



**LITTLE GARTH**

*A truly independent school & nursery*

17<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents

## **NEWSLETTER 2017/18 – 4**

The term is moving apace and I cannot believe how much we have packed into the past few weeks. As we approach the last month of this first term, the school is already filled with glorious sounds of children singing and rehearsing for plays; I cannot wait to see and listen to the final productions. Below are some of the activities and trips our children have been involved in and I hope you enjoying reading about it all.

### **FLS Bonfire and Fireworks Event**

For the first time in many years, our FLS Bonfire and Fireworks Night was dry and warm as over 700 gathered for our annual spectacular celebration. As always, the display was spectacular and thanks go to the FLS for all their hard work at what was a sell-out event. We will let you know how much was raised when we have a final figure. Lots of our 'old' children returned to join in the fun and it was lovely to see them.

Our Mufti Day which took place on the same day raised £392.64 for The Cancer Centre Campaign.

### **Poppy Appeal and an act of remembrance**

The Poppy Appeal was supported well by the children. As soon as we hear from the Royal British Legion we will let you know how much was raised. This year our Prefects ensured that all our children and visitors were given the opportunity to purchase a poppy and on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, all the staff and children joined for a period of silence at 11.00am to remember those who have given their lives on our behalf.

### **Year 3 Visit to Colchester Castle**

Year 3 arrived at the Museum full of excitement and questions! Their tasks included completing artefact based worksheets, an underground tour of the vaults, the making of a Celtic round house and a Roman Villa. They were treated to stories of battles, beheadings and Boudicca! After a long day, the children received a fantastic 'treat' of a play session at the Colchester Park play area. Most chose the opportunity to re-enact various Celts versus Romans battles, (nobody was hurt in these!).

Many thanks to the parents who assisted us on this trip!

### **5C Assembly**

5C delivered the first performance of the class assembly season with a charming, confident display of readings, dramatisations and musical pieces, celebrating the life and work of Rudyard Kipling.

The school was informed about Kipling, The Jungle Book and the Just So stories before hearing about the efforts of The Kipling Society's work to encourage primary school children to write their own versions of how animals came by their particular features.

### **5R Assembly**

5R's assembly was all about East Anglia. The children each chose a famous character from our area, did all their research and wrote their own speeches. We all learned so much and 5R had great fun performing it for the whole school.

### **4A Assembly**

Year 4 have been learning about Ancient Greeks in their History lessons and for their assembly, they presented a short production on Perseus and Medusa. Perseus wanting to save his mother from having to marry King Polydectus, had to kill Medusa by chopping off her head. However, Perseus had to be very careful because if he looked at Medusa in the eye, he would be turned to stone. On his quest he encountered the Greek goddess Athena and the messenger god Hermes who provided him with weapons to help him defeat Medusa. Perseus used the reflection from his shield in order to defeat the dreaded Medusa and saved his mother from having to marry King Polydectus.

The children spoke with confidence and clearly enjoyed the retelling of this Ancient Greek tale.

Well done to all three classes!

### **Littlegarth Hosts Major Tournaments**

Over the past couple of weeks, Littlegarth has been privileged to stage major National Rugby festivals for both the Independent Schools Association (ISA) and the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS).

On 1<sup>st</sup> November Littlegarth hosted the very first U10 ISA National Rugby Festival. The event saw fifteen schools travel from all over the country to take part in either a contact or touch competition. To make the event even more exciting, numerous "master classes" were organised for competing teams as the festival aimed to not only allow pupils to play but to also develop their skills. We were very fortunate to have representatives from England and England touch rugby, Lions Academy and even a few international players were on hand to help educate the rugby stars of the future. As host school we entered both competitions and the teams did very well. In the contact competition the boys played some very exciting rugby and in a tense contest, finished third. In the touch competition things were much closer. In the end the Littlegarth team came out in third spot again.

On Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, Littlegarth hosted the very first U11 IAPS Rugby Festival. This was a great honour for the school and a fantastic opportunity for our boys to play against some of the strongest rugby schools in the East. Twelve teams took part travelling from different parts of the country. St Mary's Hall got the prize for the longest trip coming from Lancashire! The format adopted followed RFU guidelines. This does not allow for an overall winner, however based on the tiered match system the boys finished second out of twelve schools, which is fantastic achievement in an IAPS event.

### **Sporting Results**

#### **ISA U11 Rugby Tournament**

Littlegarth travelled to Bedford on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November to defend their title as U11 ISA Rugby champions. The boys worked hard in their matches and were keen to emulate the success of past teams. Although the boys didn't win the overall title, they were delighted to win the plate competition. All the boys played well and showed a great level of sportsmanship.

### Under 9 Littlegarth Football Tournament

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, Littlegarth hosted its first U9 football tournament of the year. The tournament was for 'A' teams and brought both independent and state schools together for this friendly but highly competitive competition. Next week we will be hosting a 'B' team event. All the boys had a fantastic afternoon.

### ISA East Anglian Swimming

Swimming at Littlegarth has been a strength of ours for many years now and on Wednesday our team travelled to Crown Pools in Ipswich to compete in the ISA East Anglian swimming gala. As reigning champions for the past ten years the pupils were clearly feeling the pressure to perform but very quickly got into their stride. Individual event winners qualify for the National finals in the Olympic pool after Christmas and once again we are proud to announce Littlegarth will be represented by a number of swimmers at this prestigious event.

As always, the parental support at all three events was superb – thank you.

### **Christmas Events**

We have a considerable number of really exciting events happening in the run up to Christmas. We have listed these below, but please read through your calendar to make sure you have a note of everything that involves your child and if you are not sure, the School Office will be happy to help you.

#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

FLS Christmas Bazaar 3.30 to 6.00 pm.

Please come along and support the stalls and activities that will be taking place. The FLS have sent letters home for any donations of Jazzy Jars, Chocolate Tombola items or red, green or blue packaged items for the popular House Hampers. Thank you in advance for any donations which will be gratefully received.

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Prep outing to the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds to see Dick Whittington. A letter has been sent home for permission to go but if you have not seen this, please let us know.

#### Christmas Productions

Nursery and Reception at 10.00 am in the Sports Hall.

Year 1 and 2 at 2.00 pm in the Sports Hall.

As the Nursery production takes place first, please could we request that the front two rows are for the Nursery parents and then they will move back to allow Reception parents to move forwards (there will be a short break to allow time for this change). Thank you for your cooperation with this.

#### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Years 1 and 2 outing to the Mercury Theatre to see Snow White and Seven Dwarfs. A letter giving further information will be sent home next week, but please note that we will be seeing the afternoon performance and do not expect the children to be back until approximately 5.00 pm.

#### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Concert for Prep children (Years 3 – 6) starting at 2.30 pm. Parents are warmly invited to attend, finishing with a mince pie and a drink!

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Nursery Christmas Party from 8.40 am to 12.15 pm.

Pre-Prep Christmas Party from 2.00 pm to 3.15 pm.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Prep Christmas Party from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Lunch.

All children are invited to join us for our special Christmas Lunch (including children who normally have a packed lunch). If your child does not wish to have this lunch, please kindly notify the School Office and send your child in with their own meal.

Carol Service.

Our Carol Service will be held at St James' Church in Nayland for all pupils from Years 3 to 6 starting at 6.30 pm. All Prep children are expected to attend and parents are warmly invited to join us for this lovely celebration. As parking in the village is very limited and it is important that we do all that we can not to block access to properties in Nayland, we are once again providing shuttle buses which will run from school and back. We will give you further information on timings closer to the event.

Prep children wear their school uniform, including blazers.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Term ends at 4.00 pm. There will be no clubs or After School Care on this day.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Yours sincerely



Peter H Jones