



Leehurst Swan School Newsletter

Issue 66



Christmas 2011

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

Although there has been very little cold weather and no snow, the unmistakable signs of Christmas are upon us. Festive decorations have appeared, the Prep choir has been on tour around Salisbury and preparations for Wassail are underway. I have already had the pleasure of the Prep Christingle service, Pre Prep Christmas Concert (the 25th since this department opened) and an excellent Key Stage 1 Concert.



Santa has visited the school and his grotto looked even more splendid than usual, thanks to an injection of funds from FOLS.



I hope as many parents, former pupils and staff as possible, will join with the school in the Carol Service in Salisbury Cathedral on Thursday 15th December at 9.30 am. It is always a most appropriate and moving way to end this term.

The term has been one of considerable progress and achievement. All Senior pupils receive a report at the end of this term and, as I have read them, I have been struck by how many pupils have worked very hard and made substantial progress. Many of the pupils should be proud of their achievements in the classroom and in their homework.

Prep pupils have also developed very well. Two Prep pupils: Stephanie Lovatt-Williams, Year 2 and Alessandra Barbour, Year 4, won first prize for their age sections in the writing competition organized by the Ten For Ten charity entitled "Missing You". This is a considerable achievement as this was a national competition with over one hundred and seventy five other schools taking part. Both girls have received certificates from Lt Col Miller of the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) and also four tickets each to the Royal British Tournament in London.



Prep pupils also completed their Eleven Plus examinations last month, probably the last year in which they will be held in November, before they move to September in 2012. We await the results in March.

Achievements have been notable in sport, as our teams have approached matches with a new determination and a promising

winning streak. A recent victory by the Senior Girls' Netball team over Rookwood School was a good achievement, but their renewed determination was even more evident in the earlier match against SWGS 'B' team which they also won. The Prep boys have had a very successful season. They won the U10 Prep School Football Tournament for the first time and have won their local matches convincingly against rival teams. The Senior runners have enjoyed considerable success in the local Cross Country Tournament with two teams finishing fourth overall.

The pupils have been active throughout this term in raising money for various charities. At the start of term, the pupils voted by an overwhelming majority for Leehurst Swan School to support Great Ormond Street Hospital, as the official school charity for the next two years. However, classes and other groups have also selected other charities to support, and at a time of recession and need I cannot recall any term in which pupils have done more to support charities and I commend them on their philanthropic attitude.

Recently all Senior pupils completed a survey about the use of mobile phones in school as a result of concerns expressed. The survey showed that the vast majority of pupils use their mobiles as intended and so the current rules remain unchanged and will be enforced rigidly where there is a need to do so. Should pupils abuse the privilege, access to their mobile phones will be withdrawn.

A child in the Pre Prep School recently asked why the Headmaster always said "Old Men" at the end of his prayers! What happened to the "Old Ladies"? Perhaps he misunderstood the reiteration of "let it be" (Amen)! So I pray that all of you, old and young, will have a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Best Wishes

Roger Leake

CHARITY NEWS

This has been an extremely busy term for fundraising and, as always, pupils and staff from Leehurst Swan have been generous with time, effort and money. The school charity for this year is Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

Admin Staff raised £71.00 for the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Our Harvest collection was a great success. We provided 56.8 kg of food for the Trussell Trust foodbank network and also contributed £155 to the Jo Benson Harvest Appeal.



Soon after the Harvest collection we collected 94 shoe boxes for the Trussell Trust to send to Bulgaria.



Pupils and staff enjoyed taking part in a Red, White and Blue day to help raise funds for injured soldiers and their families on October 10th (the tenth anniversary of the war in

Afghanistan). £237 was raised for the Ten for Ten to support Help for Heroes and the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF).



Pupils did a range of things for Children in Need – there was a charity football match, and a Year 7 cake sale raising in total over £92.

Year 2 also held a cake sale in aid of Children in Need on 18th November. Many, many thanks to the parents, grandparents and friends who helped bake the cakes. The children raised £157.

A Prep colouring competition raised over £30, also for the Trussell Trust.

Year 7 raised money for local Charities, £29 was raised from a cake sale in aid of Lucy's Days Out and over £28 for The Stars Appeal (Salisbury District Hospital).

