



6th July 2018

Dear Parents

NEWSLETTER 2017/18-15

Yet another year has gone by and we have just said goodbye to our Year 6 children as they embark on their new adventures.

Our special guest was Hannah Stodel, a local sporting hero who is a four time world champion and a three times Paralympian sailor. The theme of this year's Prize Giving celebrations was, 'Be the best that you can be' and Hannah has embodied that principle as she has overcome so many difficulties to achieve her various goals. The children were inspired by her words and we look forward to following her as she embarks on her next challenge which is The Vendee Globe, nicknamed the 'Everest of the Seas'. For more information, please visit her website at:

www.hannahstodelracing.com

Following her inspirational speech, if anyone is interested in sponsoring her world record attempt at sailing around the world single handed in 2020, please contact Hannah through her website or let me know.

Richard Stone, who spoke at Speech Day last year, contacted us about his son who was an ex-Littlegarth child (he was at Speech Day). William was assessed as dyslexic whilst he was with us, as you may remember. Through tremendous hard work, talent and enthusiasm he has just gained a Masters Degree with Distinction in the History of Art from Oxford University.

Lizzie's Cake Sale and Fundraising

As I mentioned earlier, Lizzie has already raised a phenomenal £5,000 for her three chosen charities, Great Ormond Street Hospital, The Brain Tumour Charity and Cancer Research. If you would like to help Lizzie increase her total even further, then please visit her Justgiving Page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sally-bramall3>

Congratulations Lizzie on an excellent total so far!

Mrs Bennett

After ten very happy and successful years at Littlegarth, Mrs Bennett has decided that it is time to step down and spend more time at home with her family. Mrs Bennett started as Head of Nursery at Littlegarth and brought with her many new ideas and initiatives. After three years she took over as Head of Pre-Prep and Early Years and moved to teach Reception. During her time in charge, she has worked extremely hard to raise standards and it is no accident that that our two most recent inspection reports for Early Years show that Littlegarth has achieved the highest grade of Excellent across all aspects of the education provided. Mrs Bennett's first Reception class was our current 6S class and it is fitting that she and her happy 6S crew are moving on together. We wish her every success and much happiness for the future.

Wine and Canapés Evening

Thank you to all the parents who came along to the Wine and Canapés evening on the 19th June. The teachers enjoyed meeting parents and it was a great opportunity to welcome our new staff member Miss Mansell who will be taking over from Mrs Bennett. This is an annual event for all parents and I hope you will be able to join us next year.

ISA Athletics Nationals

On Tuesday 19th June, seven Littlegarth pupils went the ISA National Athletics championships to represent East Anglia and compete against the best athletes in the country across a range of events. There was strong competition in the Alexander Stadium but our pupils kept their cool and performed brilliantly. Huge congratulations to Zak Troman, Finn Kearney, Henry Rutland and Oliver Martin for competing so well and to our medal winners Archie Ball (bronze in the long jump), Maddison Collis (silver in the shot) and special mention to Lyla Belshaw who achieved the exact same time as the third place runner in the 600m but photo-finish technology placed her 4th. An amazing day for competitors and spectators and we are all looking forward to taking more aspiring athletes to Birmingham for next year's competition.

St Helena Hospice £10 Challenge

The Year 6 children have been working extremely hard to raise funds for the St Helena Hospice £10 Challenge and each of the six teams can be extremely proud of the amount of money raised. The children have washed cars, mown lawns, taken part in bag packing and cake sales, they have run stalls and initiated sponsored events. One entrepreneurial boy, Harry Law, even organised his own Rock Concert which raised a huge amount of money. This is the second time that Littlegarth School has been invited to take part in this event and we feel that it has been a huge success. It has helped Year 6 to focus on the needs of others and has appealed to the entrepreneurial instincts of many! Dragon's Den watch out! I am delighted to announce that the winning team in this year's challenge was the Hospice Heroes and that the final amount raised by our wonderful group of 39 Year 6 children was £5,500. What an achievement and well done to all our Year 6 leavers.

Sports Day

This is without doubt the highlight of the sporting calendar.

The morning saw our Prep pupils compete in a whole host of track and field events from the challenge of the high jump to the endurance of the 600metres. With the sun shining, pupils competed to gain points for both their Houses. It was a great morning of sport, played as always in a respectful but spirited manner. Although a very close contest, Munnings were crowned 2018 Champions!

Gold, silver and bronze stickers were the order of the afternoon as our Pre-Prep pupils took to the sports field. Like our Prep pupils, the Pre-Prep took part in a host of activities in an attempt to win as many prize stickers as possible! This is an enjoyable afternoon of sport

and there were some fantastic performances which bodes well for the future sporting success of the school. Who will be the stars of the future?

News from the Nursery

The Nursery have had an extremely busy time during the penultimate week of term. Their class assembly was all about the importance of helping to protect our environment, especially the oceans and sea life. The children were captivated after watching film footage from The Blue Planet and a host of other clips which included fish tangled up in all the plastic rubbish dumped into our seas.

The Nursery children gave our specially made cotton bags to the current Year Six children as a reminder to avoid using plastic carrier bags in the future.

The Nursery children subsequently delivered bags to each class in the school.

Nursery Sports Day was a great success being held on the back lawn for the first time, where the children participated in a variety of team games under the guidance of Mr Rob Fidler and Mr Keith Dawes.

The FLS did a fantastic job of serving much needed refreshments to all on such a hot, sunny and happy occasion.

Mr Jones presented each child with a much deserved medal and Mrs Morey took some fabulous photographs that will be shared on the school website.

Once again, thank you to everyone who helped make these events enjoyable, but most of all to the parents who have supported us throughout the year.

