



LITTLEGARTH

A truly independent school & nursery

14th December 2018

Dear Parents

NEWSLETTER 2018/19 – 6

Lizzie Bramall

Staff, children and parents of Littlegarth attended the funeral of Lizzie Bramall on Tuesday 4th December at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Little Horkesley. Many others will be attending our own service of celebration which will take place in the Sports Hall at Littlegarth on Thursday 17th January. This will be an occasion when we can all get together and celebrate the life and achievements of our very special Lizzie and we are hoping that many parents will join us that afternoon. Further details to follow in the New Year.

To continue our support of Lizzie's fund there are some beautiful Damsel fly charity pins outside the School Office which are being sold for a minimum donation of £2, all of which will go to Lizzie's Fund. If you would like one then please ask Mrs Toleman, Mrs Morey or Mrs McBeth. Many thanks for your continued support.

A further £301.30 was raised for Lizzie's Fund from the sale of Christmas Cards and other gift items through the Dandy Art House. Thank you.

University of Essex Creative Writing Competition

Congratulations to all our children who did so well in this competition. A number of Littlegarth children were shortlisted and at their presentation evening on Tuesday 4th December the following children received prizes:

Milly Down - Year 5 and Year 6 GOLD WINNER

Henry Price - WINNER of the Most Imaginative Setting Award

Neo Karri - SPECIAL MENTION for his original illustration

Chloe Tatum - HIGHLY COMMENDED for her original illustration

Arthur McDonald - SPECIAL MENTION for his original illustration

Keela Tudor - HIGHLY COMMENDED for the most Creative Character Award

There were over 600 entries in total so many congratulations to all the children shortlisted.

ISA National Hockey

On Thursday 22nd November our U11A Girls' Hockey team travelled to Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre at the Olympic Park, London for the annual ISA Junior National Hockey Festival. Sixteen Schools took part in the Festival and came from as far as Dorset and Lancashire! Each team played a round-robin with the other schools in their pool. Our girls played Holme Grange School, Abercorn School and Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate and were placed second in their pool, therefore moving into the "Cup" competition which involved a further three matches.

The girls' tactical awareness and passing skills were fantastic and they really played well as a team. They finished first in the pool, taking them into the final. Throughout the seven minute match our girls took as many chances on goal as they could but could not quite secure that winning goal. Despite this result our girls were overjoyed to have successfully gained 2nd place in the ISA National Hockey Festival! The girls should be exceptionally proud of their efforts and determination throughout the season and in particular throughout this festival.

ISA National Swimming

On Saturday 1st December four of our children travelled to the Olympic Pool, Stratford to compete in the ISA National Swimming Championships 2018. Harrison Brook (Year 5), Eesa Parker (Year 4), Georgia Clarke (Year 4) and Archie Tebbutt (Year 3) had all qualified at the ISA Regional Championships in October to swim for the East Anglian team. Harrison Brook competed in the Year 5 Breaststroke, Year 5 Backstroke and the Year 6 Medley Relay Team. Eesa Parker competed in the Year 4 Backstroke whilst Georgia Clarke competed in the Year 4 Freestyle Relay team. Archie Tebbutt competed in the Year 4 Individual Freestyle and the Year 4 Freestyle Relay Team. The hard working and determined approach shown by all four children certainly paid off and their results can be seen below:

Harrison Brook:	1 st in Breaststroke
	2 nd in Backstroke
	2 nd in Medley Relay
Eesa Parker:	6 th in Backstroke
Georgia Clarke:	6 th in Freestyle Relay
Archie Tebbutt:	2 nd in Freestyle Relay
	3 rd in Individual Freestyle

All four swimmers represented East Anglia and contributed to the outstanding final result of the ISA National Swimming Championships:

1st: London West
2nd: The North
3rd: East Anglia
4th: Midlands
5th: London South
6th: South West
7th: London North

Congratulations to the children and thank you for not only competing so well for Littlegarth but for East Anglia too.

Breakfast Club

Littlegarth School is considering opening its doors at 7.30 am next year if there is enough interest in our proposal to run a Breakfast Club. The approximate cost will be £6.60 per child from 7.30 – 8.40 am and breakfast will be included. Further details to follow next term. The final decision will relate to the number of families interested in taking up this opportunity.

Former Littlegarth Pupil Achieves Formula One Status

Alexander Albon started his racing career as a Year 3 pupil at Littlegarth School and next year he will have reached the pinnacle of his career so far by achieving a starting place in the Toro Rosso Formula One team for the 2019 season. Alex and his family enjoyed many years at Littlegarth and as Alex's racing career progressed, the trophies he gained as national karting champion were almost as tall as he was. The School delighted in his success then and we are all extremely proud of the fact that he has now achieved his

Formula One ambition and will be racing against his heroes next year. Congratulations Alex and we look forward to seeing you climb the Formula One rankings next year!

