

4th February 2016

Dear Parents, Pupils & Guest Readers

Here is our latest School news.

5JL present a 'Children in WW2' assembly



Last week pupils at the school were taken back to a time of food rationing, uncertainty and possible separation. Children in Year Five fused facts, humour, music and drama together to help their fellow pupils understand better how tough life was for families living through the Second World War.

Key Stage One Fun Maths Club

Children attending this club have been learning mathematical skills through a series of fun activities. The first meeting of the club saw the children turn into detectives. They had to use their code breaking skills to catch a thief and solve the crime. The two groups were given a grid containing letters and numbers to help reveal the code, a series of clues and a picture of potential suspects. Pupils worked co-operatively together to solve the mathematical calculations - there was a race to solve each clue quickly and be the first group to solve the mystery!

The children have also enjoyed practicing their counting skills through a throwing target game. Again the children were put into two teams, and pitted against each other to score the most points by throwing balls at different numbers on a felt dartboard. Mrs McCahill was very impressed with the way the children used quick mental methods of calculating, and how the children encouraged each other.



This week the children have enjoyed finding out about fractions through a fun art activity. Detailed discussions were held at the beginning of the session where children asked to think about which fraction of a chocolate bar or pizza they would prefer. Lots of the children were thoughtful and suggested that they would rather have a quarter instead of a half as they did not want to be too selfish! We then started to create fraction collage pictures, and later on will record the fractions of the colours they have used to make the whole picture.

Art & Craft Club in Key Stage One



Over 300 cotton wool balls were used during Key Stage One Art Club to create large pictures of snowmen. The children went on to 'dress' the snowman by drawing and decorating scarves, hats and buttons. They also enjoyed adding on the final touches of eyes, mouth and of course the all-important carrot shaped nose!

Go Orange for Muscular Dystrophy UK



Well done to everyone who took part in last Friday's fundraiser, bringing a splash of sunshine to an otherwise cold and blustery day. Over £120 was raised for this charity. Thank you. ☺

Meet the Raspberry Pi Gang



Reeve Lim, Jude Alton, Teddy Hatlem and Ryan Lewin are our first pupils who will be working with computer hardware, puzzling out how to build a small computer and then programming for it too. These are early days for this lunchtime computing crew. We have the kit, we have the manual, we have the courage and we hope to eventually crack this conundrum!

Late Club



This is the place where you can do your homework, play, read, chat with friends, get involved in all sorts of activities, have the chance to spend time with younger or older children in the School and generally also relax after a very busy day at School!

Gardening Club



Member of Gardening Club are at present growing herbs which were obtained from the RHS children's gardening website. We have taken cuttings from a variety of shrubs around the school and the group have taken them home to grow. We have planted the train outside Sunnylands Nursery with pansies.

KS2 Craft Club



Years Three and Four have been very busy in Craft Club and have enjoyed making Chinese Dragon puppets to mark Chinese New Year in early February. They have also made some simple bird feeders using cereal, pipe cleaners and ribbon in various shapes, to mark Big School Bird Watch 2016. Examples of the work can be seen on some of the trees near the Sunnylands lawn-but you will be lucky to find much of it left, as the feeders have been well used by the birds. ☺

Guitar Club

Children attending Guitar Club have been mastering the chords of G D and A7 to accompany two songs: 'Lord of the Dance' and 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight'. They are now practicing for our forthcoming Summer Concert. Numbers are smaller this term because some of its members are involved in preparations for Eisteddfod competitions.



Staff News

Mrs Lee moves on at the end of this academic year, as her husband has secured a headship out of the local area. Mrs McCahill will join the Key Stage Two team in September. Mrs McCahill has occasionally taught in Key Stage Two over the last couple of years so she is already accustomed to routines and curriculum, also knowing many of the children. We wish Mrs Lee well in her new location and thank her for all her work, looking forward to one more term with her as a staff member at S Ps.

Reception Class for Sept 2016 is filling fast

We have had a particularly keen interest in entry to this class and a much greater number of places are filled already in comparison to past January/February figures. If you have any family members or friends who are interested in a Reception Class place for September 2016, please encourage them to contact the School Office for a registration form as soon as possible.

ParentMail – We’re Upgrading!

We will soon be upgrading our parent communications portal to the latest version which is called PMX. Look out for further information coming soon which will provide details explaining how easy it is to verify your account with the new software, which is tablet and mobile friendly via the app which can be downloaded for Android or iOS (Apple).

Eisteddfod Chivvy Time

Competition times will soon be distributed to parents so there should definitely be a feel among competitors that the time is drawing even closer! I hope that half term is spent fruitfully, practicing and in some cases ensuring that words to poems are very securely known. The competition is friendly but nonetheless, there is an expectation from the adjudicators that pupils are well prepared. Attending a weekly session in school is not enough without the important supplement of practice at home. After half term we will start hearing our competitors in assemblies. Get ready!

PTAFA Half Term Competition

Pupils were sent home yesterday with details of an exciting competition being run by the PTAFA to tie in with World Book Day. If you would like your child to enter, please send back the entry form request slip ASAP so that PTAFA volunteers have enough time to get the forms back to you before we break up for half term. Entering the competition helps the PTAFA raise funds for the School. It also give your child something fun to do over half term!

The next bulletin will be issued on 25th February, when there will be an update on the work being undertaken by pupils and teachers who are helping them get ready for Eisteddfod at School.

Yours sincerely

Maria Chapman MA (Ed)
Headmistress