



Leehurst Swan School Newsletter

Issue 49

Summer 2008

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

This is the final Newsletter of the academic year 2007/2008.

Arts Festival Week

This was an exciting week with many activities and events. The school was splendidly decorated by the pupils and a plethora of different activities, ranging from concerts to jive dancing, took place. Flying fish hovered above the fish pond on the front lawn and a rock pool, complete with starfish, appeared in one of the art rooms. These are just a few examples of the creations your children produced as part of Arts Festival Week. Thank you to all who have been involved.



The Arts Festival Week ended with the PTA Summer Ball which was held in the marquee on the Fish Pond Lawn. It was a very entertaining event and my thanks go to all the parents and helpers who helped make it happen.

Sports Days



We have completed all three Sports Days in fine weather and with a good competitive spirit.

Both Prep sports events which took place in the Cathedral Close were happy and enjoyable events, memorable for the great efforts shown by all and the mild weather. Senior Sports Day was a triumph with some keen Inter-house competition and spirited performances from individual athletes. I was delighted to see the first Foundation Stage Sports Day on the lawn behind the Pre-Prep.





Sport

The cricket teams have had a mixed season with an early start of much promise and few harder matches ending in disappointment recently.

Athletes have been extraordinarily successful this year, with a large group going to the ISA national finals in Birmingham. Isabel Rutledge made it

into the finals. Louisa Mc Robb was chosen to represent South West region in the relay team that won bronze at the event. Aaron Birt won silver in the hundred metres sprint and gold in the 200 metres sprint. This is a remarkable success and represents a growing number of Leehurst Swan pupils competing at a national level of sport.



Staff Leavers

Mrs Chrissie Eden retires as Head of Learning Support, although she will continue to teach and support pupils in the school part time. I have been very grateful for all she has done in establishing and developing the Learning Support Department. The Inspection Team recognised the strength of the department in their report and this is

testimony to the outstanding job Mrs Eden has done over the years. However, her biggest 'Thank you' comes from those pupils who have had their lives transformed by achieving in areas in which they were previously incapable of success.

Mr David Dwyer leaves to take up his dream post of residential house parent to the child cast of 'Billy Elliot'. We wish him the best in this new venture and thank him for all the sporting fixtures, coaching sessions, trips, Sports Days and contributions he has made to the school.

Mrs Luce McCallum leaves the school as teacher of French to follow other areas of interest. She has been a valued member of the Modern Foreign Languages Department and is a native French speaker. She has battled against health problems for some time and we are indebted to her determined efforts to do the best for the pupils.

Mrs Fiona Charter leaves to take up the post of Head of Art at Forres Sandle Manor School. She has been responsible for the teaching of photography and art. The outstanding results in both departments and especially in photography, are indications of her success and hard work. I am most grateful for all her work and for the exceptionally high standards pupils have achieved under her instruction. I wish her well in the challenge of her new post and I know she will be keeping in contact with us in the future.

Mrs Sue Powell retires from teaching and coaching after many years of instructing PE games and, more recently, swimming. She is looking forward to developing her own business. Many pupils will thank her for helping them to enjoy sport over the years.

Mr David Marsh has been with us for two terms having joined the school for work experience then being appointed to assist in Art and ICT classes. He has proved a valuable help in many ways and leaves to train for teaching.

We wish them well as they move on to new challenges and experiences.

Farewell to all the pupils leaving this term. The majority are from Year 11 and Year 6. I wish them well and trust that they will remember their time at Leehurst Swan with many happy memories.



New appointments

Mr Andrew Scrase has been appointed Director of Studies and will teach Science, Mathematics and Sport to Senior and Prep pupils. He is currently teaching at Appleford School and is known to some parents already.

Mrs Alison Szalay joins the school to lead the Learning Support Department. She is relocating with her family from Yorkshire, where she has been a Learning Support Advisor for a number of schools.

Mr Anthony Le Cam joins the Modern Foreign Languages Department. He is a native French speaker and has enjoyed a professional sporting career as a footballer, before joining the teaching

profession. He will also be helping with Senior games.

Mr David Liversage assumes the mantle of teacher of Photography and he will also teach Art. He has a very wide experience of teaching Photography and of commercial photography and is a parent of three Leehurst Swan pupils.

Mrs Caroline Palmer takes over swimming coaching to most of the Prep pupils.

Miss Isabel Spring (a former pupil) rejoins the school, to help out in Art, Design Technology, ICT and PE, as a teaching assistant.

Staff Changes

Mrs Trudi Cotton joins the Careers Department and continues with her present role as Head of PSHCE and History.

