



Leehurst Swan School Newsletter

Issue 52



Christmas 2008

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

This half term has slipped past in a blur of events and we are now rehearsing for the festivities of Christmas, due to take place over the coming days. I hope you will be able to join the staff and your children for as many as possible. All are especially welcome for the end of term Carol Service in the Cathedral at 9.30 am on Thursday 18th December on the last day of term. There is no restriction on numbers, so please come.



The school has been decorated, as usual, for Christmas and decorations and displays have been evident in all the main corridors, representing the hard work of the pupils and staff. Even the entrance porch boasts a reindeer and sleigh.

There are, as always, some impressive art works on display.



There has been remarkable progress made by many of the pupils this term. I am delighted to see how well the new intake into the Senior School has settled in.



These pupils seem to have been with us much longer than just one term. The new Reception class has also made great strides this term and

has adjusted to doing more demanding tasks, whilst still working in an Early Years environment. There also have been a number of new pupils joining the Prep School at various stages this term and all have settled quickly and made substantial progress. The rapid academic progress of pupils here continues to be one of the great strengths of Leehurst Swan.

This term sees a change to our pattern of formal reports. Written reports will be supplied to parents of Senior School pupils in Years 7 to 10 only. Year 11 pupils will receive their full reports after the mock examinations. Prep School pupils will receive reports at half term of next term, thus marking the half way point in the academic year, rather than at the end of the first term.

New Hall

Planning permission for the new hall has been resubmitted to the planning offices after some negotiations and further work by our architect. I hope we will secure permission to build shortly and this project can be further advanced. Unlike the press stories of gloom and doom about the state of Independent Schools, we are convinced that there has never been a better time to invest in the future. I will keep you updated on developments.

Key Stage 1 Concert

Key Stage 1 concert was an excellent start to our Christmas festivities. The pupils in Years 1 and 2 sang and acted out the story of a very demanding fairy decorating the Christmas tree. The costumes were spectacular and the singing as always, delightful.



Christingle

The Prep Christingle service was also a very special occasion and proved to be a smashing event in more ways than one! The Rev Jim Findlay allowed a piece of his dinner service to be hammered to pieces during the service. The Christingles were lit and an orange glow illuminated the pupils' faces throughout St. Mark's Church.



Wassail

This year there was an unprecedented demand for tickets but eventually all participants were seen by at least one family member. We really need a new hall!



The pupils really enjoyed performing!



Sport

This term has seen a greater number of matches for boys and girls than ever before.

Despite a hesitant start the Prep netball teams strengthened their resolve and have now improved their game. Sophie Waddington was named as player of the match five times, reflecting her performance in the team and the part she played as shooter.

The Senior School netball matches have been led by the Year 9 and 10 pupils, playing in the local league with mixed success against some much larger schools. Hannah Reed and Nicola Hardingham have regularly featured as players of the match. The Year 7 team enjoyed success against Leaden Hall and the Year 8 team won two of their three matches.

Well done to all who played especially those pupils who played in age group above their own.



The boys' football teams have gone from strength to strength during the course of this term, winning more matches than they have conceded and with our best performance for some years (ever?) coming from our Senior pupils. Their recent victory 4-1 over Stanbridge Earls helped to rectify an earlier defeat.

A recent Swimming Gala held against Godolphin School showed some very talented swimmers and some good team performances.

Cross country running has developed further this term under the guidance of Mr Scrase. The boys' and girls' teams have been in action in the Schools' League and we have been steadily moving up the rankings as the training schedule developed.

I am most grateful to all the staff and coaches who have given so much time and effort to make this such an effective season.

Congratulations to:

Henry Birt for being selected for County coaching in Tennis.

Dominic Burgess for selection in County coaching in golf.

Theo Rattue for being chosen as the mascot for Portsmouth FC v Blackburn Rovers.

Kate Robinson and Emily Udell for their cross country running.



Photography

Leehurst Swan is the best Independent School in England for girls to study GCSE photography! It is official as we were presented with a certificate from the Good Schools Guide to confirm it. Congratulations go to all in the department and the pupils who work so hard to achieve such high standards.



