



Leehurst Swan School Newsletter

Issue 54

Easter 2009

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

This comes to you at the end of an eventful and happy term. The earlier problems of ice and snow melted away to be replaced in more recent weeks by warm weather and the signs of spring growth.

It has been a busy term and many of the highlights are listed below along with other important information.



Academic Results



The 11 Plus results came out in early March and 18 pupils secured places at the Grammar Schools. The pupils are to be congratulated on their success and hard work. The results give us a 60% pass rate. Leehurst Swan continues to be an excellent preparation for the Grammar Schools, as so many of our Year 6 pupils secure places. My thanks also go to Mrs Harrison and Mrs Treleven, who have worked so hard throughout the year to prepare the pupils.

Sports Results

There have been more matches played this term than in any previous spring term. The strength of our teams continues to develop but there have been some notable successes especially at Senior level against Stanbridge Earls. The increase in training has paid off especially in football, rugby and cross country.

Art Shop

Leehurst Swan Art was on display in Salisbury in the recent Art Shop Exhibitions in Salisbury.



The shop window of Neal's Yard was transformed to show off the talents of the pupils who produced clay handbags, paintings and photographs, which were placed on a digital display.

New Assembly Hall

Since planning permission was granted work has proceeded at a fast pace to draw up the building specifications prior to going for tenders. As I write the last details are being finalised on this aspect and we look forward to starting the tendering process as soon as possible. It is hoped even at this stage that the project may be able to start in the summer holidays but there are still many more details to be finalised before then. You will have received a letter from the Chair of Governors about the new building and the benefits it will bring. Plans are still available for viewing on the screen in Reception.

New Playground

Over the summer holidays the current Key Stage 2 playground (commonly called "the cage") will be replaced with a new playground situated in the gardens beyond the Pre-Prep. The pupils already play

there for some of the year. The introduction of an all weather surface will make this suitable for all year round use. A plan has been drawn up that will allow this area to be developed over the next few years.

Helmets for Cyclists

Please may I remind parents that all pupils who cycle to school should wear a cycle helmet? In view of recent publicity surrounding head injuries I am asking for parental support in this matter. Many pupils do cycle to school in the summer months and the cycleways in and out of Salisbury continue to develop. Pupils must wear a helmet and follow the one way system in the school grounds. Bicycles may not be ridden where cars are parked in the school grounds.

Summer Uniform

Next term your child may come to school wearing summer uniform. The Leehurst Swan site is usually very warm in summer, as it is south facing and fairly sheltered.

Head Pupils

Next term two new Head Pupils take over in the Senior School as Charlotte Boag and Daniel Thomas step back from the role to concentrate on their GCSE studies. I am most grateful to them for all they have done for the school and for their dedication.

My thanks also go to all those who have served as prefects this year. These pupils also relinquish their responsibilities to concentrate on GCSE exams.



Well done to all!

Welcome to Lucy Robson and Alexander Garbut who take over as Head Girl and Boy respectively!

Congratulations to the prefects:

Leehurst Swan Head Pupils

Senior School

Head Girl Lucy Robson
Head Boy Alexander Garbut

Prefects

Martin Brown Josephine Clarke
Freya Goodwin Nathan Reed-Poulson
Peter Simmonds Freya Stevens
Baden Tilley Henry Vaudrey
Alice Wolverson Chloe Wood

Games Captains Charles Hely
Megan Viney

Librarian Roisin Kelly

Art Prefect Hannah Reed

Drama Prefect Charlotte Jones

Parking and Dropping Off Arrangements

Parking continues to be a major problem for parents visiting the school or simply dropping off children. The school is working on a number of proposals to improve the situation and we eagerly await the promised introduction of yellow lines along Campbell Road. Please drop your children at the path from St Mark's Avenue, if at all possible, as this reduces the problem in Campbell Road.

Trips



There has been a plethora of trips throughout the school during this past term. Highlights include: the Ski Trip to Italy in January, Mill on the Brue in exceptionally good weather in March, the National History Museum and National Portrait Gallery, the Living Rain Forest, Downton and the Mayor's tea party in Salisbury. I visited the Y6 Mill on the Brue residential trip to take part in a few of the activities.