The Prep Department have taken part in the Marie Curie Mini Pots of Care Sponsored Grow a Daffodil. Every child was given a pot, compost and a daffodil to plant. They all enjoyed seeing the compost swell up when the water was added and have been busily watching and caring for their own pot since October. Some green shoots have already been spotted.

Royal Artillery Homecoming Parade - Pupils in Year 6 helped to welcome home the 32 Regiment Royal Artillery by cheering the troops as they marched through Salisbury at their Homecoming Parade on 10th November. Pupils featured on Meridian News and in the Journal, and received many compliments for their appearance and enthusiasm. Well done and thank you to Mrs Turner and Miss Victoria Turner who accompanied Mrs Bayliss.



Remembrance - Pupils in Year 6 took part in a moving Remembrance Assembly on 9th November and pupils from KS1 to Year 11 took part in a whole school Service of Remembrance on November 11th at 11 a.m. Nearly £200 was raised for the Poppy Appeal as pupils sold poppies in school.

Christmas Tree Festival at St Thomas's Church - pupils from the Prep Choir sang at St Thomas's Church on the first day of the Festival. Pupils from Years 1, 2 and 3 made a lovely Nativity Tree. Well done to pupils and staff who helped create the tree and also to pupils who performed so well!



Christingle - Prep pupils from Years 3,4, 5 and 6 took part in the annual Christingle Service at St Mark's on 30th November to celebrate the meaning of Advent. Donations were raised for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Prep Book Fair

Thank you to all who supported the Prep Book Fair this term. £200 worth of books were sold and 20 new books were added to the Prep and Pre Prep's libraries.

Book Tokens

Thank you to parents and friends who have handed in Nestlé "book tokens" found on cereal packets. To date over £20 of tokens have been "banked" this year. Thank you!

Prep Activities

Prep pupils have enjoyed a variety of activities this term in Key Stage 2 including Hama Beads, History Club, Chess, Netball, Football, Rugby, Singing for Fun, Athletics, Gardening and Sewing Club. A new club this half term has been Cookery Club in the Walker Hall kitchen area - seven pupils have been making delicious dishes under the guidance of Mrs Beverley Smith - thank you to Mrs Smith for her enthusiasm and skill!



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Spanish Cookery Workshop - On the 10th of November, Y9 Spanish pupils enjoyed a cookery workshop session at Waitrose in line with KS3 Food topic. They prepared Spanish rice with chorizo and chicken as well as "Empanadas", small patties filled with tuna, capers, sweet corn and goat cheese. Whilst the "Empanadas" were cooking, the chef explained about various Spanish ingredients such as saffron, smoked paprika and "bomba" rice and the pupils tried the lovely Spanish rice.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed it, especially the tasting!

German Christmas Market - Pupils studying German had an authentic experience of a traditional German Christmas market ... in Bristol! They enjoyed seeing the beautifully decorated German market stalls, which offered traditional handmade Christmas decorations, lights, nativity scenes, wooden toys, baskets, soaps, lamps and amber jewellery. Of course, they also loved sampling the mouth-watering German food and drink, such as

Bratwurst, waffles, liquorice, chocolates and cakes. The open air Christmas market also featured a huge Christmas pyramid, a Christmas tree with a carousel and an Advent calendar. *Fröhliche Weihnachten!*



Santa's Grotto - Prep pupils waited with bated breath to visit Santa's Grotto again this year. Their eyes shining with wonder and excitement, they were delighted by the prettiest, most sparkling grotto yet! Santa sat in his rocking chair by the fireside and generously handed out presents and sweets. The children were also entertained by members of 9Y, who were dressed as elves, Christmas trees, a reindeer, a Christmas pudding and even a cracker! Christmas music was provided by Henry Birt on clarinet, Katie Baxter-Brown and Sarah Kuszynski on flute and George Hounslow on trumpet. Santa enjoyed his visit very much and asked me to pass on his thanks to FOLS, who donated money to decorate the Grotto.

SENIOR PSHCE NEWS

Year 7 have just completed a very successful unit, 'Exploring Citizenship'. They were put into groups of five or six and chose their own Chairmen, Secretaries and Financial, IT and Artistic Directors. They researched and fundraised for four charities with local links; the British Heart Foundation, Lucy's Days Out, the Stars Appeal and the Trussell Trust. Over a fortnight they ran cake sales, put on 'Guess the Name of the Teddy' and 'Guess the Number of and Toys and Sweets in a Jar' and ran a colouring competition for the Prep School. The Key Stage 1 winner was Eleanor Mould, runner up Mahek Parson, Key Stage 2 Florence Walker, runner up Oliver Adams. Their combined efforts raised over £152, no mean feat for twenty one pupils. Well done Year 7!

