



**LITTLEGARTH**

*A truly independent school & nursery*

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents

### **NEWSLETTER 2017/18 – 10**

This term has been more unusual than most! The move into our new classrooms, snow closures and all sorts of other adventures have happened since Christmas and I am sure everyone will be pleased to have a good rest over Easter. For those who will not be travelling, let's hope we finally get some much needed sunshine. Here is a round up of the last two weeks which have still been packed with drama, sport and interesting academic visits.

#### **Year 3 Production Dragon Days**

Our Year 3 performance of "Dragon Days" was set in the village of Stumbledorf in the Alps. The children all performed their socks off with a fabulously enthusiastic show. It was a joy to see them all getting into character and showing off their acting skills to an audience of eager family and friends. The children particularly enjoyed their special surprise at the end when they threw "snowballs" at the audience, who then promptly threw them back! Well done Year 3s; we are so proud of you!

The retiring collection for Breast Cancer Now raised £315.49; thank you for your generosity.

#### **Year 6 Academic Results**

Although the results from our Year 6 children are still coming in from parents, I am delighted that the children have achieved an outstanding level of success again this year. All the teaching staff are incredibly proud of the children's hard work and determination. I shall report further when I have all the results in.

#### **Musical Theatre Club**

This term the Musical topic has been "Matilda". In assembly the children read an abridged version of the story and performed songs from the show. They provided a slick and enjoyable performance showing how they can all come together as a team and achieved fantastic results. Great work from our Musical Theatre Club!

## **Nursery News**

Led by Mrs Pashby, Upper Nursery entertained their parents, Mr and Mrs Henderson (Chair of Governors), Mrs Turner, Mrs Bennett and I with a selection of songs they had been learning throughout the term.

Each song related to the well known story of Chicken Licken with a particular emphasis on Foxy Loxy!!

The children played their percussion instruments with great enthusiasm and were excited to see their parents join in with some of the actions too. A fun time was had by everyone and a big thank you to all those parents for joining us.

## **Reception Easter Bonnet Parade**

The Reception children made the most brilliant Easter bonnets. They went on an Easter parade around the school and were admired by all!

## **Year 2 Egyptian Day**

Year 2 had an excellent day learning all about life in Ancient Egyptian times. The children dressed up and looked fantastic in their costumes. They spent the morning making a variety of Ancient Egyptian crafts including clay charms, necklaces, perfume cones and Egyptian bread. They carved soap into a scarab beetle, made canopic jars from clay, enjoyed tomb painting and made mummies from peg dolls.

In the afternoon, the children went off in groups to rehearse a performance of "The Festival of the Nile" which they performed to the Pharaoh and his Queen. This included the wax crocodile, Opis Bull, Egyptian dancing and a play of Seth and Osiris. The children gave a fabulous performance as slaves and actors.

The afternoon was rounded off with a feast of olives, bread, cheese and 'wine'. Thank you again to all the parents who helped.

## **Year 1 Colchester Synagogue**

On Tuesday 20th March, Year 1 set off to visit Colchester Synagogue. They have been learning about Judaism all term so it was lovely to see 'for real' some of the artefacts they had found out about. Our hosts, Linda and Lee, showed them around and explained all of the things they could see. There were lots of hands on activities for the children to take part in and after a demonstration of the traditional Shabbat prayers, there was an opportunity to taste some challah bread which proved very popular.

## **Year 1 Coronation Day**

Year 1 eagerly anticipated our school Coronation Day and were not disappointed. The children arrived in a flurry of excitement bedecked in their sparkling regalia of visiting royalty. The morning was spent looking at and making a wide variety of memorabilia significant to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

This year the children were fascinated by the technology of the time and could not believe how tiny the televisions were or how strange the cameras were. In the afternoon our own Year 1 Queen was crowned and during the street party her entourage were entertained by performances from both the UK and the countries of the Commonwealth.

The day was ably supported by a number of wonderfully talented mothers who cooked, served, manned the learning stations and taught dancers and performers their routines with great aplomb.

We all sang God Save the Queen as our Littlegarth Queen hastily spooned jelly into her mouth; as 'one' does!