Smithy

The last few weeks of term in the Senior School have been dominated by the school production of Smithy. This was held at the Studio Theatre on three nights and was a tribute to the wide range of skills and talents of the Cast Leehurst Swan pupils involved. Combining humour and music it was a most enjoyable evening of entertainment.



Congratulations to all involved!

Music

Would you like your child to take part in musical event due to be held in Salisbury at the Methodist Church on Saturday 11th July? Pupils are invited to attend a workshop run earlier in the day at Leehurst Swan and will then appear on stage in the evening to sing with Dieci. In December 2008, Dieci were Grand Finalists of the BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year. They have decided to embark on a tour of the South of England and release their debut CD, 'A Good Night'. The workshops are a part of Dieci's outreach education programme and will involve children of all

ages. During these sessions, the children will play games and learn several songs which they will then perform with Dieci at the evening concert. Led by all eight of the singers in Dieci, who have a wealth of teaching experience amongst them and excellent individual voices, it will be a great day filled with fun and most importantly; it will show children that singing really is fun! If you would like to take part in the work shop for which there will be charge of approximately £25 per person, please send an e-mail or letter to patohm@leehurstswan.org.uk.

Easter Celebration

The Prep School had an Easter Celebration Day, taking part in activities to explore the Christian message of Easter. Each year group was given part of the Easter story to explore and different creative, artistic or dramatic ways were used to interpret the events of Holy Week and Easter. Pupils shared their work in an assembly in the afternoon.



All the pupils enjoyed presenting their work.

Roger Leake
Headmaster

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

Please note that the School Uniform shop will be closed on Wednesday 29th April.

FIZZY DRINKS

Pupils are not allowed to bring fizzy (carbonated) drinks into school (including carbonated water) for breaks,

lunch or any other occasion. Fizzy drinks are not healthy and have been linked to hyperactivity and dental decay. They have also caused damage to Leehurst Swan books and equipment in the past.

MINIBUS SERVICES

In collaboration with Godolphin School there is a minibus service operating from Shrewton via Durrington, Amesbury and the Winterbournes that drops 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 Braemore, 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.

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

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

SCHOOL GOVERNOR INFORMATION

We would like to welcome two new school Governors, Mr Paul Bate and Mr Michael New. Mrs Sarah Hart continues to be the Parent Governor for Prep and Pre-Prep.

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 use following telephone direct dial numbers:

**Pre-Prep 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.)

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is unexpectedly absent, please telephone Reception to report him/her absent by 9:00 am. E-mails alone are not sufficient.

JUDO

Judo lessons will recommence next term on Tuesday 6th May.

GYM CLUB

Gym club will recommence next term on Monday 28th April.

SWIMMING DATES

Prep Swimming will recommence:

Cygnets

Tuesday 21st April (First day back) (Five Rivers)

Y7, 6X, some of 6W, 3Y

Wed 22nd April (Godolphin) until half term

3X, 4X, 4Y

Thursday 23rd April am (Godolphin)

Swans, Y1, Y2

Thursday 23rd April pm (Five Rivers)

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.

ATHLETICS DATES

Prep Sports Friday 12th June
Yrs 1-3 10.30-12.00pm - The Close
Yrs 4-6 1.15-3.15pm - The Close

Senior Sports Tuesday 16th June - School Field
am - Field 9-12.00 pm
pm - Track 1.30-3.30 pm

Salisbury Senior Schools Athletics Championships

Tuesday 12th May at SWGS track 9.30-4.00 pm

Salisbury Primary Schools Sports

Wednesday 24th June SWGS track 3.30-7.30 pm

IAPS Athletics Championships

Monday 29th June – Birmingham

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.

TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY 2009

Year 8 were not in school on Friday 6 March. They were learning about the attractions (and a few disadvantages) of the world of work. Aircraft, fashion, food, publishing and the law were just a few of the areas visited. Students went to London, Southampton and Winchester as well as more local enterprises. The group who could not go out with their parents made a study of health and safety at work around Salisbury – from watching the crane driver on the council house site to a behind-the-scenes tour of Salisbury Library. Comments in de-briefing gave particular mention to the quality of hot chocolate, counting money, sending e-mails, and sorting stamps! We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this such a special day.

