



# Christopher Rawlins CE Primary School

*“Stand firm and be deeply rooted in love” Ephesians 3:17*

[www.christopher-rawlins.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.christopher-rawlins.oxon.sch.uk)



**Friday 21st March**

Dear Parents,

A huge thank you to all those parents who attended for parent consultation meetings this week. I am really fortunate to hear snippets of conversation as both parents arrive and leave, and we are really grateful for your encouragement, support and celebrating your children's achievements with us.

Over the last 2 weeks we have had Ricky in to lead our two Dance Days. I was so impressed with the children's attitude, perseverance and resilience - they all approached the focussed 45 minute session with enthusiasm and we are always so delighted with what they achieve in such a short time. The children shared their dances with the whole school at the end of each day. Well done all!

Have a great weekend

Lauren Murrey and the Christopher Rawlins team

## **Yr 5/6 Curriculum Update**

Children in KS2 are now half-way through their Canal topic in History and it is brilliant to see how much knowledge they have retained and the quality of work in their books. Each lesson is framed around a key question and skill and we are very much looking forward to enhancing our learning with our visit to Dudley Canal and Caverns next week where the children will take part in a workshop and have a trip on a canal boat. We are busy starting new Science and DT topics and have lots of opportunities planned in for the children to work practically across both units, building on from some great discussions and inspiring live lessons in Science week last week.



## **Staffing Update**

Mrs Druce will be stepping back from her role as Assistant Headteacher and SENCo at the end of this academic year. Mrs Druce will remain as Early Years Lead and class teacher. Mrs Druce has made this decision due to a change in her husband's work commitments, and the additional time she is currently spending supporting her family who are overseas.

We are delighted that Mrs Druce remains a key part of our staff team, and we are hugely grateful for all of her hard work and commitment in her role as SENCo over the last 4 years. We will be recruiting for the role of Assistant Headteacher and SENCo shortly, and will update parents when an appointment is made.

**Our Collective Worship focus is *Compassion***

**Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other”**



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## Attendance

At Christopher Rawlins we want every child to reach their full potential, and good school attendance plays a big part in this. Regular attendance helps children develop friendships, build confidence, and keep up with their learning. We understand that children may need to miss school due to illness or other unavoidable reasons, but when attendance drops below 90%, it can have a significant impact on a child's progress. At this point in the school year this would be if your child has missed more than 8 days of school.

We will always monitor attendance and offer support to families where needed. If your child has missed more than 8 days of school, we will make contact with you to see if we can offer any support or help. In the meantime if you have any concerns about your child's attendance please do contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Updated attendance information will be included on your child's interim report.

## Comic Relief

Thank you to all those that have participated in Wacky Hair Day today. We have seen some fabulous hairstyles. If you would like to donate £1 to Comic Relief you can do so via School Money.

## Planters Thank You

A huge thank you to Danny Bower from Bower Masonry (Chester's Stepdad) for working so hard on our amazing new planters you will see around the school. They will be filled with beautiful flowers this week and will be enjoyed for years to come. We are so thankful for the time and effort he put into making them.

## STEM Workshop

Thank you very much to Dave Sullivan, (Oscar and Emily Harvey's grandad) who kindly gave up his time yesterday to run a STEM workshop for Egrets, Herons and Kingfishers. Dave is an engineer who works for Fortescue Zero; he told us about his important work on converting mining vehicles to electric energy and brought in various examples of mechanisms for the children to handle, including cams, ball bearings and levers, before showing us how they are found in different types of bikes. The children were all inspired and thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. Many thanks for giving up your time.



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## Science Week

We began Science week by having an assembly on this year's theme of change and adaptation. Across the week, classes have explored different activities related to the theme as well as challenging stereotypes of what a scientist is, learning about diverse real-life scientists in different sectors.

KS2 really enjoyed participating in two live lessons last week as part of Science Week. On Wednesday, the children had a lesson on the uses of AI and learnt how important a tool it can be for tackling deforestation, climate change and food waste. Later on, UKS2 took part in a live lesson from the NFU where they heard from Dr Harriet, a cow geneticist who is looking at adaptation, inheritance and selective breeding, and we heard from a plant physiologist about how plants are being selectively bred to become resistant against climate change.

