



Stockport Grammar Junior School NEWSLETTER

17th February 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter, which is once again full and fun! Firstly, our congratulations to Mrs Barrowman who has just announced that she is expecting a baby in the summer. After two years without anyone expecting, we now have three at once, which makes me wonder if there is any link between babies and buses! We very much enjoyed a visit from U6 pupil Alex Jones this week. Alex, who started out in the Junior School, is principal double bass of the National Youth Orchestra and also won a BBC composers competition last year. He performed brilliantly for all of the Juniors before answering an interesting range of questions about both his instrument and what it takes to play the double bass. 'Bob a job' has certainly been a great success and has thoroughly engaged many of our children (see below). Our thanks to everyone who has taken part and helped us raise such a fantastic total. Y1 enjoyed their trip to Quarry Bank Mill this week and Y4 had a smashing time at World of Glass (literally smashing after too much puff was blown into one particular piece of glass!). I am sure everyone is looking forward to their half term break and I look forward to hearing all about what the children have got up to on their return. Many of our Y6 are off to London next weekend for a Performing Arts trip; having been on this trip last year, I know that they will have a great time. World Book Day is fast approaching once again, where the whole of the Junior School focuses on the same book for a day. We also have Y3 and Y4 class pieces early in March, definitely a date to put in your diary if you are able to do so as these are always excellent events.

The Weeks Ahead

Monday 27 th February	INSET Day	School closed No children to attend	
Tuesday 28 th February	Hockey Festival @ The Ryleys	U11 (mixed)	1.00-4.30pm
Wednesday 1 st March	Reception Fun Swim Football v The Grange (A) Netball v The Grange (A)	RH U11 A, B, C & D U11 A, B, C & D	1.00-3.00pm 1.30-4.45pm 1.30-4.45pm
Thursday 2 nd March	Football v Bury (H) Hockey AJIS @ UCLAN	U10 A&B U11	2.30-3.45pm 9.30am-4.30pm
Friday 3 rd March	World Book Day		8.35am-3.35pm
Saturday 4 th March	Stockport Harriers Cross Country, Woodbank Park	Y3-6	10.30am-12noon
Tuesday 7 th March	Football v KSC (A) Class Pieces	U9 Y3	1.00-5.30pm 2.50-3.15pm
Wednesday 8 th March	Brain Blaster Rugby Festival @ Rossall Reception Fun Swim Netball v The Ryleys (H) SPA Uniform Sale, Dining Hall	Y5&6 U11 RT U11B	9.00am-3.00pm 10.30am-5.00pm 1.00-3.00pm 3.30-4.30pm 4.00-5.00pm
Thursday 9 th March	Football IAFS Competition @ Bolton School Netball v Bolton (A)	U11 U10 A&B	12noon-3.00pm 3.00-6.00pm
Friday 10 th March	School Council Meeting Class Pieces Football v St Bede's (H)	Y4 U11 A&B	12.30-2.00pm 2.50-3.15pm 2.30-3.45pm

Y4 Have a Smashing Trip

Y4 visited *The World of Glass* as part of their Science topic on 'States of Matter' last week. Our children found out how glass used to be made, explored the tunnels under the factory furnace, watched glass being blown, shaped and even designed and painted their own glasses to take home.

"I really liked the glass blowing. When it cooled too quickly, the glass bubble exploded and shattered all over the floor." Tabitha Bloor

"I liked it when we painted the glasses. I used yellow, red and blue to make a pattern with circles and squares." Joshua Hodgson



Arena Concert Hits all the Right Notes

A group of 31 Junior School pupils headed off to the Manchester Arena to participate in the annual 'Young Voices' mass choir event. After months of getting to grips with a huge variety of songs, from traditional to pop, African to Welsh, a cappella to full band accompaniment, we found ourselves rehearsing for a full afternoon with over 8,000 other children, led by choir master Mr David Lawrence. All that singing meant that we devoured our packed teas and were then ready to perform to parents in the evening. Coloured lighting effects, mini torches in the dark and brilliant dancing from Urban Strides ensured a magical evening for all. We left tired and hoarse but very happy. Well done to all our performers.



Blood and Gore Galore!



Y6J made blood in their Science lesson as part of a heart and circulation topic last week. They used honey with red food colouring, red smarties to represent red blood cells, marshmallows to represent white cells and sprinkles for platelets. Prior to this, the children were set homework to find out about the constituents of blood.



Some of our children shared their thoughts on the subject: "It was really fun. We used honey mixed with red food colouring, and sweets for the blood cells." Katie Dignan "After we made it, it felt really weird to touch." Ramsey Challah. "It was really fun, and at the same time we learned about blood." Alex Hartemink. "A great activity, and it felt just like real blood." Juan Ramirez. "It was really gooey and sticky!" George Brown.