Dr Jane Howells is responsible for setting up and running the Alumni Association - the name has yet to be determined but if you know of former pupils please ask them to contact Dr Howells.

The New Hall

The Governors have applied for planning permission to build a new assembly and performing arts hall on the site of the present Key Stage 2 playground. The decision is due in the summer holidays and the governors are determined to move forward rapidly on the project, should planning permission be granted. Plans are developing well for the transfer of the Key Stage 2 playground to the garden area used by the pupils in the summer months. With a new all weather surface this area promises to be a better facility for these pupils and will be used all year round.

Trips



Education at Leehurst Swan is not confined to the classroom. Nearly all the pupils have been on at least one trip this term and these have proved an enjoyable mix of education and new experiences. To name but a few Windsor Castle, Old Sarum, Fort Nelson, Wilton House and Lake House Estate Organic Farm have all been visited by the Prep Department. The Senior Department has organised trips to France, Lacock, Thorpe Park, the French market in Salisbury, the Cathedral and the Salisbury Museum and the Isle of Wight for water sports. None of these would have been possible without the support of the staff and the parents. Thank you to both.



Communication

During the year we transferred most of our communication to e-mail. Not only is this more environmentally friendly, it also delivers information more rapidly and effectively than 'satchel' mail. Please give us your e-mail address if we have not got it or if you have changed it recently. From next year we also hope to contact you by text messaging should you wish. This will allow us to inform you of late returns of minibuses and other unexpected events. Please advise us of your mobile numbers on the Pupil Information Sheets (which you will receive for updating at the beginning of the Autumn Term) if we do not have them recorded already.

ICT Developments

Over the summer holidays more ICT equipment is due to be fitted in the school and soon it will be easier to list the few class rooms that do not have this facility rather than those that do.

Prep Head Pupils

This is the time of year when the present Prep Head Pupils step down and new ones are selected to replace them. Heather Thomas and Alexander Henderson have been excellent ambassadors for the school and will be a very hard act to follow, they have fulfilled the demands of the role fully. I am most grateful to them. Georgia Edwards and Christopher Phillips have been excellent deputies and have been part of the team. I also wish to say "thank you" to Ethan Bell who, for his long service in helping in the school over years, was made a prefect last year.

The Pre-Prep Department has now operated as a full Foundation Stage for a year. We have continued to receive visitors and advisors from Wiltshire County Council to see how to operate a full Foundation Stage with excellent results. The pupils continue to make outstanding progress, out performing all the national expectations and working well ahead of their peers in other settings. Mrs Chalk and Miss Harvey, along with all the Support Assistants, are to be congratulated on the continuing success of this

section of the school as our Quality Assurance Award was extended for a second year.



Key stage 2 SATs

Parents may be aware, because of the recent publicity, the Key Stage 2 SATs results will now be published after the school term has ended for the summer holidays and at least a week later than planned. The results will therefore be sent to parents during the summer holidays, when we have received them and checked them. There has been considerable concern that the marking may not be accurate and the delays by the marking company may reduce the accuracy of the results.

I hope you have a very good summer holiday. Next term starts for Year 7 on Thursday, 28th August and school for all other pupils commences on Friday 29th August.

Roger Leake
Headmaster

Congratulations to Aaron Birt, Louisa McRobb, Kate Robinson, Georgia Edwards, Lewis Rutledge and Isabel Rutledge who all qualified for the finals at the ISA National Athletics Championships in Birmingham.

Aaron came 1st in Y7 Boys' 200m and 2nd in 100m. Louisa came 3rd in the Y7 Girls' Relay and Isabel came 3rd in the Y5 Girls' Relay.

Salisbury Primary Schools Athletics Championships Wednesday 25th June 2008

The preliminaries for this event in 800m, Long Jump and Throws were held on Monday 23rd June and all of our competitors were successful in qualifying for the finals on Wednesday 25th June. The Championships were blessed with ideal weather conditions and as a result there was a big crowd of supporters for the thirty or so schools taking part. The Leehurst Swan pupils had a very exciting and successful evening with the following pupils receiving medals:



Jacob Collins (Y3) came 2nd in the 60m sprint, Tara King (Y3) came 3rd in the 60m sprint, Isabel Rutledge (Y5) came 2nd in the 80m sprint. The Y6 boys came 2nd in the Circular Relay (Munvinder Tandy, Lewis Commons, Richard Cox, Lewis Rutledge).

