

SCHOOL NEWS

Let's Celebrate!

As you read this, we will be welcoming our children back for a new school year, refreshed and eager after the long summer break. For at least fifteen children, this will be a big step- the start of their Primary years. The thirst for learning shown by our youngest children is truly amazing, as is the rate at which those enquiring minds and restless bodies develop!

If proof was needed, it seems only a 'blink of an eyelid' since we were marvelling at the skills and enjoyment all our children gained from taking part in the end of term presentation, 'Hood-Winked'. For any of you unfortunate enough not to have come along in July, I can honestly say that it was a dazzling production! The youngest children managed to learn all the songs faster than most of us adults, all taking a part as either woodland creatures or leafy trees! (You need a thriving forest for Mr Hood to hide away in!) The older children took the lead in songs and story, forming forest, peasant, monastic or aristocratic groups around which to thread the story!

As always, the children leaving our school for secondary school took the lead roles magnificently. Jo Richardson made a truly wicked Sheriff, Tom Tierney a heroic Robin and Kristina Foster melted everyone's hearts as she sang her sorrowful ballad to her imprisoned heart-throb! Thankfully, (King) David Marsh was on hand to restore order so we could all go home happy! ALL the children were brilliant, aided by magnificent costumes (special thanks to Tina Kingsbury and Toni Newman), stunning scenery (created by Sam Turney, the art club and the children) AND spectacular support from Katherine Johnson in directing the music. Above all though, Hood-Winked was fun and successful because everyone in our school community contributed and joined in (including Sue Morton, who wrote the lively and humorous rhyming script.) It is this strength of teamwork that will ensure we all make a happy and positive start to our new school year.

Finally, I should like to congratulate all the children on their excellent results in the end of year SATs assessments, demonstrating both good individual progress and the quality and commitment of all the staff at Marcham. We shall continue work as together to ensure the school provides the best learning opportunities for all our children.

If you want to arrange a visit, or think that you can support the school in any way, please contact the office for an appointment.

Happy New Year! **LESLEY CLARK**



An RAF EH101 helicopter landed on the field on the last day of term and caused quite a stir!



WHO WANTS TO GO TO WITNEY?

Eddie Shirras managed to snap the 0930 X15 on the first day of service passing the Frilford Road bus stop – it also stops on the main road at the end of Howard Cornish Rd. It is a "hail and ride" service so you *should* be able to flag it down anywhere where the driver can stop safely (apart from in towns when you must use the bus stops). Early comments are "Use it or lose it" and "The X15 return fair to Abingdon is much cheaper". You can get a timetable from the Post Office.



SOBELL HOUSE HOSPICE CHARITY

Can you help raise funds for Sobell House Hospice based at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford? We are always looking for volunteers and really appreciate any time you can give us. There are two areas needing help:

Can you spare an hour or two to help sell raffle tickets at:

- St Giles Fair on 6/7th September
- Millets Farm on Friday 1st October
- Christmas Fair at Kingston Bagpuize House on 5th October

If you feel you can spare some time to help the charity at these events please contact the charity office on 01865 857007.

The Sobell Lottery has thousands of members, who each pay £1 per week to support the Hospice and have the chance of winning £1,000. We are currently looking for people who could deliver Lottery leaflets around their local community – simply dropping them in letter boxes or perhaps approaching local pubs and shops to display them. If you think you could help – it doesn't need to take up much of your time – please call Holly on 01865 857009.