

Stockport Grammar Junior School NEWSLETTER

Friday 3rd February 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter. The term seems to be speeding by and it seems no time at all since we were putting together our last newsletter. *Maths Day* was clearly a great success, helped possibly by the use of Smarties, and with the introduction of chocolate to Y4 Science recently as well, there does seem to be something of a foody theme! Y6 enjoyed their visit to Liverpool to learn about both the Titanic and also slavery and then also took part in a brilliant Art Day, which produced some excellent work. We look forward to seeing the finished results. There are items on Nursery also, Chinese New Year in Reception and Y4, DT in Y2 and the Y3 trip to Tesco to learn all about healthy eating. It has, as ever, been a busy two weeks, rounded off with a successful and enjoyable visit to Manchester Arena yesterday for some of our Young Voices (full report to follow in our next edition). Our teams have been busy too, with a range of Netball, Hockey, Rugby and Football fixtures and success in the gala at the start of the week. Music has featured particularly in two recent assemblies and there are new opportunities for some of our children to try out both brass and woodwind instruments. Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, which I translated into an assembly on 'Spread a Little Kindness Week'. I encouraged everyone to try and find ways to be kind to someone next week, not their friends but instead someone who might not be expecting it. We also talked about 'big feelings' and how important it is to deal with them, ending with some thoughts on why it is important to 'be kind to ourselves', to make and take time to do things which we enjoy. You should have recently received information about a new communication system for parents called *Classlist* and, if you have not already signed up, I encourage you to do so to enable us all to make use of this new facility.

The Weeks Ahead

Monday 6 th February	Football v Pownall Hall (A)	U8A & U9A	1.15-4.00pm
Tuesday 7 th February	Safe Internet Day World of Glass Trip	Year 4	9.00am-3.00pm 9.00am-3.00pm
Wednesday 8 th February	Vision Screening Rugby v The Ryleys (A) Netball v OHSG (H)	Reception U11 U11A & U10A	9.00am-12noon 1.30-4.30pm 4.00-5.30pm
Friday 10 th February	Rugby v CHS (A) Hockey v LGS (H)	U11A U11A+B	2.15-4.00pm 2.15-4.00pm
Saturday 11 th February	Hockey v CHS (A)	U11A+B & U10A+B	9.15-11.00am
Monday 13 th February	Swimming Gala v AESG (H)	Girls	4.00-5.00pm
Wednesday 15 th February	Quarry Bank Mill Trip Netball v Beech Hall (A)	Year 1 U10A+B	9.00am-3.00pm 3.30-5.30pm
Friday 17th February	Half Term Commences		3.35pm
	(School Re-opens to pupils Tuesday 28th February)		

Half Term Holiday Care

Places are still available for this February half term from Monday 20th to Friday 24th at a cost of £20 per full day. There will be lots of activities on offer, including baking, dressing up, messy art, computers, bike rides and movies. Pick up a booking form from the School Office to secure your place.



Number Crunching

It was Maths Day in the Junior School recently and our pupils had lots of fun with the theme 'Going Dotty'.

Children from across the year groups took part in a range of interactive activities, with some playing with giant dominos whilst others looked at probability with the help of dice. Some of our older children estimated, counted and divided Smarties into colours while the Infants enjoyed a whole day of Maths based on ladybirds! The children enjoyed counting spots, looking for number bonds, doubling and halving spots and going on ladybird hunts around their classrooms.



Y6 Enjoy a Titanic Visit

Y6 pupils enjoyed getting dressed up for the occasion as they visited the Merseyside Maritime Museum at the Albert Docks in Liverpool last week.

The museum contains a variety of objects associated with the social and commercial history of the port of Liverpool and it currently has an exhibition about the city's links to the Titanic. The pupils donned life-jackets and a wide variety of hats as they got a feel for life on the ill-fated ship. They also designed posters as they looked into the class system and slavery as the same building also houses the International Slavery Museum.



