



CRADLEY NEWS

Friday 18th September 2020



Tribute to Mrs Robb

Karen began her journey at Cradley School in 2012 as nursery manager and was instrumental in setting it up, developing policies and procedures. She offered support to managers of other Governor run nurseries as we led the field in this area at the time. In 2016 she became our Early Years teacher.

Karen also supported many student teachers as our student and NQT mentor, setting many young teachers on their path to follow in her shoes.

Karen was a vibrant, lovely, strong and wonderful person. She held us together with a passion for singing and her love of reading to the children with silly voices.

Back in March, before the lock down, Karen helped with the retelling of our Big Write book, *The Smeds and the Smoos*. She took on the role of Granpa Smed and made him come to life by the way that she was able to create characters with her voice. I don't know whether Julia Donaldson ever saw Grandpa Smed as Welsh, but he was on that day! She always threw herself into everything we did with such gusto. A couple of years ago, again during Big Write Week, she took on the role as the Highway Rat and portrayed the character to the whole school, running stealthily around the building at different times of the day, bringing the book to life. She was dressed complete with knee-high boots, ruffled

shirt, the biggest hat and a swag bag full of loot that had been taken from each class.

Karen's passion in teaching was to make sure all children were able to read. Teaching phonics was one of her strengths. She wanted children to get as much pleasure as she did from reading and I know that one of her favourite books was *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I want to share with you one small excerpt from that book:

"Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

Karen was our very own Mockingbird. She loved to sing at every opportunity and always with such enthusiasm. Whether it was to celebrate a birthday with a five-year-old in her class with Bradley from Cradley the birthday bear, teaching children the words and the actions to the songs for the nativity, singing with the school choir at the courtyard in Hereford, at Hereford Cathedral, with the Powick community choir at Stanbrook Abbey or Indeed at the Genting arena in Birmingham with 6000 others.

Teachers leave a mark... and I don't just mean their countless ticks in exercise books. They change children's thinking forever in ways which shape the adults we become. The best teachers help to create a moral compass and kindle curiosities and a love of learning that guides the choices made for years to come.

Karen always worked with such enthusiasm and made a positive impression on so many lives, inspiring pupils, parents and staff alike. Karen was a teacher that children will remember when they look back on their days at primary school. They will fondly remember her boundless enthusiasm in the classroom, the creative ideas for teaching that introduced so many children to education and above all the love, care and compassion she showed to them.

Karen was not only our colleague but also our friend. She fought for what she thought was right, she always had a listening ear and she made us laugh out loud.

Karen you have left a gaping hole in the hearts of many. God bless you.

Reception places 2021

If you know of anyone looking for a reception place for next September we are very happy to show parents around after 3pm when the school is quieter. Please call the school office on 01886 880315 to make an appointment.

Nursery

In Nursery this week we have been making the most of the last bit of summer sunshine. We've all enjoyed playing with our water wall and using different containers to transport the water into buckets full of bubbly water. Our story of the week this week has been 'What the lady bird heard' and on Monday we played musical statues with a twist! When the music stopped we had to pretend to be one of the animals from the story. This week we've also enjoyed painting our own ladybirds and practising our number skills by counting the amount of black dots on the ladybird. We've been busy outside mostly this week building train tracks, building sandcastles in the sandpit and have all enjoyed playing games on the field and walks to forest school.



Clubs

Thank you for completing the on-line form for clubs this week. A text message has been sent out to let you know if your child has a place in their chosen club.

Volunteers

If you are able to help out in any way we would welcome your support. Please try to stick with helping in one class only, social distancing will be essential and full guidance will be given. Please let your child's class teacher or myself know if you are able to help in anyway.

Lunches

If you would like to order a packed lunch for your child via Black Pepper, please do so at least 3 days in advance, thank you.

Value of the Month - PATIENCE

Romans 8:25

"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience"

Chosen by Mrs Jones

Dates for the Future (these are subject to change)

SEPTEMBER

Value of the Month - Patience

OCTOBER

Value of the Month - Compassion

Thursday 1st

Yr 1/2 hearing tests

Tuesday 13th

Parents Evening - 3.30pm

Wednesday 14th

Parents Evening - 5.30pm

Thursday 15th

School photos

Friday 16th

School Council elections

Thursday 22nd

Harvest Festival

Friday 23rd

Half term

NOVEMBER

Value of the Month - Courage

Monday 2nd

Term starts

Wednesday 4th

Class 1 Welcome Wednesday

Wednesday 11th

Class 2 Welcome Wednesday

Wednesday 18th

Class 3 Welcome Wednesday

Wednesday 25th

Class 4 Welcome Wednesday

DECEMBER

Value of the Month - Peace

Wednesday 2nd

Class 5 Welcome Wednesday

Monday 7th

Nativity dress rehearsal

Tuesday 8th

Nativity

Wednesday 9th

Nativity

Tuesday 15th

Winter Walk

Wednesday 16th

Christmas Lunch

Thursday 17th

Community Carols

Carol Service 6pm

Friday 18th

Animal Lady

End of term

JANUARY

Value of the Month - Hope

Wednesday 6th

Term starts