Mock examinations

Next term starts with mock examinations for Year 11 pupils. These examinations are a crucial part of preparing for GCSE exams in the summer. Those pupils who achieve in these exams go on to achieve at least as well in the summer. However, the pupils do need to revise effectively for them and all Year 11 parents should have received a letter from me recently about how best to help pupils succeed.

I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Roger Leake
Headmaster

CHARITY NEWS

Pupils raised £270.68 in aid of Children in Need. Fundraising events included a charity football match, cake sale, badge sale and other activities.

Leehurst Swan sent 75 shoe boxes of gifts (which was double last year's number) to The Trussell Trust for distribution in Bulgaria. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause.



The non uniform day raised £191.45 for the Leehurst Swan's charity Naomi House.

The Harvest Festival raised £130 for the Jo Benson Appeal at the sale in the Guildhall. Well done!

Y3 took part in Operation Christmas Child, organised by Samaritan's Purse, and sent 30 shoe boxes to disadvantaged children in Bosnia. Earlier in the term Y3 took part in the Friends of Leehurst Swan Car Boot Sale and Classroom Sale which raised £230 for OXFAM. Thank you to everyone who supported these events.



BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all parents who supported the Prep Book Fair. Books to the value of £203 have been added to Prep bookcases.

PAYING YOUR SCHOOL FEES MONTHLY

You will find a leaflet for Holmwoods Termtime Credit included with your newsletter. Many of our parents already pay their fees monthly with Holmwoods and we receive very positive feedback from them.

If you would like to pay your fees monthly from January 2009 please do not hesitate to contact the Assistant Bursar before 30th December 2008 by email: assistantbursar@leehurstswan.org.uk

PREP PREFECTS

Congratulations to the following Prep pupils who have been chosen for positions of responsibility:

Art Prefects Isabelle Bryan
Felicity Coupe

ICT Prefects Connor Whittick
Sophie Welsh

AFTER SCHOOL CARE TELEPHONE NUMBER

If you need to contact After School Care **at** or **after** the end of the Prep school day (3.00 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.)

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

JUDO

Judo lessons will recommence next term on Tuesday 20th January 2009.

GYM CLUB

Gym club will recommence next term on Monday 19th January 2009.

SPORTS FIXTURES

Our first sports fixture for the term is on Wednesday 14th January. It is Y5 & Y6 Hockey with two 7-side teams v. Claysmore (away).

SWIMMING

Swimming will recommence:

Pre-Prep -Tuesday 13th January (first day back)

Y5 & 3Y - Wednesday 14th January

Y4,3X,Y2,Y1 - Thursday 15th January

Y7 - Wednesday 21st January

Y6 will start swimming lessons after Easter

Please would parents write a note to their child's form teacher to withdraw them from swimming or other sporting activity on a school day if they are 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

SCHOLARSHIP AND ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

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.

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.

All Scholarships will take place in the morning.

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

SECOND HAND UNIFORM NOTICE

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

Please note that we do not require any more white school shirts or old logo items. However, there is always a demand for caps, hats, ties, girls' summer dresses, kilts and blazers.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT NEWS

It has been a really busy term for the Languages Department. Monsieur Le Cam has been settling into the Senior School as our new French teacher, also running a successful Italian club. Bienvenue, Monsieur Le Cam!

Year 6 enjoyed a trip to Waitrose studios to experience French baking. They made delicious tartes aux pommes and found out all about common food items used in French cookery. Délicieux!



The German students went to a Bachfest in London, organised and funded by Youthbridge. They took part in communication seminars and games with pupils from other Youthbridge schools from the UK and Germany. After a very German lunch of Würstchen und Kartoffelsalat, they went to a beautiful church on Eaton Square and listened to musicians playing Bach on period instruments. Then they were taught some Baroque dances!

The other highlights this term were the fabulous plays: 'Nichts zum Anziehen'; held at SWGS and the Spanish play 'El Camino de Santiago'; held at BWS.

Joyeux Noël, Fröhliche Weihnachten, Feliz Navidad!