We have arranged visits from the Solomon Theatre group for years 7 to 10 in the Spring Term, and the Bridge Project is coming to speak to Year 11 on Marriage this term. Year 8

have been cooking pizzas at Waitrose and no doubt enjoying the results of their labours.

Mrs Jan Sanders, who has been coming to deliver Sex and Relationships Education lessons for many years, retired in the Summer. Senior Pupils have really enjoyed her talks and we were very sorry to see her go. We wish her a very happy retirement. Mrs Cotton and Mr Scrase stepped in to fill the gap for Year 9 but from the Spring Term we have managed to secure a replacement for Jan from Wiltshire Health Authority, Mrs Anna Tattershall.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Roman Baths - Year 7 pupils enjoyed a visit to the Roman Baths on Friday 2nd December. They attended a workshop and also had a tour of different parts of the Roman Baths. They visited the Christmas Market in the Abbey Square and experienced some of the entertainment there.



Thank you to the pupils for being well behaved and to the staff, who accompanied the visit.

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations go to the U10 Boy's Football who won the St Francis School U10 7-side Boys Football Tournament. Members of the team were: William Lloyd, Matthew Smith, Joseph Whale, Tom Softley, George Milton, Tom Green and Freddie Smith. The subs were James Sykes and Lewis Coward.



Congratulations also to Michael Sherwood who has been selected for trials for Wiltshire U16 Rugby trials and to James Lucas who has been selected to attend a Wiltshire U14 Judo Workshop in December.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

At the time of writing many pupils from all key stages are rehearsing for a variety of end of term musical events: Pre-Prep concert, Key Stage 1 Christmas Play (The Gigantic Star), Christingle (Key Stage 2), Wassail (Key Stages 3 and 4) and the Carol Service (everyone).

Earlier this term, Year 2 pupils enjoyed a demonstration from our violin/viola teacher. Similarly Year 3 pupils enjoyed a demonstration from our 'cello teacher. If you child is interested in learning a musical instrument at school, Mr Thomas will be pleased to offer any advice. We are very lucky to enjoy the services of the following Instrumental Teachers:

Mrs Smith	piano
Mrs Flower	violin/viola
Mrs Chaldecott	piano/voice
Mr Perry	drum kit
Mr Dutfield	flute/guitar
Mrs Taylor	clarinet/saxophone
Mr Hurn	'cello/double base
Mr Newman-Wren	trumpet/trombone/all brass

Parents are reminded that should your child wish to commence instrumental music lessons at school, the Music Department does have a stock of instruments (saxophone, clarinet, flute, guitar, violin, trumpet, trombone, 'cello) that pupils may borrow, free of charge. This means that parents need not purchase an instrument at first.

CAFÉ ON THE PARK

Are you tired of making packed lunches for your children? Café on the Park will do it for you! Why not look at their website to order what is best for your child? There is a link from the Leehurst Swan website (under the heading 'Parents') that will take you straight to the information. So far the service provided has been much appreciated by a growing number of pupils and parents.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property at school can be very frustrating for both parents and staff. Although we have recently appointed a lost property co-ordinator in the Prep Department, pupils continue to lose items of clothing, mostly sports kit, in

school. Please ensure all clothing is labelled correctly especially second hand uniform, where former owners names may still be present.

Please check your child's kit when it comes home carefully. Many lost items are the result of them being put in the wrong bag. If your child has the wrong kit please return it to school as quickly as possible. We try to encourage children to be tidy in the changing rooms and take responsibility for their kit.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE TELEPHONE NUMBER

If you need to contact After School Care at or after the end of the Prep school day (3.35 pm), please **ONLY** use following telephone direct dial numbers:

Pre-School and children under age 8: 01722 424129
All other Prep children: 01722 424125

However, these numbers are not for use during the Prep School day. (Parents should call 01722 333094 for all queries during the school day.)

AFTER SCHOOL CARE FEES

Please note that from January 2012, the fee charged will be £1.90 per half hour, or part thereof.

