



Bladon Buzz

Friday 5th October 2018
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Bladon C of E Primary School

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A note from the headteacher

This week saw the children at Bladon celebrate Harvest Festival.

As the sun shone on Wednesday afternoon the teachers and children, clutching food that they were donating to the foodbank, walked to St Martins Church. As they entered the church packed with parents and grandparents, the children carefully placed their donation on the table ready to go to the North Oxford Foodbank and walked down the aisle to take their places on the pews.

The celebration began with the song Harvest Samba which the children all sang enthusiastically. This was followed by our new song, Harvest for the World after which, each class shared some of the things that they had been learning about Harvest. Cherry class were first to the front, eager to share who they were.

Our excited Early Years children were interviewed by the roving reporter Mrs Bott, who asked them what they were doing; some were fishing, others digging, making bread, picking apples and even driving a combine harvester. We were very proud of our Early Years children who spoke clearly and were confident in front of such a large crowd.

If you have any questions or queries concerning the school or your child/children, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher or contact me at school. Alternatively, you can email me at head.3146@bladon.oxon.sch.uk

They were followed by the children in Apple and Oak, who shared how Harvest is celebrated around the world. We heard about: Scotland where some people celebrate a wheat harvest called Lammass. People make bread from the first wheat harvest and take it to church to eat. In Canada and America, harvest celebrations are called 'Thanksgiving'. They celebrate by having a family dinner with lots of different foods, like roast turkey with lots of vegetables. In Italy, where olive oil is produced, it takes a lot of time and care to grow the olives, and that means that harvest time is very special. The local olive harvest brings everyone in the community together. In West Africa, there is a celebration called The Festival of Yams, which celebrates the yam harvest and usually takes place in August. People celebrate by dancing and sharing the yams with the village. In Argentina when they harvest the grapes for wine, it is a very special time. Crowds fill the streets to watch amazing parades and there are festivals with musicians, food and entertainers. Dancers take to the stage before a Harvest Queen is chosen. The queen then sets off a fantastic firework display. In Poland, they used to have an especially unusual tradition. At harvest time, a crown of straw was put on a village girl. The mayor of the village then put a cockerel on the crown and girl was led away from the fields by musicians. It is said that if the cockerel crowed, it was considered good luck for the year ahead.

Finally, it was Willow class's time to share their interpretation of Harvest through art. They had thought about what Harvest meant to them, created a pastel piece of art and shared their artist statements about their drawings.

This was followed a blessing from Alice and the entire congregation sang Sing Hosanna. Josh L finished the service by reading a prayer, as we said our thank you to God.

We were very proud of all our children.

It really was wonderful to see so many families at the church service. Thank you for joining us for our celebration of Harvest.

Next week we look forward to our Mental Health and Well-being Week, where the children and their teachers will be looking at a range of factors that can affect mental health and how to help themselves both live healthily and deal with feelings and situations that they may find tricky.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our children in Year 6, who all passed their cycling proficiency test on Thursday. A big thank you to Mrs Kemp and Mrs Horn for supporting the children.

100 Club Lotto Winners for September:

1st Julie Bignone

2nd Caroline Kalu

3rd Dawn Brown

Important Dates

Mon 8th Oct – Mental Health Week

Wed 10th Oct – Years 3 & 4 Football Tournament

Mon – 15th Oct – Parent/Teacher Consultations

Mon 15th Oct – Flu Nasal Sprays

Thurs 18th Oct – Parent/Teacher Consultations

Fri 19th Oct – Break up for Half Term

Mon 29th Oct – INSET Day

Tues 30th Oct – Return to school

Tues 30th Oct – Halloween Party – 5.30pm – 6.30pm