

27th January 2023



KEEVIL CoFE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Up-coming Dates:

31st Jan – Summer Class Sharing
Worship 0900-0930 school hall
3rd Feb – Pupil Progress Books sent home
7th & 8th Feb – Parents Evening (all years)
10th Feb – Last Day of Term 3
20th Feb – Children return to school
27th Feb – Acorn Netball Tournament (Years 5 and 6)
3rd Mar World Book Day
3rd Mar – Coffee Afternoon for Parents (2.30pm)

In our Good Learning Book this week:

Winter: Well done to Luca who was star of the week last week and Nia this week. Well done to all the children for making lovely dragon heads while thinking about the Lunar New Year in China.

Spring: A big well done to the following children who have been working hard on their presentation and handwriting, they have all earned their next handwriting award.

Red award - Freddie T, Freddie M & Olivia.

Yellow award – Theo.

Green award – Poppy.

Summer: Well done to Edward for good learning in all subjects.

Autumn: Well done to all of Autumn Class for working really hard throughout their assessment week.

Message from the Head

It is very important to us in school that we work in close partnership with you at home, we know that is unquestionably the best way to achieve the most for all our children. I also appreciate that those are easy words to just say. So I wanted to share with you the actions that we are undertaking in school currently in response to ideas and questions raised at our last Parent Coffee Session before the Christmas holidays, to really demonstrate that what you think and feel does matter to us.

- Children in Spring and Winter classes have been given colouring booklets to use in school to prevent a multitude of half-finished sheets being brought home.
- We are investigating getting sew-on/iron-on school logo badges made that could be sold for people to apply to generic items of school uniform, to give options that reduce the cost of uniform for families. We are currently waiting on receiving samples from four different suppliers.
- We filmed and shared the recording of the Nativity Play with all parents of children in Spring and Winter Classes.
- Kindly assisted by Mr and Mrs McAninch, we are looking into alternative companies to take individual school photos next year in an effort to reduce the cost of these.

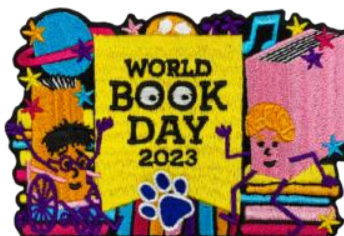
The next Parent Coffee Session will be on Friday 3rd March at 2:15pm, and I look forward to sharing with you more about the school that goes on 'behind the scenes' for you at home, and discuss any further ideas or questions you may have.

We are also working hard in school with Ollie McAninch, to organise and use all the information you kindly gave us through the parent questionnaire last term, and the letter accompanying the newsletter this week explains this in more detail. But just to let you know that as a result of the generous offers made through this we are already in the process of organising a talk for Autumn Class as part of their 'Keeping Safe' topic in PSHE, and putting together a group of parent volunteers to help plan and run an Inter-House Tag-Rugby Tournament for KS2 later this term. You really can make a positive difference to what we can do in school. Thank you.

House points			
Kestrels	Ospreys	Buzzards	Harriers
221	286	244	264

World Book Day – Friday 3rd March

We will be celebrating World Book Day at Keevil on Friday 3rd March. We will be welcoming the author Mike Brownlow. Children are welcome to dress up as their favourite book character - get those thinking caps on! More information about the day will follow in a separate letter.



Information Sharing about Proposed New School Wall

Many thanks to those who attended or contributed statements to the meeting we held in school this week regarding the proposed new wall at the front of the school site. Mrs Hermon was joined by James Evans, Head of Estates for the Acorn Education Trust, and Ben Gunstone, Co-Chair of the Academy Council, and they were able to explain the reasons why the school is seeking a new boundary and the journey that has been taken to date in achieving this.