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education)

We have run several new courses this year. Adam Gerkin has continued his Self Defence classes with the current Y10. We are now running classes for both boys and girls. Teenangels ran a successful Babysitting

course for pupils from Y8 to 10 and will be offering a similar course for next year's Y8s.



Our departing Y11s were offered a post GCSE cookery class and 13 of them took up the offer, creating feta and goat's cheese quiche and chocolate and orange cheesecake. We are hoping to incorporate one or two 'hands on' sessions as part of the regular Y8 PSHCE course. Salisbury College drama group put on a play/workshop on anti-social behaviour which our Y9s were able to participate in and enjoy.

We are always willing to consider incorporating any suggestions into our regular PSHCE programme. Sometimes it can take a while to put them into effect (three years for the cookery!) but we will try to act on any ideas which are practical possibilities.

Seventeen Y6 pupils have taken part in 'Bikability' (cycling proficiency) this term.

A Prep First Aid Team competed in the St John Ambulance National Competition in Swindon recently.

Battlefields and Elsewhere

The History and French Departments ran a successful trip to the World War I Battlefields for Y9 and 10. We took 46 students and 5 teachers and stayed in a chateau adapted for students near St Omer. The trip was, as usual, a combination of moving visits to cemeteries and trenches (in various states) and lighter events such

as shopping in Albert market, Ypres and St Omer. Five of our students laid a wreath in honour of The Fallen, during the Menin Gate ceremony and several students



were able to visit the graves or plaques containing the names of relatives. Mr Appelbee laid a wreath in honour of his Uncle Tommy, who was killed in 1916.

History Department News

History teachers throughout the school were kept busy organising our usual programme of trips and visits. Wessex Archaeology continued their successful visits to study Romans with Y4 and Prehistoric Man with Y3.



Two new ventures were a Geography/History trip to Durrington Walls (Y7) and a Y8 visit to a replica of the Golden Hinde. Y7 are going to trial a Medieval Life workshop at Salisbury Museum. We also combined a KS1 and KS3 trip to Windsor Castle, which reduced the costs and strengthened the links between different pupils in the school. Both Y2 and Y8 enjoyed waving at the other group whenever they met them! Similarly, when Y2 said they had not got any model castles, Y7 were only too happy to oblige with the ones they had created. Now Y2 classrooms are well-fortified! Y5 enjoyed learning more about the Tudors and Stuarts at Fort Nelson in Fareham this term.

Second Hand Uniform

The second hand uniform shop is open every Wednesday afternoon from 1.30-4.00 pm during term time for Prep and Senior School second hand uniform. You can leave messages for Mrs Harvey if you telephone the School Reception.

Please note the following requirements for second hand uniform:

- when brought in to be sold it must be clean and in good condition
- if you wish to receive 50% of the sale value of your uniform you must make sure each individual item is clearly named
- the shop will value uniform received according to its condition.

Thank you!

School Sports Bags

The School Sports bags are available to purchase from the school office – Prep £14.00 and Senior £16.00.

MINI BUS 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.

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. Please

also inform Reception if your child has Learning Support when you call.

SCHOOL TELEPHONE

If pupils need to make 'official' (and short in length) calls home about fixtures etc, they may come and ask at the Reception desk

JUDO

Judo lessons will recommence next term on Tuesday 9th September.

GYM CLUB

Gym club will recommence next term on Monday 1st September.

TEAM THEME FOOTBALL CLUB

Team Theme Football Club will recommence next term on Thursday 11th September.

SWIMMING

Swimming will recommence:

Pre-Prep - Tue 2nd Sept at Five Rivers
Y1-3 - Thurs 4th Sept at Five Rivers - pm
Y4 - Thurs 4th Sept at Godolphin - am
Y5X & Y7 - Wed 3rd Sept at Godolphin (Y7 will leave school at 8.30 am for 8.40 am swim and Y5X will swim during period 2)

5X & 5Y will have either PE or Swimming during the year. 5X will commence with Swimming and 5Y will commence with PE

Y11 GCSE PE Swimming - Thurs 4th Sept - 8.30 am
at Godolphin – **pupils go straight there for registration**

Please note to comply with Godolphin Pool regulations, all pupils in Y4, 5, 6 and 7 must wear swimming hats. Leehurst Swan swimming hats are £3.00 and may be purchased from John Lewis.

Y6 will start swimming lessons in May after KS2 NCTs.

Please would parents write a note to their child's form teacher to withdraw him/her from swimming or other sporting activity on a school day if your child is unable to take part due to illness or injury.

CAR PARKING

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 visitors' parking spaces.

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.

CONTACTING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

If you wish a message to be relayed to your child (for example for After School Club, 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.