Cross Curricular Day

On Monday 25th June the children enjoyed a successful cross-curricular day with an Asian theme. Years 3 to 6 learned of the problems faced by the Bangladeshi people due to annual flooding and built models of flood-resistant houses. They also learned the significance of Mehndi body art and created their own designs from the authentic symbols used.

Furthermore, the children sampled a number of delicious Asian foods and played cricket.

The sun was blazing for Cross-Curricular day but that did not stop the Pre-Prep children from imagining they were in rainy conditions as they explored the Noah's Ark story. The children rotated around different classrooms as they experimented with floating and sinking and made masks to act out the story. They also produced a giant collage of the ark which the children proudly displayed in the Year One garden for everyone walking past to admire. The day culminated in the children gathering together to sing 'The Animals Went in Two by Two'.

Leavers and Class Assemblies

Where does time go? It only seems like yesterday that our Year 6 pupils were performing their Reception Christmas nativity and now they are preparing for the challenges of senior school. In this, their final assembly, the theme of time was continued, as Doctor Who in his many forms, travelled through the key moments in the lives of our Year 6 at Littlegarth. Mrs Bennett was particularly touched by the curly blond wig that was worn by the child who represented on stage! It was lovely to reflect on all that had passed and the incredible individuals they have become.

Reception retold the story of Handa Surprise and showed their pictures portraying this. The book is set in Kenya and is about a little girl who takes seven different fruits to her friend. As she walks to her friend, all the animals take the fruits out one by one but she eventually comes across a goat who tugs itself free and as he does so he bangs into the tangerine tree. The tangerines fall into the basket and fill it up with what turns out to be her friend's favourite fruit. As part of their African project, they made African Masks and were taught an African dance which they shared with everyone.

Year 5 Kentwell Visit

Throughout Year 5, our pupils have been studying the Tudor time period. Looking at the turbulent life of Henry VIII and at the life of 'normal' people from the period, a fantastic year was brought to an end when our Year 5 pupils stepped back in time at Kentwell Hall. Spending the day dressed in clothes from the period and experiencing everything Tudor from music, dance, craft and food, the pupils put all they have learnt into practice. It was a great day, which truly brought their learning to life.

Year 2 Visit to the Zoo

On Wednesday, 27th June, Year 2 had a wonderful trip to Colchester Zoo. The children were split into two large groups for the Educational Talk on camouflage and habitats. We found out why all animals use colour in some way. Most animals use it for camouflage but it can be used for displays and warnings too.

After a delicious packed lunch we were able to explore the rest of the zoo and visit our favourite animals. We visited 'The Edge of Africa' and saw the elephant and giraffe paddocks and later we boarded the Madagascar Express train to visit the lemur enclosure and the bright pink flamingos. All the children and adult helpers had a marvellous day exploring the zoo and all deserved an ice-cream before catching the bus home back to school.

Pre-Prep Fun Day

The Pre-Prep enjoyed their Fun Day on Monday 2nd July. They were arranged into groups of children from each of the Pre-Prep classes so that they had the opportunity to work with children of different ages. It was lovely to see the older children helping the younger ones with the various challenges they encountered. Some splendid sand castles were constructed and the obstacle course was mastered by all. The water games provided a welcome opportunity to cool down and everyone was very happy to receive a refreshing ice lolly at the end of the day.

Year 6 Production

Year 6 gave us a fabulous finale to their time at Littlegarth with a fantastic performance of Alice the Musical. Each child, without exception, performed their hearts out, singing, dancing and acting their way through a wonderful show. After a term of preparation and hours of rehearsals they thoroughly deserved the rapturous applause received from their proud families and friends!

Year 6 Leavers' Dinner

Cameras clicked as Year 6 returned to school last Monday evening in smart attire for their special Leavers' Dinner. Parents joined staff on the back lawn for drinks before the children were seated ready to enjoy a lovely three course meal prepared by our very own catering staff. The splendid occasion was rounded off by an entertaining speech from the Head prefects and a toast proposed by Mr Jones.

Summer Concert

The Summer concert took place on Tuesday 3rd July and was a wonderful celebration of the childrens' musical achievements this year. The concert began with the Orchestra playing Pachelbels Canon and was followed by a wide variety of ensembles and soloists representing each musical family. The massed choirs of Year Three and Four children sang with passion and an infectious enthusiasm. The Percussion ensemble performed a rousing rendition of Mission Impossible, and music from other films such as Jurassic Park, La La Land and The Greatest Showman were performed throughout the afternoon. Harry Law performed a song which he had written and dedicated to Littlegarth, which certainly got our emotions stirring and the afternoon concluded with a performance of This is Me by the Senior Choir. A huge well done to all the children involved - a lovely way to round off the year.

Speech and Drama and Music Results

Our children have taken part in year end Speech and Drama exams which have gone exceptionally well. We have also had a number of children take part in music exams and they too have been outstanding. A summary of these results is attached.

Uniform

We have had a number of issues this past academic year with children taking another child's bag home by mistake. If a bag or item of clothing comes home that does not belong to your child, please could you ensure that the bag is taken to the office so we can contact the parents of the child to whom the bag belongs

Thank you

Finally, I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to all who have done so much to make this such an exciting and eventful year. To the governors who have help guide us so thoughtfully, to the staff who have created such a stimulating learning environment and have worked tirelessly for the benefit of the children, to the parents who have been so supportive and encouraging and to the children who shown us through their efforts and enthusiasm just how special they are. I wish all those who are leaving Littlegarth every success for the future I hope that you all have a wonderful summer and I look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Yours sincerely



Peter H Jones