



8th October 2009

Dear Parents

Happy National Poetry Day! This year's theme is Heroes and Heroines. If it's an anti-hero you are after then I recommend Macavity the Mystery Cat from TS Elliot's 'Practical Book of Cats'. There are a wealth of activities for children to take part in; available on www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk/ We celebrated a local poet hero during this morning's assembly: John Clare. Pupils listened one of his poems and learnt a little more about this once overlooked but now much celebrated Northamptonshire poet.

St Peter's School is runner-up in the category of Transforming the Environment, part of the Pride of Northamptonshire awards. We are proud of the efforts made by children in Environment Club, staff and PTAFAs parents to transform a wilderness area of the School's grounds into an Environment Classroom, now enjoyed by so many. Congratulations everyone!

The return to winter uniform on Monday 12th October is probably a welcome one for many, now that early autumn is so firmly established. Blazers will be an optional all year round item so they *can* continue to be worn with winter uniform, but they will be compulsory at most 'events', such as Tuesday's photograph sessions, the Carol Service and Kettering Eisteddfod. Please note that girls may wear long grey socks or grey tights with winter uniform. Bermuda shorts *can* be worn for all PE activities and shadow stripe shorts are an optional item. When the weather is too warm for track suits (i.e. Trinity Term) the Bermuda shorts should be worn.

Last week's Harvest Festival celebrations were both lively and thought-provoking. In the morning, Year Six pupils led the School in its Harvest Festival, presenting a class assembly which served to remind us of our good fortune in terms of our relative 'food wealth' compared to the 'food poverty' in some part of the world. The letters of the word HARVEST were rearranged to make other words such as STARVE and SHARE. Some interesting facts and figures were put forward to prick our collective conscience: Do you know that the amount of food that is thrown away in the UK and US in one year would be enough to feed one billion people in poor countries? The idea of hunger was explored, and we were asked by Year Six to consider that despite sometimes *thinking* we were hungry, the experience of true hunger is something unknown to us. The question was posed: What if you hadn't eaten lunch or dinner or breakfast for the last TEN days? Charities whose aim is to help the hungry were identified: The World Food Programme, UNICEF, Christian Aid, Christian African Relief Trust, Self Help Africa and Fair Trade. Year Six left us with a thought provoking statement: Harvest...is a small word but a word that can change in many ways and mean many things.

Notification of consultation appointments have been sent out to parents of pupils in Reception, Year One and Year Two. Appointments for pupils in Key Stage Two will be distributed by Monday.

Production Club meet this Saturday from 9.30am to 11.30m in Sunnylands Hall. Remember to bring a morning snack, everyone. Pupils will be relieved to learn that this and all other listed Saturday rehearsals are non-uniform occasions!

Nursery children have been watching the weather and linking this to the letter 'w'. Whilst we hoped for wind, rain, fog and a fall in temperature what we received was unseasonably mild and almost 'bland' weather! Nevertheless our intrepid nursery explorers still looked at the weather every day, made charts and used their treasure boxes to bring in pictures of different weather conditions. The result was a



colourful wall display and a new awareness of the conditions around us. There was also the realisation that our newly planted flowers needed regular water to keep them healthy and growing!

Year One have been looking at the local area as part of their Geography work. They went for a walk to count the numbers of different houses that they saw, recording information by ticking the type of property such as bungalow or detached. Back in school each child transferred this information to a map of their own. Whilst out on our walk the children were encouraged to watch out for interesting objects and signs which they might not have noticed before. It is surprising how many signs and symbols they found

On Saturday selected pupils will represent St Peter's School at this year's Brooke Priory Cross Country event. Good luck to Ruby Styles, Harry Ainsworth, Nathan Telford, Harrison Brice, Jocelyn Bowie, Matilda Middleton, Karis Blott, Katie Devine, Olivia Ager, Olivia Cawthorn, Lauren Church, George Evans, TJ McCardie, Robbie Coulson, Emily Middleton, Melissa Todd, Miriam Cragg, Myles Tew and Daniel Antoniou.

On Tuesday a selected football team will represent the School at the Independent Schools Association Midland Under 11 Football Tournament. The team are limbering up and in training! Good luck to George Evans, Kuda Taruvinga, Oliver Eade, Toby Lyles, Robbie Coulson, TJ McCardie, Emily Middleton and Daniel Antoniou.

Good food and school friendship was once again on the menu at this year's PTAFA Harvest Supper. In addition, Mr Fountain's hearty harvest stew was enjoyed by families attending this popular event. As a dessert we enjoyed a generous portion of music and verse on the theme of Autumn and Harvest, served so confidently by our pupils. Together with a liberal sprinkling of community singing from everyone, the final recipe was a resounding success. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the PTAFA Harvest Supper. The following parents also donated toward the PTAFA's recent purchase of new crockery: Mr & Mrs A Dee, Mr & Mrs Borbas, Mr & Mrs Cawthorn, Mr & Mrs M Conway, Mr & Mrs D Conway, Dr & Mrs Delaney, Mr C Fountain, Mr & Mrs Hill, S.T. Holford Plumbing, Mr & Mrs McLester, Mr & Mrs Middleton, Mr & Mrs Oxley, Mr & Mrs Standoloft, Mr & Mrs Wittering and All Things Food.

Thank you also to everyone who supported Macmillan Cancer Care by either attending the Coffee Morning or buying cakes from the stall at the end of the school day.

Tickets for the Ghost Hunt will be on sale very soon. A letter will be distributed giving further details of the different ways in which tickets can be purchased.

The next PTAFA meeting will be on Wednesday 14th October. Pleased try and come along.

The next bulletin will be issued on Thursday 22nd October which is the last day of this first half of Michaelmas Term. How time flies!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Maria Chapman