



**LITTLEGARTH**

*A truly independent school & nursery*

15<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parents

### **NEWSLETTER 2017/18 – 14**

I hope you all had a lovely half term week and although this is a short term, the children have still been incredibly busy and will continue to be so for the remaining three weeks of term. I hope that they will all enjoy the many activities on offer and I am sure that they will finish the year on a high.

Here is a round up of recent events and those we still have to look forward to.

#### **Official Opening of the New Build**

Seventy invited visitors joined us for the official opening of the new building. Thank you to all the parents, friends and children who were able to come along. Mr Erith and Revd Woods, two of the first pupils of Littlegarth School, reminisced about their time at the school including a recollection from Mr Erith of seeing the aeroplanes flying over during the Second World War. Revd Woods then led us in a prayer of dedication before the ceremonial ribbon was cut.

The Year 6 children took our guests on tours of the new building at the end of the official ceremony and the guests were impressed with the quality of the building and the confidence of the children who acted as tour guides.

The excitement of the afternoon continued with the Summer Fete before we finished for half term.

#### **Summer Fete**

Last year it was our School Inspection that took things close to the wire for the summer fete and this year it was the weather!

The FLS Committee once again worked tirelessly and a team of volunteers set up during the day whilst we all had our fingers crossed for an improvement in the weather. We were very lucky and the fete went ahead amidst great excitement from the children.

I was delighted that some of our guests from the official opening of the new build were able to join us; all of whom commented on what a great event it was. The fete was a huge success and I am delighted to report that around £3,000 was raised for the school.

Thank you to all who did so much to provide such an exciting event for the children.

### **Friends of Littlegarth School**

As we approach the end of another academic year I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have given so much time and effort to put on our amazing FLS events.

Many of the Year 6 parents have served on the committee for years and we shall certainly miss their strength and enthusiasm. Particular thanks must go to Mrs Sam Parsons who has Chaired the FLS with such enthusiasm for the past three years and for all the hard work that she has done on behalf of FLS for the past twelve years. This year the FLS have provided record braking events that have been such fun to attend. Thank you.

### **Year 6 St Helena Hospice £10 Challenge**

Following the success of last year's Year 6 £10 Challenge for St Helena Hospice, our current Year 6 group will be taking up the challenge this year. The children have been put into groups and are working both individually and together to raise as much money as they can for this very worthwhile cause.

6D will have been be running stalls today from 3.30 pm and on 29<sup>th</sup> June it will be the turn of 6S as part of their challenge.

We wish the children every success as they work hard to support the Hospice.

### **Year 4 Flatford Mill Visit**

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, the Year 4 children enjoyed a field trip to Flatford Mill near East Bergholt where they studied freshwater and woodland habitats. They estimated the heights of trees, did leaf and bark rubbings, and captured small invertebrates from the leaves and branches of the trees using special nets and "pooters". They also played a game involving feeling a tree whilst blindfolded and then later trying to find the same tree having been led away from it. The children had a delightful day exploring and spending time in the beautiful Constable countryside.

### **Year 2 Little Horkesley Church**

On 7<sup>th</sup> June Year 2 children visited Little Horkesley Church. They were welcomed by Revd John Chandler and the Church Warden and Organist, Mrs Sparkes. The children all enjoyed a guided tour around the church and on their way were encouraged to draw pictures of some of the main features and symbols in a Christian church. A huge thank you to all the parent helpers who assisted on the trip and to Revd John Chandler and Mrs Sparkes, who made it so exciting and even allowed the children to play the organ.

### **Year 3 Sutton Hoo**

Year 3 visited the National Trust site at Sutton Hoo on a lovely, hot sunny day.

Three main activities were on the agenda for the day and these were; a bespoke tour of the burial mounds (including standing exactly where King Raedwald was discovered) and seeing a 'sand body'! They were also given the chance to become 'Basil Browns' in a sand archaeological dig. Harry Fordham found a Toyota car key fob and Medha Annam dug up a dinosaur tooth! Our final activity was a tour of the Sutton Hoo Museum, including a film of how the site was started, a chance to see copies of the amazing jewellery and weapons and a model of the tomb of King Raedwald. Year 3 had a superb lunch overlooking the River Deben and a chance to play on the Sutton Hoo adventure playground. A visit to the National Trust shop capped a wonderful visit!

### **ISA Regional Athletics, Garons Park**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 33 children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 travelled to Garon Park in Southend to compete in the Regional ISA Junior Athletics Championships. They performed spectacularly throughout the day, not only within their specific event but also whilst waiting for their time to compete.

We are yet to receive the breakdown of results to tell us where each individual year group came in the competition but we do know that Littlegarth came 3rd out of 18 schools, missing out on 2nd place by just 2 points.

