



Leehurst Swan School

Newsletter

Issue 50

Autumn 2008

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the academic year 2008-09 at Leehurst Swan. Although it may seem that the pupils have been back for weeks now, I write this in only our third week of term. I am surrounded by smiling pupils who are glad to be back in school and eager to start their new classes.

It is wonderful to welcome so many new pupils to the school. We have a large number this year as there are three forms in Year 7 and the Swans Reception class is full. I trust this will be the start of a long and happy association with Leehurst Swan for all the new pupils. I was sorry to have disappointed a number of pupils and parents, who were seeking to start this September.

I trust you have received your copy of the school calendar for this term. There is a copy per household and if you have not received one please ask your child for it.

Four new staff have joined the school this year. I am delighted to welcome Mr Anthony Le Cam to teach French and Boys' Games. Mr David Liversage joins the school to teach Photography and Art. I also welcome Mr Andrew Scrase as the Director of Studies and teacher of Games, Science and Mathematics. Mrs Alison Szalay joins the school to become Head of Learning Support. I wish them well and trust they will feel part of the school very quickly. I hope you will meet them during the course of this year and welcome them to the community.

Mrs Marilyn Smith is absent from school undergoing treatment for illness and I am pleased to welcome Miss Isabel Bayliss as temporary teacher for the class. Miss Bayliss has settled in

very quickly and has stepped into the post with energy and enthusiasm.

Examination Results

The GCSE examination results this year were our best ever. The pupils excelled and all gained 5 or more A* to C grades, including the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. This is a thrilling set of results and in this category places us above all the Comprehensive schools in England, and many of the Grammar schools, including one of the local Grammar schools. It also places us above all the Independent schools in the area. The percentage of A* and A grades also increased and most pupils gained at least 9 GCSE subjects with an overall pass rate of 95%. Top performing boy was Thomas Moulard (previous Head Boy) with 2A* 2A 3B and 4C grades at GCSE and Stephanie Westcott with 3A* 4A and 4B grades. Some especially pleasing results were obtained by pupils who did not find academic work easy but secured a good range of GCSE grades at C and above. My congratulations go to all the pupils and staff on these outstanding results.

The move away from Key Stage 3 SATs that I indicated last year, to allow pupils to start GCSE courses in Year 9, has also been very beneficial. The majority of the Year 9 candidates have now successfully completed nearly all of the first Science GCSE and standards continue to rise dramatically in this year group. Two pupils have completed full GCSEs early; Wilfred Cross (Year 8) gaining an A* in Spanish and Annabel Palmer (Year 10) gaining an A in German. Congratulations and well done to all the candidates taking subjects early!

SATs

The Key Stage 2 SATs results arrived in the holidays amidst much controversy about the marking and the late release of results. As many of you are aware, the Government has intervened

to terminate the contract for marking the SATs and has since organised the remarking of the papers, where there were concerns. The results for Leehurst Swan, however, suggest that we were not subject to these problems. The papers were returned on time, with no evidence of poor marking. The results are a triumph and place the pupils well ahead of the national standards. 50% of the pupils gained level 5 (the top level available) in English and Mathematics and 68% achieved level 5 in Science. I congratulate the former Year 6 pupils on their achievements and all involved in preparing them for these examinations. It is difficult to measure pupil ability when so many achieve so well and I am exploring a more robust and accurate method of assessment at the end of Key Stage 2.

Nicholas Guild

Many of you will be aware that we held a memorial service for Nicholas (Nick) Guild (Y10) soon after the start of term. Nick died suddenly and tragically whilst playing in Elizabeth Gardens, during the holidays. It was a very moving service and many struggled with their emotions as tributes to Nick were read out by Staff and friends. The pupils are in the process of collecting for a memorial to Nick and steps will be taken to remember Nick in the future.

New Hall

The planning application presented to the Planning Department before the summer holidays did not meet with approval on all aspects and is being reworked. It will be resubmitted again in due course and I hope to keep you informed of developments.

Holiday Club

The holiday club runs throughout the summer holidays in the Pre-Prep Department for children under the age of 8 and was subject to an unexpected OFSTED inspection. The report was very good and showed appreciation for the care and attention the staff gave the children and the

quality of the provision. They judged the crucial category of 'Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do' to be Outstanding - a rare accolade. OFSTED have now been replaced by ISI as the inspecting authority but copies of the report are still available both from the school and on the OFSTED website. Please feel free to use the holiday provision as you require.

Parking and Transport

I am very aware that parents find accessing the school from Campbell Road at certain times of day is very difficult. We have been suggesting for some time now that yellow lines should be added to the north side of Campbell Road to ease congestion and prevent parking. The District Council has produced plans to this effect and has stated that they will be implemented if the residents agree. However, the survey of residents has yet to occur and the delay of well over a year continues to frustrate all of us. To assist with the problem please can I appeal to parents to drop off and collect their children near the steps on St Mark's Road where there is a pedestrianised walkway which leads through the Key Stage One playground to the school (the gate is opened at 8.00 am until 8.45 am. and then reopened at 2.50 pm until 5.00 pm). Alternatively the tarmac path, which continues adjacent to the school field, leads to a side gate into the back of the school which also may be used. When parking in the school car park would parents endeavour to park carefully in the designated parking places. Please do not block the way through for other cars.

