



LITTLE GARTH

A truly independent school & nursery

19th October 2018

Dear Parents

NEWSLETTER 2018/19 – 3

This time of year is always so full of colour and our days at school are no different. The children have made an excellent start to the academic year and many of our Year 6 children have experienced or are about to approach entrance exams to senior schools. We wish them all the very best and are proud of the way that they are all working so hard.

I hope that you enjoy reading about some of the highlights of the term so far.

Dad's Charity Football Match

The evening was a great success and all the members of both teams threw themselves into the match; we even had one highly enthusiastic player sent to hospital where his head had to be glued to maintain his good looks!

I would like to thank Mrs Boorman for organising the raffle and prizes and all the parents who helped to sell raffle tickets every day in the week leading up to the charity match, Mr Crame, Miss Ging, Mrs Shropshire and Mrs Toleman who all helped on the evening of the event and of course to all the players and those who came along to support. I would especially like to thank Mr Fidler for all his work in organising the event on top of his normal duties.

A fantastic £2092.60 was raised for The Brain Tumour Charity and will be forwarded to Lizzie Bramall to support her outstanding fundraising efforts. Thank you again all for your support.

Poetry Day

The theme of this year's National Poetry Day was 'Change' and every child from Reception through to Year 6 experienced a variety of poems in their English lessons. In assembly Year 1 performed a wonderful poem about the four different seasons and members of Year 2 shared their class poems. 3T treated us to a poem about the changes the Romans had made to our countryside and way of life, and volunteers from 3R shared their individual poems with us. Year 4 wrote descriptive poems about the physical changes the seasons have on the School grounds and Year 5 performed class poems about the changes that they have experienced in their lives so far. Year 6 worked together to produce metaphorical poems about the effect change can have on them and each child read their own line to create an atmospheric effect.

In the library Mrs Jasinski showed many of the children how poems can be performed rather than just read by displaying lots of different poetry books for the children to enjoy, learn and perform from themselves.

Harvest Festival

As always Littlegarth parents, children and staff delivered enough to fill not only Mrs Lyons' car but mine too! The Littlegarth community is always extremely generous when it comes to supporting local causes and we were delighted to hear from the Colchester Food Bank who rang to say that they had received 282 kilos in addition to what the Salvation Army was able to distribute themselves

In preparation for our assembly Mrs Watson and her team from gardening club decorated the table with some delightful produce that had been grown from small plants in the School Vegetable Garden this year. The children work so hard each week and we have enjoyed a range of vegetables with our various School lunches since our return in September.

ISA Regional U9 Football

This is the first time the ISA have held an event for Under 9 pupils. Traveling to Alleyn Court School, the team played their way through the group stage into the semi-finals. A 1-0 win in the semi-final saw the team book their place in the final against the only other unbeaten team from the day, Ursuline Prep School, Brentwood. A 0-0 draw took the game to a penalty shoot-out. Still in dead lock, the game moved into sudden death. It was very tense but we are delighted to announce that the team were victorious! The Under 9 "A" team is the first team to win the Under 9 ISA football tournament and should be incredibly proud of their achievement.

ISA Regional Swimming

We are thrilled to announce that our School swimming team has won the ISA East Anglian Junior Swimming Gala for the 14th Year running! On Wednesday 17th October we took 29 children to Crown Pools in Ipswich to compete at the gala. The atmosphere at the event was electric, with everybody cheering on the individual swimmers from their school. We had some fantastic results and we are excited that four of our swimmers have qualified for the Nationals which is to be held on Saturday 1st December at the Olympic Pool, London. We wish them lots of luck and we would like to say a huge 'Well done' to all of our swimmers for another fantastic achievement this week. A list of the results can be found on our website.

Reading

We have a recommended reading list for each year group. The information you need can be found on the 'key information' page of the Parents' section:

<http://www.littlegarth.essex.sch.uk/parents/key-information/>

Year 2 Outing to Daws Hall

Year 2 had a fantastic day at Daws Hall Nature Reserve. The children learnt about different habitats at the nature reserve before exploring some different habitats in the arboretum, and they were thrilled to watch a mouse return to its natural habitat after being kept safe overnight in "mouse hotel".

2L went off to try some pond dipping and stream dipping. They discovered and recorded many different species of mini beasts and fish in the pond but not so many in the stream. While they were doing this, 2C went off on a camouflage trail and then went in search of various mini beasts in a woodland habitat. After some lunch in the arboretum the classes swapped activities. The children learnt so much about habitats and it was a really fun and beautifully sunny day. As always a huge thank you to the parents who were able to come along and share the day and help.