BOOSTER INJECTIONS

Parents of pupils aged between 12-14 years are reminded that their children are due to receive the diphtheria, tetanus and polio boosters. As this procedure is not carried out in school, please contact your family doctor for further information

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is unexpectedly absent, please remember to telephone Reception to report him/her absent by 9:00 am.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Judo

Judo lessons will recommence next term on Tuesday 10th January (first day back for pupils) For further details telephone Steve Moxham on 01344 771846.

Gym Club

Gym club will recommence next term on Monday 16th January For further details or to register your child please telephone Susan Edwards on 01722 331802.

Starcast Performing Arts

Starcast Performing Arts will be recommencing classes in Dance, Drama and Singing on Tuesday 10th January (our first day back) in the Walker Hall from 4.00 – 6.00 pm. For further details and to register your child please call Samantha on 07974 721091 or email samholloway123@btinternet.com.

Kicks 'n' Tricks Football

Kicks'n'Tricks football club for Reception to Y4 will recommence on Thursday 12th January. For further details and to register your child, telephone Keiron on 07917 106353.

SWIMMING

Swimming will recommence:

Y3, Y4	Wednesday 11 th January
Y1, Y2, Y5, Y6, Y7	Thursday 12 th January
Pre-Prep	Tuesday 17 th January
Y11 GCSE Swimming *	Wednesday 25 th January

(*this will take place at The Goldolphin Pool 8.20 am)

Please would parents write a note to their child's Form Teacher to withdraw him/her from swimming or other sporting activity on a school day if he/she is unable to take part due to illness or injury.

BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

If the school should need to close for any reason Spire FM will be informed. Please listen to the radio for details. Please also check the school website for any announcements.

Scholarship and Entrance Examination for September 2012

Entrance and Scholarship examinations for entry to the Senior School in September 2012 will take place on 14th January. For entry into Year 7 the examination will consist of papers in English, Maths and Science. Academic Scholarships are available for up to 100% of the full fees on a means tested basis. Parents must apply for these Scholarships using the forms available from the Bursar.

They are awarded on the performance in the Entrance Examination. All applications for means tested scholarships should be received on or before the 14th January. Also available are scholarships in Music, Art and Sport. If you would like your child to sit the entrance examination or be considered for a scholarship please contact Mrs Beverley Smith, Registrar, who will provide you with the necessary form for completion.

Academic scholarships are also available for children entering Year 3 in September 2012, which will be based on examination results. The children will be tested in both literacy and numeracy.

Scholarship Dates

Sports (PE) – Monday 23rd January
Art – Wednesday 25th January
Music – Thursday 26th January

All pupils taking the scholarship examinations will be sent a letter informing them of the arrangements.

If you have not registered your child, please contact the Registrar as soon as possible.

SECOND HAND/NEW UNIFORM NOTICE

As you will already be aware, the School runs a Second Hand Uniform Shop which is open between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm every Wednesday afternoon during term time. It is hoped that this facility is useful to parents and the Shop welcomes any items of uniform for sale which are in good condition, clean (and if you wish to receive a 50% refund of sale proceeds) clearly named. Items for sale should be brought in on Wednesday morning to the main Reception Desk or taken directly to the Shop during opening hours on Wednesday afternoon. **The Shop does not accept or sell items of footwear, swimming costumes and trunks or boys' white long-sleeved shirts.**

Parents may visit the Second Hand Uniform Shop on Wednesday afternoons to view **samples** of uniform supplied by John Lewis and to allow their children to try items on if necessary, to check sizing before making their order on-line. **The sample items of new uniform are not for sale from the school Shop.**

The Shop will also stock Pre-Prep items of second hand uniform and new Pre-Prep sweatshirts and fleecy gilets. Mrs B Smith, Registrar, will continue to hold a small stock of blazer badges, cap badges, swim hats, ties and

sports bags which can be obtained from her office near Reception.

SCARVES AND GLOVES

Please note that scarves and gloves should be burgundy or navy. There is an optional regulation school scarf available to order from the John Lewis website.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE IN SCHOOL

Please would parents complete the appropriate form if they wish staff to administer medicine to their child. A copy of the form is available to download from the School website on the 'Parents' page.

Please would parents ensure that if their child requires an asthma inhaler that one is brought into school (with your child's name on it) in case it is needed.

Wassail December 2011