FLS Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar was a Nutcracker themed event with the Sports Hall transformed for our popular annual extravaganza.

As always, the children headed for the Jazzy Jars and Chocolate Tombola which always seems to be a firm favourite. There were numerous other games stalls and the craft activities were hugely popular as children moved from one activity to another. The external stalls certainly proved popular with the parents as minds turned towards Christmas shopping for family and friends. The highlight of the day was clearly the 'Lizzie's Fund' stall which sold numerous cookbooks, tea towels, gift cards and other treasures, all to raise funds to aid research into childhood brain tumours.

This term has proved to be extremely successful for the Friends of Littlegarth and I have been reliably informed that over 100 parents have helped organise events, set up, run stalls, clear up and wrap presents in recent months. We have also received numerous generous donations which have helped to make the stalls so exciting for the children and the parents. Thank you to all who have given so generously of their time and their gifts and particular thanks to Mrs Emma Boorman and her FLS committee for all their hard work and support during the term.

Christmas Productions

'The Little Owl and the Star Musical'

It was a delight to see all our Nursery children on the stage together for only the second time! They performed brilliantly singing their way through the traditional Nativity Story with a chance to show off their dancing skills as well as their singing! They all wore their costumes with pride and looked magical under the spotlights. The Nursery staff were very proud of them all.

Our Reception spectacular performance of 'Hey Ewe' retold the traditional Nativity story. The children all performed wonderfully, delighting the audience with their clear narration, fabulous acting and enthusiastic singing and dancing. We particularly enjoyed the special surprise at the end of the performance (for both the staff and children) of an impromptu snow shower.

During the afternoon the enchantment continued with the informative and entertaining 'How Christmas Came to Be' by the children of Year 1 and 2. Their acting was impressive and the costuming and staging were creative and a feast for the eyes. All the children performed beautifully and the audience left the hall smiling and humming the tunes, ready for Christmas celebrations to follow.

Thank you to all the parents for coming to watch and helping to make the whole event so enjoyable as well as raising a fantastic £1,430.32 from the retiring collections for Lizzie's Fund.

Pantomimes

The whole of the Prep School took a trip to the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday 5th December to see Sleeping Beauty. They were treated to a fabulous show with a great cast of professional actors. The School joined in with all the usual pantomime traditions and thoroughly enjoyed the sing-along to a rather different version of Heads, Shoulders Knees and Toes! Mr Halsey enjoyed a cuddle from the Dame and the whole theatre went into uproar during the chase scene when the actors went through the audience. The theatre complimented our children on their behaviour and commented how much they always enjoy Littlegarth School visiting. A lovely morning out for us all!

The Pre-Prep travelled to the Mercury Theatre in Colchester for their Panto, watching Jack and the Beanstalk. This was another excellent show which saw Jack's curiosity get the better of him and some hilarious scenes involving Jack, his mother and the cow named Day Zee!

Carol Singing

The Senior Choir visited two Care Homes this week to sing traditional carols. As always, the residents enjoyed listening to the children singing traditional carols and even joined in with a few 'old favourites'!

Christmas Concert

The list of ensembles and groups performing at this annual event continues to grow and the performances given this year were outstanding. The brass ensemble played two tunes and the whole orchestra performed Theme from Thunderbirds so well that it took me back to my childhood! The African Drumming group, Samba Band and the two Percussion Groups had us all moving to the wonderful rhythms while the String Ensemble and a Guitar Ensemble provided softer renditions of well known Christmas tunes. The various choirs were delightful and sang so well that by the time the Year 5 and 6 Choir sang Moana Medley it even brought a tear to the eye (or two)!

What a wonderful hour was enjoyed by all the children and over 200 parents, friends and family.

Musical Theatre Assembly

Our Musical Theatre Club excelled themselves in their assembly on Thursday. They presented scenes from "School of Rock", which they devised themselves, to tell the story of the musical to the audience. One of the scenes involved an audition from all the cast which was particularly well received by the younger members of the audience. The finale was a rousing rendition of "You're in the Band" which the group performed with great energy and fantastic singing. Well done to you all.