PSHCE

We are continuing to develop the PSHCE curriculum and are trying to involve outside agencies to a greater degree. Last autumn term we took all Year 8 to Waitrose for a cookery demonstration to fit in with their course of healthy eating. A number of students from Year 10 have undertaken a successful Self Defence course after school in a studio in Brown Street and many of them aim to continue with the course to gain more advanced skills. Our Year 11 pupils recently enjoyed a presentation on Exploring Marriage organised by Mrs Paisey, one of our Governors. We are grateful for offers of help from outside speakers, particularly those who can offer short talks to suit our younger pupils.

MFL DEPARTMENT NEWS (Modern Foreign Language)



On 29th January the MFL department invited the Onatti Theatre Company to perform in front of Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 French pupils. The play was a success and pupils and staff involved enjoyed it very much.

As we wanted more pupils to share this tremendous experience, we invited them to perform for Years 5, 6 and 7 on 26th March.

CHESS CLUB

Thirty pupils signed up for the UK Land Chess Challenge this term. This is a national competition with the first round being played in schools. Pupils play seven matches and gain three points for a win, two for a draw and one for taking part in a match. Pupils scoring seventeen points or more qualify for the next round to be held in June. The following pupils have qualified so far for the next round: Timothy Garston, Thomas Shah, Alexander Larsen, Joseph Renshaw, Cameron Stott, Eleanor Kuszynski, Sam Lloyd and Bradley Commons. Other pupils have yet to complete all of their matches. The overall winner of the School round will be announced next term.

EASTER CLUB

Pupils in Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed activities connected with Easter during this half term.

VISIT TO THE MAYOR



Six pupils in Year 4 enjoyed meeting the Mayor of New Sarum at the Guildhall and admired some of the beautiful silver. They had a lovely tea and were entertained by Jonathan the Jester. Pupils also enjoyed viewing the display upstairs in the Grand Jury Room (photograph and more details on the school website).

CONTACTING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

If you wish a message to be relayed to your child (for example for After School Care, going home arrangements etc.), it would be greatly appreciated if

you would ring the school before 1.00 p.m. so that the information can be given to your child during the registration after lunch break. It is realised that there will be circumstances when this may not be possible.

CAR PARKING

When using the car park, please do not prevent a car's exit by parking badly. It is important that parents only park in between the lines of the designated parking spaces and do not double park which blocks the access through the car park.

ECO COMMITTEE



Ideas put forward by pupils have included:

- bird feeders (in use during the cold weather)
- bird nesting boxes (now in place up high on trees in school grounds)
- more recycling - plastic bottles are now being collected for recycling as well as paper and cardboard
- raised awareness e.g. posters about litter, saving energy, turning off lights and equipment not being used - now on display
- a Green assembly planned for May involving members of the Eco Committee
- recycling ink cartridges for computers to be used to raise cash for projects
- ideas for a wildlife pond, wild flower area and larger allotment
- planting of more trees, shrubs and plants
- solar panels
- a Prep Disco with a green theme to raise money for more recycling projects and other items (assisted by pupils from Years 9 and 10)
- compost bins
- reducing litter

It is lovely that pupils from all parts of the school are confident and happy to put forward their ideas at the meetings.

The school has registered for the Big Tidy Up Campaign for next term and pupils are keen to reduce waste and help the environment.

Please let us have any old ink cartridges from computers (but not toner) to recycle and raise funds.

Members of the Eco Committee are:

Y11	James Nonhebel
Y10	Roisin Kelly
Y9	Kimberley Hardingham
Y8	William Garston
Y7	Oliver McEwan
Y6	Jeffrey Sharpe
Y5	Harry Baker
Y4	Christopher Birkbeck
Y3	Henry Palmer
Y2	William Lloyd
Y1	Jake Lacey

C-R-Y Cardiac Risk in the Young

Lizzie Guild (the mother of Nick Guild who died suddenly last year) completed a half marathon last Sunday in aid of C-R-Y. Twelve young people (under 35) a week die of an undiagnosed heart condition and this charity is aiming to raise awareness and encourage screening, particularly of young sports people. If you would like to make a donation, please do so through her website charity page which is open until 15 June (The link is: <http://www.justgiving.com/lizzieguild>).