



LITTLEGARTH

A truly independent school & nursery

28th September 2018

Dear Parents

NEWSLETTER 2018/19 – 2

The children have entered the first stage of the school year with gusto and seem to be enjoying every minute which is how it should be!

Dad's Charity Football Match – today at AFC Sudbury

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to support the Dad's Charity Football match at the AFC Sudbury Football Club ground tonight. Doors open at 5.30 pm when you will be allowed on the pitch (clean boots/studs only though please). Kick off is at 6.30 pm There will be hot food, refreshments and a licensed bar available.

All proceeds from the match and the raffle tickets will be donated to The Brain Tumour Charity. Thank you so much for your support so far and I hope as many of you as possible can join us later.

Teddy Bears' Picnic

We had a lovely time at our annual picnic, getting to know all our new parents, grandparents and children. The children seemed to enjoy the theme of 'fairies and elves' and wore some amazing costumes! With a little help from parents and teachers, they participated in some lovely magical art and craft activities, many of which were provided by the FLS.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the event such a success, not least the kitchen staff for making such delicious cakes.

Reception Outing

Reception had a wonderful trip to Boydells Farm on Tuesday. They started their tour by having the opportunity to milk the cow 'Ginger'. They fed the goats, llamas, horses and chickens, watched Farmer Riley as he was chased by the pigs, petted a baby lamb, brushed the pony, cuddled kittens and even took a rabbit for a walk. All of the children and adult helpers had a marvellous day exploring the farm.

Year 1 Outing to Hedingham Castle

The Year 1 outing to Hedingham Castle took place on Wednesday. They were extremely lucky with the weather as the sun shone all day.

Whilst at the Castle the children met a range of people who might have lived in the castle when it was built. They included an Archer, Monk, Soldier, Musicians and the Lady of the Castle.

The jousting was once again particularly popular with the children. They used little lances to pick items up and whoever was the first to touch the shield at the end with the lance was declared the winner. Miss Smith confessed to being beaten by Matilda in her jousting race!

Although they had lots of fun, the children learnt lots about Castle life as part of their history work.

Littlegarth School Day of Languages

The day started with a special assembly themed on breakfast around the world. The children took part in a quiz where they guessed where certain breakfasts came from.

A special thank you to Lukas Karlsson (5R), Ben Wheeler (6S) and Elspeth Robinson (6D) for sharing poems with us in Swedish, French and Spanish. Our assembly was followed by a delicious French *petit déjeuner*.

Throughout the day, the children in Years 1 to 6 took part in Japanese taster sessions. We looked at how Japanese is spoken and written with the children trying their hand at writing Kanji using calligraphy pens.

The children and staff enjoyed the day and I hope it explains why some children were trying to converse in Japanese when they got home!

Sponsored Walk for The Brain Tumour Charity

On Wednesday 24th October we are holding our annual whole school sponsored event to raise money for The Brain Tumour Charity. It is hoped that the children will work together to raise significant funds for this worthwhile cause. A letter with details of the day and a sponsor form will be sent home with the children early next week. In addition to this, a stall selling cakes, sweets, toys, cards and gifts will be located outside the Library between 3.00 pm and 4.40 pm on the same day. This will not interrupt the running of the Inter-house matches that are due to take place on the school field in the afternoon.

Nut Policy

This is just to remind parents that our school has a 'no nut policy'. We have some children in our school who have a serious nut allergy which could lead to a severe reaction if they even touch something that has previously been touched by an individual who has handled nuts. As ever, we appreciate your consideration in relation to this very important health and safety matter.

Harvest Festival

Pupils are kindly asked to bring in non-perishable food products to help celebrate Harvest Festival in our special assembly on Thursday 11th October. These gifts will be donated to the Salvation Army that does so much to help the homeless and needy in the Colchester area.

Open Morning

Our Autumn Term Open Morning will be held on Friday 5th October from 10.00am – 12.00 noon. If you know of any families that might be interested in sending their children to Littlegarth, please let them know about this event or ask them to contact the school at their convenience. We have received a number of very positive enquiries in recent weeks and I would urge those families that might not have registered siblings to do so as soon as possible.

Nursery Stay and Play Week

Parents of Upper Nursery are invited to join their children between 8.40 am and 9.40 am on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th October. Lower Nursery parents are invited in on Wednesday 10th October. We hope you will be able to come along and see some of the activities your children take part in.

Individual School Photographs

These will take place on Thursday 11th October so that families have the photographs in time to provide extended family members with some delightful Christmas smiles! I am sure that the children will make a special effort to look as well presented as possible for this special event.

Cards for Christmas

Congratulations to Isabelle Pashby in 3T whose delightful design for last year's Christmas card has been chosen by The Dandy Arthouse to be one of their inspirational designs for this year's Christmas cards in their promotional material for schools.

Your children will soon be designing this year's cards in order to process them in time for Christmas. Any commission made from sales of cards or merchandise with your child's artwork on it will be donated to The Brain Tumour Charity.

Ballet and Music Exam Results

A number of our children sat their exams last term and were successful. The results are attached to this Newsletter. Well done to you all.

If your child learns an instrument outside School, please let the School Office know if they have passed an exam so that we can include their results and celebrate their achievements.

Sickness

We have noticed a pattern of children being absent this week with a tummy bug and sickness. Please may I remind parents that a period of 48 hours should elapse from the last episode before they come back into School. This is for the benefit of your child but also for the other children and staff. Thank you.

Parent Workshops

The core subject workshops have begun with Year 4 and 3 this week. All other year groups have been scheduled and you should have received a letter inviting you along. We believe strongly that encouraging a good working relationship between school and home can only be to everyone's benefit. You will not only gain an insight into methods used but you will also learn some useful ideas for supporting your child's learning. We look forward to welcoming you.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings also take place soon and appointments can be made through the School Office.

Year 4 Parents' Evening is on Tuesday 16th October

Pre-Prep and Year 3 on Tuesday 23rd October or Tuesday 6th November

Year 6 on Wednesday 7th November

Year 5 on Thursday 15th November

Lower & Upper Nursery on Wednesday 14th or Thursday 15th November

The evenings for Reception to Year 3 involve a fifteen minute appointment with the Form Teacher to discuss how your child has settled into the new academic year and how they are progressing. The Learning Support teachers are also available should you wish to see them. Years 4 to 6 will involve 5 minute appointments with the core subject teachers. Parents also have the chance to meet with the other specialist subject teachers and Learning Support staff during the evening. We look forward to seeing you there.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to welcoming you back when we will already be into October.

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