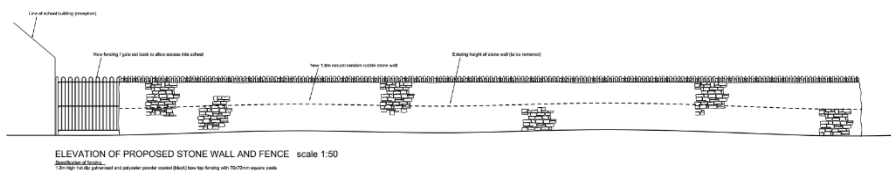
The only reason that the school wishes to build a new wall is in order to meet its statutory safeguarding requirements to keep children safe. As the NSPCC succinctly puts it "Safeguarding in schools is essential". Currently the school can neither prevent intruders of any description or motive entering the school, or children running away straight onto a road. You may be of the opinion that health and safety has gone 'mad' in the world today, or just that it is sad that we have reached a point where we need to worry so much about children's safety. But, despite the school's beautiful and peaceful setting in a village, our children deserve to be looked after and protected in the same way as children who live in other villages, towns or cities; schools have a responsibility to fulfil this aspect of safeguarding. Currently our boundary wall does not meet [DfE Site Security Guidance](#). We are seeking to rectify this only in order to keep our children safe.

We initially submitted plans in February 2019 to have a simple bar bow fence erected against the existing wall on the playground side, in order to raise our perimeter to 1.8m whilst maintaining as open an aspect and feel as we could. However, the Conservation Officer from Wiltshire Council refused to support the application stating:

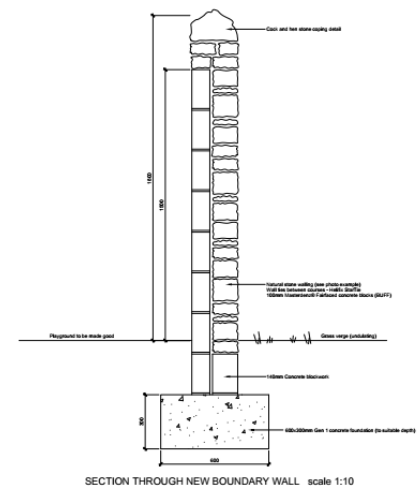
"The imposition of a standard bow top black railing as proposed would detract from the settings of these heritage assets. This would be due to the incongruous form and discordant boundary element that this would bring into the setting of these listed buildings. Given the high grading of the heritage assets it is considered that the impact on those settings would amount of the utmost end of less than substantial harm."

As a result the application was turned down.

We then worked with the Conservation Officer to find a solution that would meet the school's safeguarding requirements as well as their heritage conditions. The only option that the Conservation Officer would agree to, was for the school to replace the existing wall with an equivalent stone wall of 1.8m height. Plans to this effect were re-submitted and approval was given in November 2021. For full details of this including drawings see <https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0i3z000015HwjAAAS/pl202104353>



Although an initial reaction to a higher wall is often that it will make the playground feel more closed in, and the school not visible from the outside, this is not actually the case. When one stands in the playground currently you look out and see the school wall and then the wall of the manor on the opposite side of the road, rising above this. When the new wall is built, the school wall will be higher, but the outlook will remain the same from within the site as the manor wall will still be higher than this and will remain what we see above our wall. From the raised pavement on the opposite side of the road, it will still be possible to look out and see the whole school building and some of the playground as the new wall will only be around 60cm higher than the existing wall.



As the wall will be constructed with a rendered concrete block structure on the playground side, this also means that we will be able to attach play and learning equipment to it, as well as potentially decorate it with art work and/or a mural. Therefore we can create a much brighter and richer environment within the playground for our children with the new wall.

We are hoping to start the work to replace the wall this summer. Initial work will need to take place during the school holiday, as the existing wall will need to be demolished first. The internal concrete block wall will then be built in order to ensure that the school site is secure and safe when term re-starts and the children return to school. The outer facing of stone work, using as much stone as possible that can be recycled from the existing wall, will then be completed. When we have more details about the dates and timescale of the project we will share these with you.



Spring Class exploring Keevil village for their Geography topic 'What is it like where I live?'



Summer Class swimming in Clarendon Pool



Singing workshops with Kate Courage



Learning in Winter Class



Over the past 2 weeks we have had new generation wifi-enabled smartboards fitted. There is a new board in every classroom and we also now have one on a stand in the hall. This amazing investment in our IT equipment has been completely funded by the Acorn Education Trust.