### **Sports news**

#### **Inter House Swimming (Year 5 and 6 Swimming Gala)**

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March the school hosted the second of its annual Swimming Galas. This time it was the turn of our senior Year 5 and 6 pupils to take to the water to compete for their respective Houses. As with the previous week's Year 3 and 4 event, it was again a very exciting competition. Going into the last race Munnings had already secured victory but Constable and Gainsborough were tied on points. It was close, with race positions changing all the time. In the end, however, Constable finished ahead of Gainsborough and finished second overall. Combining the results for the two events the final standings were Munnings in first place, Constable in second and Gainsborough third.

#### **Inter House Cross Country**

The final sports event of a very busy week was our annual Inter House Cross Country competition. This year we have developed two new courses for the pupils and as such, each winner set a new school record. As a school, Littlegarth is successful in sport at both local and National level. Events, however, like that of Friday afternoon epitomise the true ethos of sport at Littlegarth. Determination, dedication, achievement and a real sense of community spirit were on display with almost 160 pupils from the Prep School competing for their House. The competition is scored in such a way that every pupil's run counts towards the final result regardless of finishing position. The House placings were; first place, Munnings, Constable in second and in third place Gainsborough.

#### **Inter House Soccer**

To mark the end of the Soccer season our Year 5 and 6 boys competed for the coveted Inter House Soccer Cup. This year the competition continued in its new format with two leagues and two separate finals. Constable, Gainsborough and Munnings fought hard with some very close matches but by the end of the afternoon we had our finalists. Constable faced Munnings in both the "Red" and "Blue" final. In the Red final, the Munnings team looked to have the edge and despite some outstanding goal keeping from Thomas Morovic a single goal from Sammy Fountain saw the Munnings team win the match and the title with a score of 1-0! In the Blue final, the score was 1-1 with only a little time left when Constable finally broke the deadlock and went on to win the match and title 2-1.

#### **Inter House Netball**

To draw a close to the Netball season, the Year 5 and 6 girls enjoyed a competitive afternoon at their Inter House Netball Competition. This year, the girls split into two teams per house and arranged the positions for their first High-Five match.

Thereafter, each girl had to rotate position on the court to allow everybody to play to their strengths during the course of the afternoon. Each team played four matches (7 minutes each way) and the total points of the two teams per House were collated

to ascertain the team total. The girls played very well all afternoon, showing good skill levels and it was a real pleasure to watch a variety of abilities working together and motivating each other during the matches.

At the end of the tournament, two House's tied for second and third positions on both points and then goals scored. The final result saw Munnings finish in first place with Constable and Gainsborough finishing joint second.

A huge well done to all the girls for this event and also for the entire Netball season too.

### **Sponsored Readathon to build a Library at Olkimitare School, Kenya**

After a term of reading, the children should have completed their 4 chosen books for the 2018 Littlegarth Readathon. It is hoped that the children will now use the 3 weeks of the Easter break to collect together their sponsor money and bring it with them when we return to school for the Summer Term, giving it to the School Office. We will keep you updated regarding the total and let you know of our final contribution to the new library at Olkimitare School in Kenya. Many thanks for your cooperation and participation with this event.

### **Easter Egg Hunts**

Our children had a lovely time on Thursday hunting for a selection of patterned eggs before they were able to meet the Easter Bunny and receive 'chocolate eggs'! The weather was kind to us and many parents joined in the fun activities which was lovely to see. Thank you to the FLS for helping with the organisation.

### **Sudbury Festival**

Well done to the children who entered the Sudbury Festival this year. We will share the results of the Sudbury Festival with you in our next Newsletter but as always, our children gave some outstanding performances.

### **Fun House Multi Activity Holiday**

Our annual Multi Activity week has been extended to two weeks this year. It will take place from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Forms will be sent home after Easter but they can be downloaded from our website.

I have pleasure in attaching the draft calendar for next term. Clubs start on the first day back (Tuesday) after the holiday.

### **Official Opening of the New Classroom Building**

I am delighted that the official opening of the new building will take place on the afternoon of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May, just before the FLS Summer Fete. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend for the opening and that you will stay to join children, parents and staff for our exciting summer extravaganza which begins at 3.30 pm. There will also be a drinks reception on the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> May for all those who gave so generously at our fundraising Curry Night which took place last year. Further information on these events will follow shortly.

All the best for a relaxing Easter break. We hope that the children will return refreshed at the start of next term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter H Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter H Jones

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