a termly school visit linked to their role as governor – this could be looking at how a particular subject is taught. Training is given for this role and many companies recognise the development opportunities that this role brings and give occasional work-day release time for people to fulfil a governance role.

If you would be interested in either of these roles, please contact Mrs Cameron via the school office.

## Pencil case reminders

Please check with your child to see if they need any new pencils, whiteboard pens or glue sticks.



Do you have any spare art materials? Perhaps your office is having a clear out, or you have a bag of fabric that could be used for craft. School always welcome donations that will help our pupils to be even more creative in lessons.

## Dates to remember:



**Wednesday 8th February** – Year 4 Roman Day

**Friday 10th February** – Mufti day for PTA

**Monday 20th February** – **INSET DAY** ( No school for children)

*Wednesday 1st March – Possible NEU strike day*

**Thursday 2nd March** – **WORLD BOOK DAY**—costumes optional for children

**Monday 6th/Tuesday 7th March** – Parents evenings

*Wednesday 15/Thursday 16th March – Possible NEU strike days*

**Friday 17th March** – 5S class assembly

**Friday 24th March** – 5C class assembly

**Wednesday 29th March** – Year 4 Easter assembly