Boxing Clever in Y2



As part of their Design and Technology lessons, Y2 have created moving vehicles using junk modelling. The children identified different features of vehicles and then listed the materials they would need to construct their own vehicles using junk boxes they had collected. The children enjoyed testing their vehicles in the classroom and had a 'wheely wheely' fun time!

Chinese New Year



Our children have been learning about Chinese New Year. In an assembly last week they learnt about the Chinese superstitions; that there were some things you can do and some things that you shouldn't do on Chinese New Year. For example, you should not cut your hair and shouldn't say the number 4.

Children in Y3H made Chinese lanterns. *'I am going to give mine to my uncle.'* Harriet Hanger. *'We also made red envelopes and drew gold designs on the.'* Lucy Jones. *'Jason and George wrote numbers in Chinese on the board for us to cop.'* Rahul George and Jason celebrated Chinese New Year by gathering around their families and receiving red packets with money (unlike the ones we made at school!). They also enjoyed the traditional dish of dumplings.

Happy New Year of the Rooster from 3H!

Active Kids



The Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017 campaign has just been launched and the Junior School will again be taking part this year. Your vouchers will be accepted in school until June and are available when you shop at any Sainsbury's Supermarket, Sainsbury's Local or Sainsbury's Online.

Music, Music, Music

We were treated to performances by two of our peripatetic music teachers this week as they came to tell the children all about brass and woodwind instruments. The visit was part of our expansion of opportunities for music within the school and our older children are being given the opportunity to join clubs to try out the instruments, leading to an informal performance for parents. This follows on from our very successful initiatives for strings, percussion and ukulele.

A Happy Birthday to...

Eliana Malik, Zedan Malik, Zoe Lai, Evie Lord, Hannah Akbar, Sophia Krywonas, Dylan Daw, Charlie Singleton, Erin Roberts, Zahra Raja-Zahid, Luca Golden, Max Fell, Niamh Bentley, Aryanah Latif, Ahmar Malik, Antonia Mills and Phoebe Ferris.

'Chocs' Away in Y4



Our Y4 children enjoyed a deliciously chocolatey Science lesson last week. The children were asked to investigate melting chocolate and discovered how it changed from a solid to a liquid. A marshmallow was dipped into their individual chocolate pots and the children then worked hard to cool it down, so it solidified again. Only then were they allowed to eat it!

Building Solid Foundations

Our Nursery children enjoyed imaginative play in the garden this week as they pretended to be builders. It was a great way to develop mathematics skills, measuring and using numbers through play. The children also learnt the names for the tools and discovered how and what they are used for. Our budding builders really enjoyed being builders for the day!



Charity Update

Your generosity this Christmas resulted in £536.41 being raised for Francis House through the sale of soft toys and the Salvation Army reported they were able to provide a huge 406 gifts and 55 food parcels to children and families less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you for your kind donations.

Hockey Success

Congratulations to Rosie Lear on her selection for the Greater Manchester U12 hockey squad after a late final trial.

House Hockey

It was a great pleasure to see the number of boys and girls who were eager to participate in the House Competition this year. For two Friday evenings, the children played a good standard of hockey, working together in a collective effort to outwit the other House teams. The House Captains did a great job in enthusing their House members to take part and checking everyone had a fair chance to play in the matches. Well done to them.



The general standard of play was very good with all teams holding their shape, creating passing attacks and remembering to mark and cover in defence. Nicholson were a well-organised and strong team whose attack could not be matched. They won all of their games without conceding a goal. In second place were Vernon, third Arden with Warren finishing in fourth.

Arden; George Brown, Callum Horsley, Molly Parnell, Elise Muthappen, Niamh Bentley, Sara Watson, Joshua Roberts, Amelie Batey, Holly Williams, Claudia Fell.

Nicholson; Alex Hartemink, Molly Coghlan, Jessica Jones, Amaya North, Stephen Monk, Darcy Durance, Tilly Wolstenholme, Chloe Smith, Jeeya Patel, Freya Niven, Sachin Gholkar.

