



# Stockport Grammar Junior School NEWS

23rd September 2016

**Welcome** to the first edition of our Newsletter for the Autumn Term. We have enjoyed a good start to the year and it has been lovely to see all the children back and to enjoy hearing their news from the summer. We enjoyed a busy Open Morning last weekend and I am grateful to all those children who came in to act as guides and to play their instruments. Once again, we received lots of positive feedback about the children and how well they present themselves. The children as a whole have also been very good at making those new to the school feel welcome and I hope that parents, too, are beginning to feel part of our School. I also hope that parents old and new will answer the call to support the work of the SPA. The standard of the events which they put on is fantastic and the children benefit from the input of our SPA in so many ways. There is a short piece below on the new benches which the SPA have funded recently and we are most grateful for these and for everything else which they do to enrich the children's experience. We had a fun and colourful Roald Dahl Day, although I was a little surprised when one member of staff thought that I had grown a moustache especially (rather than just drawn one on!) and a little disappointed when one child didn't realise that I was wearing a large false nose! (I was Esio Trot, in case you were wondering!) We are looking forward to all that the next few weeks will bring, with Y4 off to York and the excellent Young Shakespeare Company's visit amongst the many highlights.

## The weeks ahead

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Netball v Lady Barn (A)	U10 AB&C	3.30-5.30pm
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Festival	Whole School	9.00-10.00am
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Football v Lady Barn (H)	U10	4.00-5.00pm
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Hockey v KSC (H) Football v KSC (H)	U11 A&B U11 A,B,C&D	2.30-3.45pm 2.30-3.45pm
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Young Shakespeare Company	Y5	1.30-3.30pm
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Football v Altrincham Prep (A) (Bowden CC)	U9	1.30-4.30pm
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	York Residential Departs Football Tournament @ The Etihad Stadium	Y4 Y3	9.00am-12.45pm
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	York Residential Returns Art Afternoon Hockey v KSM (H)	Y4 Y2 U10 A&B	1.00-3.30pm 1.45-3.45pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Netball Tournament (A) @ St Pius Football v CHS (H)	U11 U11	10.45am-5.30pm 3.00-4.15pm
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Hockey v CHS (H)	U10 A&B + U11 A&B	9.15-11.30am

## Dahlicious Centenary Celebrations

To celebrate the centenary of Roald Dahl's birth last week, our pupils dressed up as characters from his books. School assembly was transformed into a colourful array of weird and wonderful creations. From Oompa-Loompas to crocodiles and giraffes, staff and pupils alike got into the spirit with their costumes. Classes also took on a Roald Dahl theme for the day, from sharing stories to art and craft activities based on Roald Dahl's fantastic books. All the pupils who came in costume contributed almost £300 to the Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's charity, which funds children's nursing staff.



Y3 children enjoyed some hubble, bubble, toil and trouble as they designed and then made witches' cauldrons as part of the celebrations.



## Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival service this year will take place during assembly on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. We have been grateful for the support of our parents over the years and each child is once again asked to bring in something for our Harvest display. Small boxes or baskets of food or individual items such as tinned food, biscuits or packet soups will all be gratefully received on behalf of people living in sheltered accommodation and the Wellspring Kitchen in Stockport. If you would like to contribute, please send boxes or items of food into school on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

### Y3 Discover How Our Gardens Grow

Green fingered scientists in 3H have been busy investigating optimum conditions for plant growth. They have planted lettuce seeds looking at different variables including fertiliser, amount of green/red filtered light and different types of soil to see what plants like best. The children are building on work done in Y1 and 2 but taking it to a more complex level by using scientific equipment such as data loggers to measure light levels. Carrying out predictions with reasons was challenging and they will be deciding how best to present their results. Later on in the term they will be growing vegetables and planting bulbs to observe changes over time.



### An Audience with Michael Morpurgo

An exciting opportunity arose on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> for our Y4 pupils to travel to the Plaza theatre in Stockport for an audience with the award-winning children's author, Michael Morpurgo. Michael has achieved world fame with his fantastic books and is perhaps best known for "War Horse" which was adapted into an award-winning film. Michael talked to the children about his new book, "An Eagle in the Snow", and about where the inspiration for this story came from. He also told them about people and objects which have inspired his other books. Y4 pupils Ali Raza and Abigail Sullivan were lucky enough to meet Michael at the end of the performance, so that he could answer their questions.

*"Everyone began to chant 'Michael, Michael' and when he arrived on stage everyone clapped and cheered."* Matthew Ediker.

*"He started talking about his new book. He mentioned that it was based on real life in the First World War."* Magnus Forbes.

