

Millie's Musings.

Hello! It's Millie the Tawny Owl here, again, and what an exciting start we've had to 2018 at Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School!

The children are buzzing with excitement about their learning. The whole school theme of "What's the story?", a real favourite of mine, has given them the opportunity to explore many different stories, traditional and modern. It's wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they chatter about their activities. I've heard all about journeys they've made to other lands through portals; fantasy islands they've created; houses made for little pigs - and attempts to blow them down; stories about mythical creatures from ancient lands; brave knights fighting fierce dragons, and more. There's even a tale about a forest made of tin, which I find particularly intriguing!

At the start of term, our Reception children had some very special visitors. Apple Tree Class, the youngest class from our partner school, Ridgeway Farm, came to Lydiard Millicent, so that all the children could share their learning about the Three Little Pigs together. Some of the children came to tell me all about their day and it sounded like they had so much fun, making pig masks, building with different materials, making play dough characters, blow painting and dressing up. The children said that they enjoyed playing and sharing with their new friends. The following week, Classes 1 and 2 joined Pear Tree and Peach Tree Classes from Ridgeway Farm on a trip to the Oxford Story Museum for a fun-filled day exploring story habitats and creating animal characters.

Another whole school theme is our term's focus value of courage. I've been hearing stories of people who show courage, and lots of praise for the children when they are brave in class or on the playground, whether they are trying new experiences, challenging themselves or just doing the right thing. The school has a lovely poem which sums up the meaning of courage:

- Carrying on when things are difficult
- Overcoming fear
- Understanding and facing a challenge
- Risking being out of your comfort zone
- Always believing in God's promises
- Going for a goal
- Empowered by encouragement

That's certainly a good focus to start the year, and as my perch is right next to the playtime first aid post, I see many examples of children showing courage! But here's hoping we don't have too many playtime accidents.

I have to say, it's been rather chilly the last couple of months – I've felt a blast of icy air whenever the front door opens – and when I think back to all those frosty winters I spent in the oak tree, I'm very glad to have a cosy home inside the school.