Vernon; Lilah Vidler, Rosie Lear, Anna Howard, Isabella Woodside, Katherine Alexander, Millie Nuttall, Darcy Breen.

Chinese New Year Comes to Reception



Our Reception children also had a taste of the Chinese New Year last week when Zoë's parents and Dylan's parents from RT came to visit both classes to share lots of interesting facts about Chinese New Year. Zoë and Dylan dressed up in Traditional Chinese clothes and wished their friends Happy New Year in Chinese. Zoë's Daddy showed the children slides about China and talked about the food and their customs. They looked at the different foods, the dragon dance and fireworks. Our visitors also talked about the colour red and how they would be celebrating the New Year. Mrs Turner and Mrs Hampson were presented with red lanterns as symbols of good luck and Zoë and Dylan gave their friends a special red envelope, fortune cookies and a dragon for their friends to make. It was a lovely talk and one which allowed our pupils a personal insight into Chinese New Year.

Gala Success

A fabulous win for our boys and girls on Monday as we defeated Westholme, 285-242, which was an excellent result, particularly given the fact that we were fielding a depleted team due to illness. All the children stepped up and took on extra swimming to bridge the gaps. Ms Franklin commented: *'They all behaved brilliantly and the support was awesome!'* Well done to all the children involved and a huge thank you for the support from friends and family.

A Musical Interlude

Our children enjoyed a visit from former Junior School pupil, Talia Zelhof, this week, who came back to play her oboe for them in assembly. This is the first in a sequence of musicians visiting from the Senior School providing opportunities for our children to learn more about different instruments and also hear older pupils perform.

There was a wide range of questions for Talia and we learnt all about the instrument itself, what kind of sound it produces and what makes it produce that sound. There were also lots of questions about frequency of practice (a lot), what else she played and why she took up the instrument in the first place.

Y3 Have a Taste of Farm-to-Fork with Tesco

Our Y3 children went on a 'Healthy Eating Trail' around Tesco store this week. The children were led to a large classroom and given yellow tabards to wear. Their first task was to head to the fruit and veg aisle and identify as many different coloured fruits and vegetables as they could. Portion sizes were demonstrated by cupping both hands together and the children were told about the 'five a day' rule. Any misconceptions about a pepper being a vegetable were addressed at this point! Then came a temptation that no one could resist - raspberry tasting - yummy! The children next proceeded to the sugar aisle where they were told that a sugar cube has 5g of sugar in it and they were asked questions about daily allowances and how much is in fizzy drinks. They learnt that the recommended daily allowance is 30g, which is the equivalent to just one can of Coke. The children then had to work in groups to pick four different cereals and put them in order of which they thought had most to least amounts of sugar. Following their educated guesses they had to look at the labels and compare their predictions to the actual results.

"We found out that it is hard to find a cereal that has less sugar in than Weetabix." Alayana Ahmed. Savanna guessed the Frosties would have the most sugar: *"My Mummy told me that Frosties have a lot of sugar."*



It was then back to the classroom to do some more tasting. The children were given rye snacks, pitta and tzatziki, prunes, carrots, cucumber and sunflower seeds to taste and evaluate. They then took on entrepreneurial roles to create their own muesli to take home. They had to select quantities of bran flakes, oats, raisins and seeds, but absolutely no sugar! Finally, they were asked to select another item they would add next time: *"We would choose banana chips next time."* Adrian and Alfie.

Y6 Art Day



Our Y6 Pupils enjoyed a fun Art Day on Monday. The children looked at the use of line and pattern in David Hockney's Pool Paintings of the 1960s and took inspiration from Hokusai's 'Great Wave' to develop work based on a theme of 'Water'. They worked on ceramic tiles with alcohol-based inks to create unique water-themed abstract compositions, working into the patterns created by the inks using permanent pens. The project will develop further to include some 3D sculpture work using wire and air-drying clay, and textile sewn, wired and distressed fabric and dyed and manipulated with PVA glue. Watercolour techniques were also explored on watercolour paper along with printing, masking and stencilling. A real stand out lesson in Art!



