



Leehurst Swan School Newsletter

Issue 47



Christmas 2007

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

This is the full version of the newsletter, including colour photographs.

Easy fund raising for the school is available if you shop online. Go to the school web site, click on: "other links", at the right hand side of the page and use the "the get it for schools" portal. This will allow the school to receive a percentage of your purchases without costing you anything.

The Christmas tree in the hall and the singing of the choirs both here in school and in the centre of Salisbury, for the start of the Christmas lights, remind us that Christmas is near.



This has been a term of many good things with significant sports results and a wide variety of extra curricular activities. The Christingle service and the "surprise" appearance of Father Christmas in school ensured we had a suitable balance of festivities and fun.



The Wassail evenings too, proved to be as popular as ever. Once again there was more demand for spaces than tickets available. I am sorry some parents have missed out, but due to safety requirements it is not possible to include more people in the hall. I hope as many as possible will join with us in the final event of the year, the annual carol service in the Cathedral at 9.30 am on 13th December.



I write this letter as a break from reading end of term reports, and you should receive a report on your child at the end of this term. As I read the many positive comments, I am impressed with all that the pupils have achieved this term. There are many happy and effective children in the school at present.

Many of you have started to receive information by e-mail direct from the school. If you have not had any communication by e-mail and you would like to, please send us an e-mail with your address to reception@leehurstswan.org.uk, so we can check we have the correct address or add you to the list. As from January, many of the letters given out on paper will cease to be produced, except where parents have clearly indicated that they wish to continue to receive information in this way. However, please continue to send signed slips in on paper; we cannot accept permission given by e-mail at present.

This newsletter does not contain a list of fixtures as they will be included in the calendar for next term. Please make sure you get your copy from your child. Many parents have commented upon how helpful it has been to have a handy pocket size reference of all the dates needed.

Parents are respectfully reminded that a full term's notice needs to be given in writing to the Headmaster for their child/children leaving the school, with the exception of children reaching the end of Year 6 and Year 11. In common with other independent schools, fees in lieu of notice will be charged by the school when this is not the case.

Parents are always invited to attend assemblies led by KS1 classes as it gives the children a chance to show off their work. Parents are not usually invited to assemblies led by KS2 classes, however, they are most welcome to attend if they are aware that their child is taking part. Simply ask for a seat when you arrive. Apart

from the child led section, it will otherwise be a normal school assembly.

Prep Changes

It seems much longer than just the start of this term that the new Pre-Prep extension opened, only hours after the builders had left.



The Swans' collection gate is now in action. It is opened between 3.00 and 3.15pm for parents to collect their children directly from the Swans' class room. At any other time and when dropping off the children, please use the front gate as usual. The newly enclosed area has now had the living willow sculpture planted and I look forward to seeing it grow and develop over the coming months.



Because the children in Pre-Prep are able to access the outdoor area at all times of the year and day, please could all children have Wellington boots at school? This will allow all weather play. The Cygnets need an all in one waterproof suit and Swans a waterproof two piece suit to use the facilities in January and February fully.

Gillets with the new school badge are now available through Mrs Chalk for the Cygnets. It is advised that the Swans have one too, as they also participate in the free flow play at times.

Please would parents ensure they sign the home school diary regularly and use it as a means of communication with the form teachers. It is especially difficult to motivate senior pupils if their parents do not feel the need to sign the diary.

Happy Christmas!
Roger Leake
Headmaster

WELL DONE!

Georgia Fairweather Y10 – In the Pony Club's Championships in the Summer, Georgia's team came 2nd in the Show Jumping event, 4th in the Dressage and Georgia was 6th in the National Individual Finals in Dressage.

CHARITY NEWS

Y8 organised a cake sale and raised £80 for their class charity, Help for Heroes, a local charity based in Downton, supporting Britain's wounded servicemen and women.

Pupils raised £112 in aid of Children in Need. Fundraising events included a charity football match, cake sale, badge sale and other activities.

Y2 pupils raised £117 for Hope and Homes by having a cake sale. Our thanks to Y2 parents for baking such super cakes!



Leehurst Swan sent 35 shoe boxes of gifts to The Trussell Trust for distribution in Bulgaria. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause.



The non uniform day raised £207 for the Leehurst Swan's charity (the Payalangoda School in Sri Lanka).

The Harvest Festival raised £140 for the Jo Benson Appeal at the sale in the Guildhall. Well done!



Book Fair

Thank you to all parents who supported the Book Fair. Books to the value of £200 have been added to Prep bookcases.

Spinning Top Day



Pupils from Swans to Year 4 enjoyed seeing and playing with a lovely selection of spinning tops brought in by local expert, Mr Geoffrey Budworth. Our grateful thanks go to Mr Budworth for sharing his collection of a large number of different styles of tops.

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

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.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE TELEPHONE NUMBER

If you need to contact After School Care **at** or **after** the end of the Prep school day (3.00pm), please **ONLY** use following telephone direct dial numbers:

Pre-School and children under 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.)

Absence from School

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

JUDO

Judo lessons will recommence next term on Tuesday 15th January.

GYM CLUB

Gym club will recommence next term on Monday 14th January 2008.

SWIMMING

Swimming will recommence:

Pre-Prep - Tuesday 8th January (first day back).

Y7 - Wednesday 9th January

Prep - Thursday 10th January.

Y6 will start swimming lessons in May after KS2 NCTs.

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

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES 2007/2008

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|--------------------|
| Y11 | Liam Musselwhite | Ashlea Tyler |
| Y10 | Nathan Liversage | Kristina Bealing |
| Y9 | Max Fogarty | Josephine Clarke |
| Y8 | Finn Drury | Alice Bowen |
| Y7 | Maxwell Garbut | Zoe Guild |
| Y6 | William Bailey-Hobbs | Emma Sandford-Hart |
| Y5 | Jake O'Gorman | Sophie Waddington |
| Y4 | Sam Budworth | Elizabeth Webber |
| Y3 | Benjamin Lisseman-Edge | Elizabeth Ford |
| Y2 | Marcus Burgess | Otilie Knight |
| Y1 | Lewis Coward | Otilie Hart |

Leehurst Swan Entrance Examinations for September 2008

Entrance Examinations for the Senior School are on Saturday 12th January.

Scholarship Dates:

Music: Monday 21st January 2008

Art: Wednesday 23rd January 2008

Sports: Thursday 24th January 2008

All Scholarships will take place from 9.00 – 10.30 am. If you have not registered your child, please contact the Registrar as soon as possible.

MFL Department News (Modern Foreign Language)

This term has seen many exciting developments in the Languages Department. For the first time, pupils in Swans, Y1 and Y2 have been learning French, which they love! Some pupils in KS2 attended the Russian Club, where they got to grips with the Russian alphabet, did Cossack dancing and even tasted caviar! The Italian Club is also proving very popular. Y2 and 4X had fun at the French market and bought delicious bonbons and croissants, practising their language skills at the same time. 4Y will have their turn in the spring.



The MFL Christmas postbox is back by popular demand and pupils have been busy making cards in French, German and Spanish. Y8 German students entered a Youthbridge competition to design a poster of the German Christmas markets, and we were delighted to be amongst the prizewinners, with William Sharpe being awarded second and Faye Golley third place. Finally, next term sees the start of Mandarin Chinese Club for Y8 and 9, to which we are really looking forward.

Joyeux Noël, Fröhliche Weihnachten, Feliz Navidad!