



# Leehurst Swan School

Issue 60

Autumn 2010

## FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

I write as the start of the new school year is well underway and the holidays seem a distant memory.

The beginning of this term has brought a number of substantial changes to the school. The new time table has bedded in well and the Prep children are enjoying a range of new activities.

We welcome the following new members of staff to Leehurst Swan:-

Mrs J North as Deputy Head and Head of Pastoral Care  
Mrs E Lewis as Form Teacher to 4X and teacher of English and Maths  
Mr T. Marshall as Form Teacher for 5Y and Science Co-ordinator

Although not new to the school, we also welcome Mrs E Wilson as a Learning Support Assistant

The Music Department moved into their new rooms at the start of the term and they are enjoying their new facilities. The Learning Support Department have moved into their new classroom and Photography have moved into the space vacated by the Music Department.



The Walker Hall was first used by the whole school for the inaugural assembly led by Rev Jim Findlay on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September. For the first time this term it was possible for all the pupils and staff to meet together under one roof and

everybody had a seat. The days of Senior pupils sitting on the floor have thankfully gone.

### Opening of the Walker Hall



The official opening of the Walker Hall occurred on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September when the ribbon was cut by Mrs Mary Paisey MBE, former Headmistress of the School and long serving Governor. She reminded the assembled guests why the Hall was needed and said how pleased she was that the project was now complete. Prep pupils sang the school song 'One Community One Family' and the school motto, 'Ubi Caritas', and there was a short piece of drama. Senior pupils gave a full account of the building project and the benefits they will receive from using the new building. Guests were then given guided tours of the building and the Key Stage 2 playground which was constructed to replace the area built where the Hall now stands. Visitors were impressed with the finish, size, space and technology of the Walker Hall commenting very favourably about the facilities it offers.

### Senior Prize Giving



Senior Prize Giving was held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September when Mr Tony Halliwell, Principal of Welbeck, The Defence Sixth Form College, spoke about aspirations and determination to achieve, commenting on the number of GCSEs each pupil had collected. He urged the pupils in the School to take full advantage of the opportunities offered and stated how effective small schools often are at developing the relationships between staff and pupils.

### **GCSE Results**

The GCSE results were again excellent, reflecting the ability and hard work of the pupils. All the candidates achieved GCSE passes in English and Mathematics and 96% gained 5 or more passes, including at least one Science. The number of A and A\* grades was an impressive 30%, with the average number of subjects per pupil increasing by one to 10.2 GCSEs.

### **Lunches**

Pupils are enjoying eating together in the Walker Hall at lunch time. They sit in house groups in the Prep and in year groups in the Seniors. The new pattern has become established very quickly and I am delighted that pupils no longer eat lunch in their class rooms. Our lunch arrangements continue to evolve. For the time being, we are asking all pupils to take home and recycle any waste they may have. This allows parents to see what has been eaten and discourages pupils from throwing away their lunch! Please provide a plastic bag for your child to use for the waste, if this is a problem.

A number of parents have asked if it is possible for pupils to buy sandwiches and drinks at school. I have made contact with a high quality local provider (Café on the Park) and you can see details of their proposals at the end of this newsletter. There will be a meeting to discuss the proposal and find out more about it on 12<sup>th</sup> October at 3.00pm in the Walker Hall. I hope the option will be available after half term for all parents who wish to take advantage of this facility.

### **Fees in lieu of notice**

In common with all Independent schools, part of the contract signed by all parents when they place their children at Leehurst Swan, obliges parents to give at least a full term's notice if they intend to withdraw their child from the school. Should less than one full term's notice be given, the fees for the next term are still payable. In these recessionary times, please contact me as soon as possible, if you think you may be forced to remove your child for financial reasons.

### **Policies**

The school policies for admissions and child protection, the complaints procedure and others are all available on the school web site. You should enter through the parent portal using the code word "educate". If you wish to see any other policies please ask at reception or ring the Headmaster's PA, Mrs Carole Smith.

### **Controlled assessments**

The GCSE requirement for coursework has been abolished and replaced with controlled assessments. These are done in class and vary from a short test sat under exam conditions, to an extended piece of work completed over many weeks. The dates of these controlled assessments have been published in the school calendar so parents of pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 are aware.

### **School Scarves**

As the colder weather draws closer Prep parents may be interested in the new School scarf, obtainable from John Lewis. This has the traditional layout of the school colours and is now available for purchase. The single colour Prep scarf also remains available.

### **Winter Uniform**

Summer uniform may be worn this term by choice up to half term. After half term all pupils must wear winter uniform. Please see the uniform lists on the School website if you are unsure how this applies to your child. To view this information on the website, please click on the heading on the right hand side marked "Parents" and use the code word "educate" to pass through this portal. I am very grateful to the many parents who support the school uniform and I am always pleased when pupils gain positive comments about their appearance.

### **E-mail**

E-mail is the best way for the School to contact parents. Please give us your e-mail address if you did not receive this newsletter by e-mail. Parents have commented that they would prefer to be able to respond to requests for permission for their child to take part in: activities, sports fixtures and trips by email. You can now do this. The e-mail attachments can be returned to the school via e-mail without having to print them out. Please ensure you use the e-mail address listed on the attachment when returning so it goes to the correct person.

Yours sincerely

Roger Leake

## **The Café on the Park**

### **School Packed Lunch Service**

Dear Parents,

We are The Café on the Park on the Greencroft in Salisbury.

If your house is as crazy as ours every school morning and one thing less to do would help then read on.....

Following requests from parents as to whether Leehurst Swan would provide school lunches, we have been asked by Mr Leake, the Headmaster, to provide a packed lunch service on behalf of the School.

The intent is to have the service in place for when the pupils return to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> November after half term.

We will offer a pre-prep, prep and senior lunch and will be offering a varied menu of sandwiches, rolls, desserts, savouries and drinks.

Ordering will be via a .pdf menu which will be downloadable / printable from our website - once the web site is in place!

Lunches will be prepared fresh every morning, bagged and labelled with each pupils name and form number, and handed to the pupil at lunchtime in the new school hall.

Initially there will be a set menu, but once the service is established we expect to be able to cater on a more individual basis, thus if "Olivia and Oliver only eat tuna and peanut butter crisp breads" then we will accommodate!

We envisage three types of lunch, pre-pre, prep and senior with pricing expected to be around £2.00, £2.50 and £3.00 respectively. Payment will be by cash or cheque to be handed in with the ordering form the week before.

If you think you would use the above, we will be holding an informal presentation at the School in the Walker Hall on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 3:00pm where we will display a sample of the fare we will be offering and to answer any questions you may have.

If you would like to know more either before or after the gathering on the 12<sup>th</sup>, we would very much like to hear from you, along with any other questions or comments, at the following address:-

**[cafe@cafeonthepark.co.uk](mailto:cafe@cafeonthepark.co.uk)**

We look forward to hearing from you

Sven Hocking & Marcia Gould  
The Café on the Park  
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