



LITTLEGARTH

A truly independent school & nursery

13th October 2017

Dear Parents

NEWSLETTER 2017/18 – 3

Having reached half term, I think most of the staff and you I suspect, are wondering where the first half has gone. The children are working hard and I know that the Reception children are in need of a rest! The second half of term becomes very exciting for the children with Fireworks night and Christmas just around the corner. As it does get busy, can I encourage you all to look through the calendar to help keep you up to date with all that is happening? Here is a round up of the past few weeks and one or two reminders going forward.

Harvest Festival

Parents, children and staff of Littlegarth were extremely generous with their food donations on the morning of our Harvest Assembly this week. The Gardening Clubs prepared a beautiful table of produce to decorate the hall and the Chamber Choir sang a tuneful harvest hymn with great enthusiasm. We were delighted to be joined by Mrs Lyons of the Salvation Army who spoke about many of the ways in which the food donations are used to support those in need. This is always a special service for our school, particularly as we are situated in such an agricultural area on the border of Essex and Suffolk and it is clear that the children appreciate just how lucky we are.

Reading

We have a recommended reading list for each year group. The information you need can be found on the 'key information' page of the Parents' section:

<http://www.littlegarth.essex.sch.uk/parents/key-information/>

Year 2 Outing to Daws Hall

Year 2 had a fantastic day at Daws Hall Nature Reserve. After eating their snacks they went into the Education Centre and began to learn about different habitats around the nature reserve. Year 2 then explored some different habitats in the arboretum and were thrilled to watch a mouse and a vole returning to their natural habitat after spending the evening in a "hotel", (a box they had climbed in with food and shelter where they were kept safe overnight).

2L went off to try some pond dipping and stream dipping. They learnt that there were so many different species in the pond but fewer in the stream. They thoroughly enjoyed both activities and even had a wade through the stream! While they were doing this, 2C went off on a camouflage trail and then went in search of various mini beasts in a woodland habitat. After some lunch in the arboretum, the classes swapped activities. The children learnt so much about habitats and it was a really enjoyable day. As always, a huge vote of thanks goes to the parents who were able to come along and help the children make the most of their day.

Nursery News

On Tuesday 3rd October the Nursery children were lucky enough to welcome a visitor from The Suffolk Owl Sanctuary at Stonham Barns. Matt brought along a beautiful barn owl, called Cobweb and also a Hawk called Derek. The children loved seeing the birds close up and asked lots of questions. The birds also seemed to really enjoy being with the children!

Year 5 Visit to the Europa Centre

Following our Littlegarth Language Day celebrations, Year 5 went on a trip to the Europa Centre, a 'French village' where the children visited a variety of places such as la boulangerie, l'épicerie, la charcuterie and le cinéma.

The children had a great time practising their French with the native speakers at the Europa Centre who came from different French speaking countries. One of the highlights of the day was our visit to the café where the children enjoyed an authentic French snack.

Parent Workshops and Parent Evenings

Parental feedback from the recent workshops has been positive and we hope that you have all found them useful. We are continually seeking to improve our provision and so if you feel there was some further information on these evenings you would have found useful, do please let us know.

A reminder that Parents' Evenings are coming up after half term so please book your appointment time if you have not already done so.

Inter House Matches - Wednesday 11th October

Inter House Rugby

This week saw the first 2017/18 Inter House competition take place. As with last year, to comply with RFU regulations, there were separate Year 6 and Year 5 competitions.

In the Under 11 competition, Constable put in a real team performance which resulted in them winning all six games and an overall first position. Munnings, looking to build on their efforts last year, fell just short and finished as the runners up. Gainsborough came third despite their demonstration of excellent spirit but they were unable to finish off long periods of possession.

In the Under 10 competition the winning streak by Constable continued as their team was also unbeaten all afternoon. Munnings and Gainsborough both worked extremely hard and produced some determined performances with Munnings just managing to pip their rivals to take second place.

Inter House Hockey

All of the Year 5 & 6 girls should be congratulated for their fantastic play at the annual Inter-House Hockey competition on Wednesday afternoon. It was so wonderful to see all abilities not only playing together as a team but also communicate and organise their teams so efficiently. All of the girls demonstrated an excellent knowledge of tactical play and used their competent skill levels to score many goals.

A special 'well done' must go to the five goal keepers who saved so many difficult shots at goal. Their movement and reactions in the goal were outstanding.

Congratulations to all of the members of the Constable team for winning the tournament and to both Munnings (2nd) and Gainsborough (3rd) for their efforts all afternoon.

As always, the support from the children and parents made for a fantastic atmosphere.

Cross Country

After half term (specifically the week beginning 13th November), the children will be taking part in cross-country in their PE lessons. There are three different cross-country courses which cater for all abilities and each child will strive to challenge themselves on the course of their choice. Please could you ensure that after half term your child has either a pair of football boots or equivalent with studs OR a pair of old trainers as they will get muddy. Wellies or slip-on trainers are not suitable for cross country. Please can they also bring a carrier bag to put their muddy shoes in after the lesson? Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

MUFTI Day and FLS Bonfire and Firework Night.

Mufti Day on Friday 3rd November is in aid of The Cancer Centre Campaign. Children do need to be suitably dressed for the Bonfire and Firework evening which takes place on the same day. Tickets will not be distributed until after half term so please do not panic if you have not received them.

In recent years, we have been lucky with the weather on this special occasion so fingers crossed for a dry evening!

The Art Room

Many of you will have noticed that Mrs Bailey has been busy packing up all the materials in the Art Room this week. This is because the room is about to be demolished during the first week of half term, making way for a pathway which will lead directly to the Nursery. This building was first erected in 1971 as a gift to the previous occupants of the site by the late Thomas England of Romford and Clacton. The pre-fabricated building originated in Australia and I understand from Mr Bowman that it was opened by Prince Philip in May 1971.

My thanks to Mrs Bailey for all her hard work this week and I'm sure that she will be looking forward to moving into her new facility next month.

The 'Move'

Thank you for your patience as the new building approaches completion. We have been advised by our contractors that the site will be fully handed over on 20 November so that we can start to move classrooms fully from that date. We hope to be able to move equipment for the new Art Room and Library in before this date so that we can 'hit the ground running' with the new building on November 20th. If there is any change to this programme we will of course let you know. This afternoon we closed the Library to allow Mrs Jasinski and her team to pack for the move. We will take the children on tours of the building as soon as we can and I am sure that we can also take parents on tours as soon as it has been handed over.

There is no doubt that the new building will provide enormous benefits to teaching and learning in the School and every day feels like Christmas Eve for the staff and children at present. We look forward to all the exciting new opportunities that will be available to us in the months and years to come.

Winter Uniform

Children need to return to school in their winter uniform after half term. A list of the uniform can be found on our website. The School Shop staff members are able to respond to email orders and should you wish to contact them, their email address is: shop@littlegarth.essex.sch.uk

Car Park

We have received a number of complaints from parents about the lack of courtesy when using the car park with some cars being damaged. The car park is very large and there is room for everyone to park. Please may I ask that you give each other consideration and allow plenty of room for parents to open their car doors wide enough for children to get into and out of their car safely. Thank you.

FLS Christmas Party

This is a new event for the FLS taking place on the last day of term for all parents and friends of Littlegarth. Tickets are £60 each and include a drink on arrival, canapés, a 3 course dinner and dancing. Letters have been sent home but if you are interested and have not received your letter, there are some available by the FLS box outside the School Office. This is a great event to invite your friends to and to get into the Christmas spirit.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 30th October.

Yours sincerely



Peter H Jones