All the children performed brilliantly but special mention has to go to Maddison Collis, Zak Troman, Finn Kearney, Lyla Belshaw, Archie Ball, Henry Rutland and Oliver Martin who all qualified for the National finals which will take place in Birmingham on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Well done to all of you, we are so proud!

### **New Parents' Coffee Morning**

New Reception parents had the chance to meet one another and also hear a talk about life in Reception at the recent coffee morning. Meanwhile, their children had a wonderful time, enjoying a range of indoor and outdoor activities.

### **Wine and Canapés Evening**

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our Wine and Canapés evening next Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June and thank you to the many parents who have replied. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and I am delighted that Miss Mansell, our new Reception teacher will be joining us.

You will be notified of the class movements on Monday.

### **Year 6 Assembly and Production**

Year 6 will present their Leavers' Assembly on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June. This is an occasion where the children enjoy looking back on their time at Littlegarth and there isn't usually a dry eye in the house. This is the first of a number of activities that our Year 6 leavers will experience during their final weeks with us.

Final rehearsals are taking place for the Year 6 Production of Alice in Wonderland which takes place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June. The Leavers' Dinner is on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The last two weeks for our Year 6 children are extremely busy but what a great way to leave Littlegarth and add to their fond memories.

### **Sports Days**

It seems no time at all since we were standing trackside cheering on the children at last year's Sports Day. This year events are scheduled to take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Prep sports day starts at 9.00 am followed by Pre-Prep at 1.30 pm. Nursery Sports Day takes place the following Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June starting at 2.00 pm. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to come along to support your children as they compete with friends for the coveted House Shield or the Gold Stickers!

### **Cross Curricular Day**

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June we will be holding our annual Cross Curricular day. The theme this year is the Asian Continent.

It is a wonderful way for the children to absorb different subjects in a more hands on and enjoyable way and for all the year groups to work together.

We will send a reminder closer to the time but please could children come to school in their PE kit for this day.

## **Year 5 and 6 Inter House Matches – Cricket and Rounders**

The Inter House Cricket and Rounders matches will take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June starting at 2.00 pm. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

## **Pre-Prep Fun Day**

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July all of the Pre-Prep will be involved in the Fun Day. They will take part in lots of team building activities and games and as such, please could you ensure your child comes to school dressed in their PE kit.

## **Summer Concert**

All children who are performing in the Summer Concert will be receiving a letter from Mrs Pashby. This is the highlight of our musical year and we hope that as many of you as possible will join us to celebrate the achievements of our children and to listen to the wonderful sounds they are able to make. The Summer Concert takes place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July commencing at 2.00 pm.

## **Fun House and other Summer Courses**

Our Summer Fun House is running for two weeks this year from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August. You can book for either week or both. There are still some places available but please return forms as soon as possible.

Another course running is Multi Sports from Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August between 9.00 am and 2.00 pm and is for children currently in Years 2 to 6. Further information will be sent home with your child shortly.

Following an excellent Easter Film School at Littlegarth, The Offshoot Foundation are again offering a 4 day film making workshop during the 2018 Summer holidays at Littlegarth School.

If your child is a budding filmmaker, enjoys editing and acting, this workshop is perfect for them. Your child will learn how to make a film and work in small groups to produce, write, act, film and edit their very own film. They will then screen their films on the last day at a special screening just for you. A minimum of 16 children need to be attending for it to run up to a maximum of 30.

This course will run from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm each day and the cost of the workshop is £150 for the 4 days

To sign up to this workshop please contact Paul Press on 01787 370378 or [admin@theoffshootfoundation.org](mailto:admin@theoffshootfoundation.org) to book your place.

## **Speech Day**

Just a reminder that our annual Speech Day and Prize Giving will be held in the Sports Hall on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July, beginning at 10.30 am. I anticipate that the proceedings will finish at about 12.00 noon. Afterwards, children will return to their classrooms to collect their reports and belongings, and come out to meet their parents beside the car park in the usual way. **Term finishes at 12 noon.**

Please could children arrive by 10.00 am and go to their classrooms. Staff will not be on duty before this time and there will be **no Early Birds Club** as staff will be preparing for Speech Day. The Nursery will be open for those children who normally attend on a Friday morning session, with the Nursery also closing at 12.00 noon. Tea and coffee will be available for parents from 10.00 to 10.15 am in the Dining Room.

As we have done for the last two years on Speech Day, we will be reserving seats for the parents of Year 6 children at the front of the Sports Hall (a maximum of 2 per family). Any other guests are welcome to attend but there will be no reserved places for them.

Please ensure that your child is wearing school uniform, including blazers, but jumpers are not necessary in the Sports Hall, as it may be warm.

If you are uncertain about any aspect of the programme of events, please do not hesitate to ask.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and I look forward to meeting you at the various events taking place at school in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

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

Peter H Jones