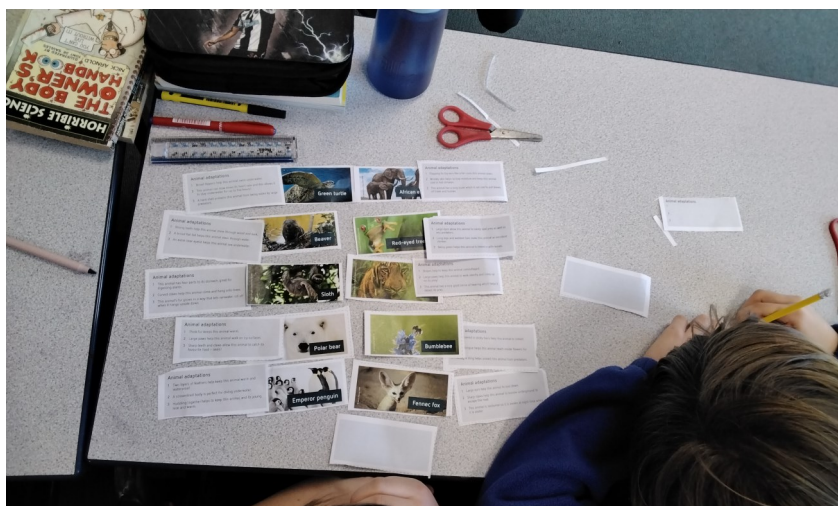
KS1 thoroughly enjoyed Science Week. On Monday, the children had to think about what a farmer was, the jobs they did and what they might look like. We then attended a live lesson on farming, closely linked to our 'animals, including humans' topic. Miss Rea even shared with the children some facts about dairy farming and showed the children what really long medical gloves looked like! On Thursday, the children did an experiment to see what can and cannot be flushed down the toilet. They were shocked to find out that wet wipes and blue roll were quite difficult to dissolve in water and it made the children think hard about the environment.

Here are some quotes from the children:

"I enjoyed learning new things and learnt how food waste affects Earth and the environment."

"It was the best online session ever- it was really interesting and inspiring for me and made me want to learn more about AI."

"The lesson was really fun- I especially liked the video and the games were fun too. We learnt how AI is helping the world."



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## **Announcement: Sarah Duffy’s Departure as School Governor**

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Sarah Duffy, who has stepped down from her role as a school governor after more than six years of dedicated service. Sarah has made invaluable contributions to the school’s success, particularly through her unwavering support for staff and fellow governors.

Sarah joined the Local Governing Body with an open mind and quickly found great fulfilment in the role. Her primary focus was always on supporting the staff, and she played a crucial part in guiding the school through challenging periods. Now, as the school continues to thrive under Mrs. Murrey’s headship, Sarah feels that this is the right time to step away at the end of her second term.

We are incredibly grateful for Sarah’s commitment, insight, and support over the years. Her contributions have had a lasting impact, and she will be greatly missed. We wish her all the best for the future.

Bernard Harris, Chair of Governors

## **Dance Day**

The dance choreographer, Ricky, joined us again last Friday to work with every class in KS2. The previous Friday he worked with all the children in EYFS and KS1. Each class learnt a different dance with him which they then performed in front of a ‘packed house’ (the entire school). The children picked up the dances quickly and were confident when performing. They danced to a range of music including modern, musical theatre classics and even classical music. It was wonderful to see the talent, enthusiasm and enjoyment on show in every dance. We would love to have him visit us every year!

## **High Flyers**

We’ve been having a fantastic time celebrating St.Patrick’s Day, with plenty of fun activities, including a thrilling scavenger hunt that the children absolutely loved! The beautiful weather has made outdoor play even more enjoyable. A big congratulations to our High Flyer certificate winners, Beau and Adam, for their kindness and helpfulness- well done!

The High Flyers Team wish you a great weekend.

## **Diary dates**

March 22nd Saturday	PTFA Quiz Night (The Bell)
March 24th-28th	SEN Reviews
March 25th Tuesday	Easter Service Y5/6 St Mary’s Church 10:30AM (parents invited)
March 27th Thursday	PTFA Mother’s Day Gift Shop
April 7-21st	Easter Holiday

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## Learning Certificates

### Owls

Roman for joining in so well with our discussion about minibeasts.

### Penguins

Teddy for his super effort with writing independently about his minibeast this week.  
Lizzie for being kind and helpful to others and showing her friends how to take turns.

### Flamingos

Lillian for a wonderful piece of descriptive writing when describing the Giant in our story.  
Logan for trying his best to write independently and using the sound mats to support him.

### Woodpeckers

Lilliana for demonstrating the school value of compassion by always helping and supporting her peers.  
Harper for demonstrating the school value of responsibility by consistently seeking and implementing feedback to improve her writing. Working so hard on letter formation, capital letters and full stops.

### Hummingbirds

Maya for writing an excellent adventure story - you are making excellent progress in your writing and the description and powerful vocabulary is amazing, well done.  
Olena for working really hard to use powerful vocabulary in your writing, well done.

### Parrots

Rudy for working hard to edit your writing lessons and contributing fantastic ideas to lessons.  
Damaris for working hard to edit your writing and demonstrating the school value of responsibility in lessons.

### Egrets

Bella C-B for showing such enthusiasm for her non chronological report writing.  
Bella C for the effort she puts into all her work.

### Hérons

Eve for some excellent work in Literacy this week on our description writing  
Liam for really showing great effort in maths this week on decimals.

### Kingfishers

James for a more positive attitude towards learning, and good effort in Maths and English.  
Jacob M for trying hard to write formally and being inspired by Holes.

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