Nursery News

Thank you to all the parents who kindly came to our Stay and Play last week. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents this time. The children love showing you their work and it was a great opportunity for parents to meet one another, especially the dads!

Year 5 Visit to the Europa Centre

Following lots of oral work this half term Year 5 went on a trip to the Europa Centre, a 'French village', where the children put their French skills to the test.

The children visited a variety of shops that you would expect to find such as la boulangerie, l' épicerie, la charcuterie and la pharmacie.

The native speakers at the Europa Centre come from different French speaking countries, and the children enjoyed finding out more about the Francophone world.

One of the highlights of the day was our visit to the café where the children ordered themselves an authentic French snack.

Year 6 Virtual Reality Experience

We are very excited to be welcoming Mr Taylor on Monday 22nd October for exciting Virtual Reality workshops with our Year 6 children. There will be a schedule for the children and Mr Pashby will share this with the children during assembly on Monday.

They will have the opportunity to play with 3D printing and Google Cardboard (for those like me who did not know what this is, it is worth searching online)!

I am looking forward to telling you more about it in our next newsletter.

Parent Workshops and Parent Evenings

Parental feedback from the recent workshops has been very positive and we hope that you have all found the events useful. We are continually seeking to improve our provision and so if you feel that there is some further information that you would have found useful do please let us know.

A reminder that Parents' Evenings are coming up after half term so please book your appointment time if you have not already done so.

Sponsored 'Twilight' Walk

Our Sponsored 'Twilight' Walk in support of Lizzie Bramall's chosen charity, The Brain Tumour Charity, will be taking place this coming Wednesday. Children will be required to come to school in their full PE kit and it is essential they bring a change of footwear as the field in which they are walking will be muddy. Please help your children collect lots and lots of sponsors on their forms to help us as a school to raise as much as we can for this worthwhile cause. At the end of the School day there will be a stall selling cakes and gifts outside the Sports Hall and all the money raised from sales will be added to our total fundraising on the day.

Year 5 & 6 Inter House Rugby and Hockey

Wednesday 24th October, 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

The children are very excited to be competing for their House next Wednesday afternoon in our annual Inter-House Rugby and Hockey Tournaments. Please feel free to come and support your child and cheer on the different Houses! The FLS will be selling refreshments during the afternoon. We look forward to seeing you there.

Half Term Soccer Course

Mr Fidler is running a half term soccer course on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th October between 9.00 am and 2.00 pm. It is for children in Years 2 to 6 and all are welcome to join us. The cost is £49.00 for the two days, and for those who have Childcare Vouchers these can be used to pay for holiday activities.

Cross Country

After half term (week beginning 5th November) the children will be taking part in cross-country in their PE lessons. There are three different cross-country courses which cater for all abilities, and each child will strive to challenge themselves on the course of their choice. Please could you ensure that after half term your child has either a pair of football boots or equivalent with studs OR a pair of old trainers that will get muddy. **Please can they also bring a spare pair of socks and a carrier bag to put their muddy shoes in after the lesson.** No wellies or slip on trainers please.

Information has already been sent through our Parent Mail system but should you require information on the day your child will be participating and/or regarding the kit required, please speak to a member of the PE staff.

MUFTI Day and FLS Bonfire and Firework Night.

Mufti Day on Friday 9th November is in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity. Children do need to be suitably dressed for the Bonfire and Firework evening which takes place on the same day. Tickets will not be distributed until after half term, so please do not panic if you have not received them.

In recent years we have been lucky with the weather on this special occasion so fingers crossed for a dry evening!

Winter Uniform

Children need to return to School in their Winter uniform after half term. A list of the uniform can be found on our website. The School Shop staff members are able to respond to email orders and, should you wish to contact them, their email address is: shop@littlegarth.essex.sch.uk

Please ensure that the children are in regulation uniform. We are keen to ensure that they all take significant pride in their appearance and that they wear what they are supposed to wear in School. If you are not sure about certain items of clothing please contact Mrs Jay at the School Shop. As the girls will be wearing tights after half term it is worth remembering that they will need to bring socks in for PE lessons.

Lost Property

We will be clearing the lost property area over half term as a number of items have been there for a few months. Any items not named or collected will be permanently removed. If your child has lost an item recently please could you check the lost property area before next Wednesday.

FLS Christmas Party

Following on from the success of last year's Christmas Party for the parents the FLS committee members have organised a similar event for this year. It takes place on the last of day of term which is Friday 14th December, from 8.00 pm until 1.00 am. Tickets are £30 and include a drink on arrival, buffet style food and live music, with a licensed bar available.

A considerable number of parents have already booked, as part of their class Christmas get together, but tickets are still available. Forms are available from outside the School Office.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 5th November.

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