*"Michael also told us about his life. He told us in WWII he was evacuated to up north to avoid the bombs being dropped. On his way on the train a bomber dropped bombs but the train driver saw a tunnel so he went as fast as he could and then put the brakes on in the tunnel. After a few hours in the tunnel someone said 'we have been here a long time, let's tell stories!'"*

Oliver Feehan

### A Happy Birthday to...

Ariana Coffin, Matthew McDougall, Uzair Malik, Mikael Malik, Qailah Quaiyoom, Gracie Hadfield, Ethan Thomas, Julia Turo, Maisie Holgate, Lucas Sullivan, Alayna Ahmed, Adrian Ryt, Annie Clarke, William Buckley, Thiana Quinn, Lauren Storey, Darcey Appleton, Caitlin Hill, Leon Porter, Elise Muthappan, Jack Dyson, Lucas Henry, Harry Cook, Douglas King, Amber Cheshire, Alexandra Hartemink, Rosie Lear and Isabella Woodside.

### Your SPA Needs You!

We have our first SPA meeting of the year on the 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in the Governors' room in the Senior School.

**We desperately need your help.** We need volunteers to help plan and organise the Christmas Fair on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Any amount of time you can spare will be very welcome. If no volunteers come forward then, sadly, the Christmas Fair will not be able to take place.

Please come along to the meeting or contact us directly [SPA@stockportgrammar.co.uk](mailto:SPA@stockportgrammar.co.uk)

### Cracking time in Castleton for Year Five pupils

71 Y5 pupils had a great time in the outdoors as they took part in an action-packed residential trip to Castleton. The excited pupils made their way to Losehill Hall, a Victorian Gothic mansion set in 27 acres of parkland in the heart of the Peak District National Park.

After checking in and dropping their bags off, pupils explored the beautiful gardens, woods and streams and quickly got into their fun-filled programme of activities as they panned for gold and learnt how to build dens and light fires with flint and steel before baking some bread.



The pupils and teachers had a good sleep and a fulfilling breakfast which set them up well for a five and a half mile walk and a visit to Treak Cliff Cavern to see stalactites and the famous Blue John stone. The cavern really captured everyone's imagination with 5W pupils commenting: "We visited Treak Cliff Cavern and discovered pockets of Blue John crystals in the walls. We were plunged into darkness. It was so dark we couldn't even see our hands in front of our faces! We found out about the shadow of Gertrude the witch and visited the fairies' cave." On the third and final day the travellers went orienteering, launched egg rockets which they had made on Wednesday evening, and honed their den-building skills.

*"It was a great experience discovering the outdoors and doing activities such as building shelters and lighting fires."*

Mia Krywonos

India Cowell also had a fun trip: "Building egg rockets was great fun. After we built them we launched them to see if the egg stayed intact or not. One group's rocket landed in a tree!"



### New Benches

You may have noticed a new addition to the playground this term. Thanks to the SPA, we have acquired some new colourful benches, just right for the children to sit and have a chat with friends on or to take five minutes out of their busy playtime!



### A Strong Start to the Hockey Season

SGJS fielded three teams to play in the first hockey festival of the season and beat all opposition comfortably. A great start, giving the girls a good idea of things they need to work on.

### We Are What We Eat

Y2 have enjoyed visiting the school canteen this week to link with learning about healthy eating in Science. Mrs Gosling, our catering manager, talked to the children about the different types of food which are on offer in school at lunchtimes. She encouraged them to try new foods and to try to have a variety of different meals throughout the week to help to keep a balanced diet. She answered the children's questions and made a note of some of their suggestions for future menus.



### Holiday Care

Have you booked your place in our half term holiday care club yet? Spaces are still available; please pick up a booking form from reception to secure your place.

### Y2 Visit The Lowry

Our Y2 children have been learning all about the life of L S Lowry in their History and Art lessons so far this term. They visited The Lowry in Manchester earlier this week so they could study his artwork in greater detail and also had the chance to recreate some of his more famous pieces in the workshops, including learning how to draw portraits.



### Junior Footballers Get Kitted Out for the New Season

The Junior School football teams are looking forward to the season with excitement and they will be taking to the pitch in a colourful kit with brand new sponsors. The teams, who kicked off their season with home games against Altrincham Preparatory School, will wear the distinctive yellow and black kit with C&C Insurance Brokers Ltd's logo emblazoned on the front, thanks to a generous sponsorship offer from. The players face a steady stream of games in the run up to the half term break and will come up against teams from Lady Barn House School, King's School, Macclesfield and King's School, Chester to name but a few. They will also play at the Etihad Stadium in a couple of football festivals.

*"I'm very grateful to Mr and Mrs Cooke for providing sponsorship for the new kit as we enter into a new season. Hopefully the boys will do it justice and play to their full potential. If they do this they have a very good chance of winning a few trophies."*

Mr Makinson

