

End of Term Newsletter



Summer Term: Start 22nd April & Finish 15th July with Half Term hols on 27th May
Saturday 4 July - Family Fun Evening
St Georges Day Parade - Sunday 26 April
Subscriptions for the Summer term will be £26



This term we invested 6 new Beavers: Kester Jacob, Freddie Street, Emma Mortimer, Ruby Bradbury, Michael Croft and Archie Griggs, bringing our total up to 18 children, 13 boys and 5

girls. The new Beavers settled in quickly with the help of their Beaver Buddies.

Last terms, lodge inspection was won by Red Indians, so William, Archie (Barribal), Jasper and Holly took it in turns to have the Beaver Trophy this term.

We thoroughly enjoyed our Night Hike, but made so much noise that most of the wildlife was frightened away! Following the hike in the dark, many beavers earned their Hikes Away 1 badge - Well done Elias, Jasper, Archie, William, Kester, Freddie, Ruby, Michael, Archie, John and Jessica!

We have done lots of fun activities for our Friendship Challenge badge. To start, we visited Italy - we learnt some Italian words, made Pizzas - and ate them of course, (very yummy!) and played some games teaching us about Italy and its people.

Then, in order to learn about someone who works in the community, we had a very interesting visitor, Pete Ashton, a postman who sometimes does the round in Stoke Row when Mark is away. He is the only postman who wears a bandella so everyone knows him! He captivated us, telling us all about his job and things that have happened to him, like how many dogs have bitten him and the famous people he has delivered to. Do you all know why postmen wear shorts? (Mark wears them every day of the year!) He brought along his jacket and bag, so Edward and Eleanor were able to dress up as postman and postwoman, as well as presenting us with a box of goodies. We shall also be visiting the Fire Station at Goring at the end of term - a first for our Beaver Colony!

As another part of this Challenge, we held a fundraising evening for Air Ambulance, a wonderful



operation, who have helped so many people in our village. Our bring and buy sale, selling books, games, toys, cakes and refreshments, was a huge success, and we raised a whopping **£242.09**, the largest amount we have ever raised in one evening! It was a very sociable event, thoroughly enjoyed by the beavers, their friends and families! Vivien Jenkins, who fell from her horse last year, came along on the evening with Robin to tell of her experience of being flown by the Air Ambulance. David Griffiths, who came to collect our cheque, gave all the children a flying bear on a key ring. This is the 15th year the Beavers have raised funds for a local charity and to date we have now raised the amazing sum of £2,575.52! Hopefully a photograph of the Beavers will have appeared in the Henley Standard!

The Beavers also completed their Emergency Aid Stage 1 badge, thanks to Vixen. They have learnt what to do in all sorts of emergencies and been tested on their knowledge!

Hobbies Activity Badges were awarded to William Hybert for his interest in cycling and learning how to look after his bike, to John Higgins for doing judo and giving us a demonstration and to Eleanor Lee for collecting crystals and telling us all about it.

We had our wonderful annual swimming event in Kate Fotherby's beautiful pool. We are so grateful to Kate for this - if we went to a public pool a mum or dad would have to be in the water with their child (as they are under 8) and it would cost a lot of money too! Dawn Challis kindly came, yet again, to be our Life Saver and test the beavers. Edward Bloomer, Adam Porter, Holly Munoz, Archie Barribal, William Hybert and Ruby Bradbury passed their Stage 1 badge swimming test, but still have to learn about the safety rules in swimming before gaining their badge. Well done!

A huge thank you to Elsa and Vixen for all their hard work this term and to the parents for being so supportive and being so good at helping twice - or more - during the term. Without their help the evenings would not run have as smoothly or as successfully!



It's been a busy term for the Cubs! We started the year with a host of fun activities, including an evening of team-work (building newspaper towers and making fresh egg 'packages' for throwing - messy!), a rope evening (tying useful knots, and rope-pulling games), an evening of star-gazing, learning about stars, constellations and planets, and a French soirée, with hot chocolate, brioche and pains au chocolate, and a range of very 'interesting' cheeses to try with our baguettes. Ce fût une soirée très élégant et sophistiqué - comme le sont toutes nos reunions d'ailleurs!

Continuing the food theme, but with less elegance(!), the Cubs then had a pre-Shove Tuesday go at pancake cooking and eggy bread - again messy, but a lot of fun. For some of the Cubs, it was their first go at proper cooking, but the results were better than you might imagine - and the pancakes went down very well!

A highlight of this term was the Scrapyard Challenge competition. A group of 'crafty' Cubs represented Stoke Row at a District event, which involved making craft models out of cardboard and stuff to create something from a story told to them at the start. The competition (against Cubs from Henley, Goring, Shiplake, Goring Heath) was fierce - but our Cubs won (hurrah!) and are going forward as our 'South Chilterns Champions' in the County-wide competition in Oxford at the end of March. Good luck to Ollie C, Molly, Ellie, Henry, Art and Dan C!

After a welcome break, we kicked off the second half term with an exciting night mission through the woods led by Baloo and Mike - not so much a stealth mission as a herd of very noisy buffalos, but we all had a great time! Then we had an interesting evening learning all about Scouts, when the Scout Leader came and told us about all the exciting things they get up to - and some of the scary stories too!

Then, over the past two weeks we have been working on some top-secret crafty stuff for Mother's Day with some great results, and last week we invested four new Cubs (a big welcome to welcome Ruby Sumeray, George Lee, Kerem Ozgu and Dan Craft!) when our District Commissioner for Cubs, Pete Phillips, joined us and presented three of our oldest Cubs with their Chief Scout Silver Award (the highest award that a Cub can get!) - very well done to Tom Marsden, Will Clarke and Ollie Riley!

For our last meeting of the term we are planning a special fun (and chocolately!) evening to celebrate Easter - and will be looking forward to the light evenings ahead when we can get out and about, which is what Cubs like doing best!

A big thanks to all our leaders who work so hard to give the Cubs such a great time and to all our parents for your much-appreciated support!

[SCOUTS]

We welcomed another Assistant Scout Leader who has volunteered to help out. She is Mrs. Heidi Tovstiga who is a parent. We are pleased to have a female leader, as we now have one girl-scout. Our numbers are now at 16, with a couple on the waiting list.

Currently we are in the process of building three scarecrows for Sutton Courtney Centre in Oxfordshire, for their Scarecrow Trail in April, we hope to complete them by end of March.

This month we have been out on a short night hike, so that all Scouts, particularly the new ones can get map and compass experience. Last week, we did some outdoor cooking.

We will be investing three new Scouts before the end of term, making a total of 17 Scouts.

We have some Scouts who have been awarded hobbies badges for such hobbies as baking, golf, collecting fossils, swimming and wargaming. One Scout was awarded his Snow Sports badge as he has attained the top level of skiing, which is great.

The new Scout Leaders are undergoing training, as is the new Group Scout Leader, which should be completed by mid April, when Barry hopes to formally stand down as Scout Leader. We are completing our scarecrow building for the scarecrow trail at Sutton Courtney in April.

Happy Easter!

Back on the 22nd April!