Parties

The parties started in the Nursery on Tuesday 11th December and they had a jam packed morning. The children played Pass the Parcel, made Penguin biscuits and party hats. They were very excited when Father Christmas made a visit and delivered gifts to all. The Pre-Prep party took place in the afternoon and the children loved the wide variety of games that were organised by members of FLS. Father Christmas appeared again with presents for the whole School and he was followed by Timmy Tickle who entertained all with a wonderful range of jokes and magic tricks. This really made for a very exciting day.

Our Prep children enjoyed a fun filled afternoon at their Christmas Party on Wednesday. Children took part in a Christmas Quiz, a giant dodge ball competition and made Christmas crowns and reindeer tree decorations. The afternoon finished with a Christmas Dance Off where all the children showed off their groovy moves.

Christmas Lunch

Our kitchen staff produced an outstanding Christmas lunch for the children and staff. Crackers were pulled, hats were worn and general organised frivolity followed! It was a noisy but joyful lunch time with delicious traditional Christmas fayre.

Carol Service

Our Head Girl and Head Boy welcomed a full church of children, parents and staff to this year's Carol Service at St James' Church, Nayland. The service was led by Year 6 who read a range of lessons based on the traditional Lessons and Carol service, and they also filled the church with beautiful descant sounds in many of the congregational carols.

We were also treated to songs from the Chamber Choir, Senior Choir and the Prep School Choir while a number of Year 6 children enjoyed reading the famous poem, 'Twas The Night Before Christmas'. The whole evening had a magical Christmas feel and it certainly provided us with a very special climax to our Christmas celebrations as a school community.

Thank you for your generosity in raising a further £916.36 from the retiring collection.

School Email Hacking Used to Target Parents

The School has been advised of an escalation of criminal gangs hacking into school email accounts and targeting parents of children attending independent schools in a fraud campaign.

Parents are being approached by email which appears to have originated from the school. Payment instructions for school fees are provided directing the funds to accounts under the fraudster's control. In these circumstances, it is usually the parent making the payment who will be responsible for the loss.

We therefore advise the following steps:

- Always verify an email payment request directly with the School, via the official, established contact details you have or have obtained from a trusted source e.g. phone number obtained from the School website. Be alert to unexpected fee requests
- Do not attempt to verify the instruction by replying to the email or by making contact with a phone number included in the email
- Be particularly vigilant if you are being asked to send payments to new or different bank accounts from those normally used by the School. Check for inconsistencies and grammatical errors in emails, such as a misspelt School name or a slightly different email address; these can be warning signs of fraud. Do not rely on the fact that the School email address appears to be correct

PE Kit – Spring Term

When we return in the New Year the following items of kit will be necessary for the specific sports that your child will be participating in during his/her PE lessons:

Year 2 - Cross Country - Every Wednesday (Studded boots or old trainers, spare socks and a carrier bag).

Year 3 and 4 Girls - Hockey and Cross Country (Gum shield, shin pads and studded boots or spare trainers that will get muddy)!

Year 3 and 4 Boys - Rugby and Cross Country (Gum shields and studded boots).

Year 5 and 6 Girls - Netball and Cross Country (Studded boots or spare trainers that will get muddy)!

Year 5 and 6 Boys - Football and Cross Country (Studded boots and shin pads).

Music Results

Congratulations to all the children who have passed recent exams in various musical instruments. A list of results is attached. Well done to you all!

Saturday Soccer and Half Term Courses and Easter Fun House

Saturday Soccer starts on 12th January for the Spring Term for all children in Years 2 to 6. There are still places available.

There will also be a three-day half term course in February and details for this will be sent next term.

This year we celebrate 25 years of Fun House. To mark this occasion, we are running an Easter Fun House week from 8th to 12th April 2019. Application forms for this will go out in the New Year so please look out for them.

Termly Calendar

The draft termly Calendar is attached to this Newsletter and the final copy will be sent home with your children on the first day of next term. Please check through the Calendar carefully, making a note in your own diaries of anything that applies to your child. If you are unsure then the School Office will be happy to help.

Finally, I would like to thank all the children, parents, staff and governors for all your hard work and support in recent weeks. This has been a term of mixed emotions and the highlight for me was undoubtedly the wonderful way in which the entire Littlegarth community pulled together to raise over £8,000 by walking together for Lizzie's Fund just before half term. Each child was fully committed to doing their very best for this extremely worthwhile cause. We were led in this mission by Lizzie, Sally and Mark Bramall who together have set a wonderful example with their bravery, their love and their willingness to go that extra mile for the sake of others. What better example could we seek to follow when we return to School in 2019! Our thoughts are with Lizzie's family over Christmas.

I hope that you are able to enjoy some rest over Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you back to School in January.

Yours sincerely



Peter H Jones