



LITTLEGARTH

A truly independent school & nursery

11th May 2018

Dear Parents

NEWSLETTER 2017/18 – 12

As always, our children have been incredibly busy and judging by the number of grandparents and special friends who came along to visit us today, so have they! The weather helped to make the afternoon, with the sun shining but not so hot that we were uncomfortable. I hope you enjoy hearing about the different activities the children have been engaged in over the last few weeks.

Year 5 and 6 Residential Trips

On 24th April, Year 6 left behind a cloudy East Anglia and headed towards a warm and sunny Shropshire. I joined Mr Dawes, Mrs Rodgers and Mrs Shropshire on what was a truly memorable trip with a wide variety of activities. Our first stop was Cadbury World and, laden with chocolate, we set out for Shrewsbury which was our base for the next three days. The children enjoyed High Ropes, Enginuity (a hands-on Science exhibition) and visited a reconstructed Victorian town. They designed and made their own tiles and bricks before racing each other down the slopes of a snow dome in toboggans! Not forgetting bowling and much, much more. The trip ended with an amazing visit to the West Midlands Safari Park where we were able to see many animals close up, followed by some scary and not-so-scary rides. The Black Fly was my favourite! It was an adventure from start to finish and the Year 6 children were a credit to the school as always. I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Turner. Although she did not come with us, her work to prepare the trip ensured a highly enjoyable and safe trip for all.

Year 5 Residential - PGL

Year 5 enjoyed a fabulous residential trip to Caythorpe Court PGL in Lincolnshire. On arrival the children were introduced to Reuben our group leader, He proved to be excellent, looking after all our children with great care, attending to their every need and leading them in many boisterous and catchy, repeat-after-me songs.

The activity programme began immediately with the children taking to the lake in colourful, sporty kayaks. The children had great fun manoeuvring their kayaks around the lake before playing several games to test their paddling skills. Inevitably most participants ended up getting very wet! It then was almost time for a delicious supper. Searching for country facts and flags around the whole site occupied the young explorers after supper ensuring everyone was thoroughly exhausted by the time lights were switched off in the dorms. Amazingly, within half an hour, all was quiet, save for some gentle snoring and occasional incoherent mumbling.

The activity programme over the next two days was very busy with the boys and girls waking around 6:00 am. Our pupils shot air rifles, swung in pairs on the Giant Swing, clambered and scampered along the high ropes course, challenged themselves over the tricky Challenge Course and tried not to get lost orienteering. We thought they wouldn't have the energy or stamina for their evening entertainment but following the slide-show of all the photos taken so far, prize giving and de-brief, they were ready for a game of real-life Cluedo involving PGL staff playing the parts of witnesses and suspects.

The last morning dawned much damper and greyer than before but spirits were high and sunny. All groups enjoyed two activities after breakfast, Giant Swing or a trip round the high ropes course, the challenge course or a turn in the archery range.

The Year 5 children were fantastic and enjoyed themselves enormously. They were well behaved and made sure that they tried their hands at every activity. The staff team, ably led by Mrs Atherton with Mr Crame, Mrs Toleman and Mr Halsey supporting, all agreed that the Littlegarth pupils were well organised, well-mannered and great company to take away; absolutely no trouble at all.

Eco Schools

As a new initiative, Littlegarth has been working towards making our school more Eco friendly. The School Council meets every two weeks and has carried out an initial survey of our school and highlighted areas on which we will further develop our Eco credentials to work towards achieving the bronze award. We hope to achieve this by the end of the summer term and will keep you updated.

Ski Team

The ERSA schools race on Sunday 29th April saw Littlegarth entering four teams.

The Under 10 boys team consisting of Edward Carbutt, Alex Forshaw, Oliver Martin and Harry Tier won gold. The Under 12 boys' team with Thomas Bentley, Finn Kearney, Harry Law and Daniel Parsons came in third and against tough competition the Under 10 girls were pipped at the post to gain a podium placing and the mixed Under 12 were not able to gain a podium place either but with the majority of the team being Year 5's, the team will be back next year!

Whole School Panoramic and Class Photographs

Bentley Photographic came into school on Thursday to take our bi-annual panoramic photograph. Despite a drizzly start to the school day, the weather turned just in time. The class photos were also taken and I am sure they will serve as a lovely reminder for the children as they get older. You will receive information regarding how to order these photographs shortly.

Sudbury Festival

Twenty pupils entered the Sudbury festival in the Spring Term. It was held at the Quay Theatre in Sudbury which was a perfect venue for the occasion.

Littlegarth children excelled and amidst fierce competition, half our entrants achieved places in the top three. Everyone received commendations and the adjudicator said they were all 'winners'.

Milly Down and Molly Talbot achieved First place with their Acting Duologue 'Anne of Green Gables in a full class of acts from various schools across the region. They were asked to perform at the Sudbury Festival Concert too. Georgina Lilley and Poppy Waugh achieved 2nd place with their Acting Duologue, 'Old Fashioned Girl'.

A list of results is attached which show the level the children reached against some tough opposition. Congratulations to all the Littlegarth children who took part.

Ballet and Music Results

A number of our children have recently taken part in the Sudbury Festival, ballet exams and music exams. They have all had fantastic results and these can be found on the attached sheet. Some superb performances by all – well done!

Year 6 Reunion

We were delighted to see 2017 leavers last night when they all came back for the reunion event. Nearly 80 former pupils and their parents joined Prep staff for the evening. The children enjoyed their visit but were very envious of our special new facilities.

We were lucky with the weather even though it was a little chillier than it has been during the previous few days. Children, parents and staff were able to enjoy a hot dog and a drink whilst catching up on their new experiences and reminiscing about previous ones.

As always, the evening was a huge success.

Grandparents Day

We seem to be hitting records each year with the number of grandparents and special friends who attend this event. Last year we had 290 visitors whereas this year we catered for 320.

Our visitors were treated to a concert before being taken on a tour of the school which lasted slightly longer so that the new building could be admired in its entirety. It is one of the highlights of the term for the children and for our visitors, especially when the Sports Hall is transformed into a tea room with tea and cake made by our own kitchen, staff and is surely fit for any tea room in the country.

This year we also had the wonderful cake stall initiated by our very special Lizzie Bramall. We will let you know how much she and her enthusiastic helpers made for Lizzie's chosen charities as soon as we have a figure. I would like to thank all the staff who work so hard to make the event run smoothly and successfully.

Summer Fete and Opening of the New Classroom Building

Thank you to all parents who have already volunteered to help at the Summer Fete on Friday 25th May. More help is needed so please contact your class representative if you can spare the time. The FLS would also be grateful for cakes and tombola gifts.

The classroom building will be officially opened at 3.00 pm that afternoon. You are all invited to join us for a celebratory drink and we shall be writing to you with more details next week. We hope that you will also stay and enjoy our wonderful fete, the climax to an exciting and successful half term.

Yours sincerely



Peter H Jones