Transport to school is offered by minibus in association with Godolphin School. There are services operating from Shrewton via Durrington, Amesbury and the Winterbournes that drop off Leehurst Swan pupils at St Mark's roundabout. There is a return service. There are also minibuses operating from Romsey via Whiteparish, Alderbury to Godolphin School, from Andover via Middle Wallop to Godolphin and from Fordingbridge via Breamore, Downton, Charlton All Saints to Godolphin and a route from

Kingsworthy, Stockbridge, the old Pheasant Public House on the A30 to Godolphin. Please contact the Bursar by e-mail bursar@leehurstswan.org.uk or phone Salisbury 424123 for further information.

Open Morning, Scholarship and Entrance Examinations

The Open Morning for the Autumn Term will be held on Tuesday 7th October 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. All are welcome to come and see round the school and meet the pupils. Please encourage friends and neighbours to attend. Many of our new pupils arrive due to recommendations from present families and I am most grateful to all who promote the school in this way.

Entrance and scholarship examinations for entry to the Senior School in September 2009 will take place on 24th January. For entry into Year 7 the examination will consist of papers in English, Maths and Science. Academic scholarships are awarded on the performance in the entrance examination. 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 2009, which will be based on examination results. The children will be tested in both literacy and numeracy. If you would like your child to be considered for this examination, please have a chat with your child's form teacher, who will be able to give you advice on this.

Scholarship Dates

Music - Thursday 29th January
Art - Wednesday 4th February
Sports (PE) - Monday 9th February

All pupils taking scholarships examination will be sent a letter informing them of the arrangements.

Prefects and Head Pupils

Congratulations go to the following pupils who have been chosen for positions of responsibility this year:

Senior School

Head Boy	Daniel Thomas
Head Girl	Charlotte Boag

Prefects

Kristina Bealing	Thomas Bradshaw
Cara Campbell	Finlay Campbell
Georgia Fairweather	Alice Green
Louisa Herbert	Nathan Liversage
Poppy Rayner	Roshan Vasaiwalla

Games Captains	Daisy Allen Kelly Toby Hudson
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Librarian	Alexandra Dalby
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Senior House Captains

Constable	Lily Dickson & Michael Hollingbery
Fawcett	Alice Green & Nathan Liversage
Golding	Natalie Page & James Dougan
Herbert	Senta Reiter & Alexander Garbut

Prep School

Head Girl	Eleanor Boag
Head Boy	James Bagguley
Deputy Head Girl	Olivia Welch
Deputy Head Boy	Cameron Stott
Girls' Games Captain	Sophie Waddington
Boys' Games Captain	Neil Campbell

Prep House Captains

Constable	Romilly Lacey, Timothy Garston
Fawcett	Rosie Dury, Archie Hart
Golding	Emma Griffin, Henry Birch
Herbert	Isabel Rutledge, Zachariah King

There is a term of exciting activities and academic work ahead. I wish you well and hope the words of the school motto "Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est" - where charity and love are found, God himself is there" are true for your child at Leehurst Swan.

With best wishes

Roger Leake

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Children aged 8 and over are looked after in the conservatory of the Prep School and should be collected from there. Mrs Helen Evans is in charge of this facility.

All children staying for After School Care who are under age 8, should be registered with the manager, Mrs Pip Chalk, in the register held in the Pre-Prep. There are a limited number of places available and it is not possible to offer provision above this. If you need to make a regular booking, please do so. If you need casual After School Care, please ensure there are places available and you have registered, before dropping your children off in the morning.

All children under the age of 8 will be transferred to the Pre-Prep, if they are not already present, at the end of the school day or at the end of Homework Club, if they are staying for this provision. They should, therefore, be collected from the Pre-Prep. If you need to make contact with After School Care staff for pupils aged under 8 at any time, including because you will be delayed in collecting your child, please phone the Pre-Prep direct. All information relating to After School Care for under 8s will be maintained in a file kept in Pre-Prep. Please ask for a copy of our new Guide to After School Care for Under 8s to find out more about the policies and arrangements made for this group of children. Copies are available from Pre-Prep.

After School Care fees are £1.75 per half hour or part thereof. All pupils should be signed out of After School Care by the parent or person collecting the child. If

your child attends After School Care the following telephone numbers are available for you to use **at** or **after** the end of the school day:

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

Parents are reminded that the above telephone numbers are for contacting After School Care after 3:15 pm only and **NOT** during the school day. Parents should call 01722 333094 for all queries during the school day.

There is no charge for Homework Club (3.15-4.00 pm) for Year 3s and above and it is separate from After School Care.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is unexpectedly absent, please telephone Reception to report him/her absent by 9:00 am. Please also inform Reception if your child has Learning Support or Peripatetic Music lessons when you call.

LATE ARRIVALS

Please make sure your child signs in the Late Book (which is located in the Reception area) if your child is late, for whatever reason.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM NOTICE

The Second Hand uniform shop is open on Wednesday afternoons between 1.30 and 4.00 pm

Please note that the cut off date for bringing in old logo 'LRS' second hand uniform will be by the end of the Spring Term 2009. We still have some large three-in-one winter coats (which could have the new badge sewn on) and some new senior 'LRS' logo joggers and sweatshirts, and plenty of second hand old logo PE jogging bottoms and PE sweatshirts.

There is always a demand for caps, hats, ties, girls' summer dresses, kilts and blazers. However, we do not require any more white school shirts, old logo PE jogging bottoms/sweatshirts/rugby shirts.