Safer Internet Day

Our pupils took part in a number of activities to mark Safer Internet Day last week. Smartie the Penguin taught our Y1 and Y2 pupils about being safe on the internet and our Y3 children were full of positivity as they gave good wishes and made positive comments to pupils who travelled under their 'positive arch'. This was a national event with hundreds of schools taking part to raise awareness of potential dangers on the internet. Pupils gained lots of helpful advice about keeping safe when using the internet and completed different tasks with their form classes, which included watching videos, discussions, visiting websites and interactive games.

Keeping our children safe whilst surfing the net is a serious matter; there are lots of useful websites which contain further information about internet safety and three are listed below.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/>



Let's Go Fly a Kite!

Our Nursery children enjoyed making kites and flying them on a very windy Monday. The process involved designing and making them and then, of course, the fun of flying them!



Fundraising for Leo



This week we ran our 'Bob a Job' campaign to help raise money for Leo, a relative of one of our children who has a rare form of brain cancer and urgently requires lifesaving treatment. Lots of our children have been busy at home supporting the charity by carrying out many chores, generally earning more than a bob (5p) in the process! Children across the school have washed pots, cleaned out chickens, washed dogs, apparently even switched on the dishwasher! Such small gestures have engaged the children and helped them appreciate their hard earned donations all the more.



Following on from last week's launch assembly, this week we retold the parable of the Good Samaritan in our own special SGJS way! After Ramsey was beaten by robbers and had his coat stolen, his pleas for help were ignored by a passing judge and then a bishop. Being a City fan, Ramsey gave up hope when he saw a United fan approaching – why ever would he help him? However, even though Mason had no reason to help, he did and he took Ramsey away to look after him. The moral, of course, is that we should try and help everyone who needs our help and the response of both children and parents this week has clearly shown that we do, with a total already past £4500.



This week we also sold lion keyrings and wristbands, both proving to be extremely popular with our children.

Grabbing a Pizza the Action

As part of healthy eating topic, our Y3 children were asked to create a balanced dish to include food from as many groups as possible. Our creative children made pizza using a tomato base, dough, cheese, sweetcorn, mushrooms and peppers. All chopped up by them. Mmmmm delicious!



'It was fun and tasted very nice.' Rahul
'When we were mixing the dough with water, it felt very sticky.' Alayna

Perfect Programming

This term our Y2 children have enjoyed programming the floor robots (Bee-bots), making them move around specially designed mats.



By the end of the topic, they were experts and so were set a challenge of using their programming skills to make the 'Pro-bots' draw various shapes. They found this task more difficult but they worked hard to execute commands and successfully draw shapes with the devices. Super work, Y2s!

A Happy Birthday to...

Katy Parker, Yusuf Hanif, Sofia Niven, Freddie Hancock, Lucy Jones, Franz Xia, Isaac Finnie, Lilly Cook, Nick Turner, Matthew Galligan, India Cowell, Alice Finnie, Mackenzie Shropshire and Jack Purves.

Y1 Build 'Rubbish' Castles

Y1 have thoroughly enjoyed studying castles in their topic work this half term. They particularly enjoyed making their own castles out of recyclable materials and then painting them. Thank you to everybody who sent in boxes for our children to use.



Nursery Get into a Lather



Our Nursery children enjoyed observing change as they watched washing up liquid turn into bubbles. They also enjoyed splashing and using gross motor skills whilst learning. The fun led to some lovely descriptive language.

'I splashed up in the air with bubbles.' Eliana Malik

Netballing Success

Our U11A netballers took part in the St Pius Netball Tournament this month.

'We had a cracking start by winning our first match 18-0 against St. Pius. We then went on to win all our group matches. After that we went into the knock out rounds. The quarter final was against Buchan who flew in that morning from the Isle of Man! Our next match was against Leeds Grammar whom we beat to secure a place in the finals. We faced The Grange in the finals. It was a tough match but we battled hard and went on to win 9-3, meaning that we had won the tournament!! We are also really proud of Anna who was chosen as one of the three Players of the Tournament. The team players were Rosie Lear (Capt), Libby Goodman, Darcy Breen, Anna Wilkinson, Amaya North, Jessica Jones, Annalisa Griffiths and Aimee Reynolds'

Match report written by Rosie and Libby

Congratulations to all our players on a fantastic and well deserved trophy win.

Y1 Step back in Time at Quarry Bank Mill

Our Y1 children enjoyed a workshop when they arrived and had an opportunity to card wool and spin it into yarn using a spinning wheel. Following this, they tried some hand weaving to see how cloth is made. They also had a tour of the mill and saw a spinning jenny and automated weaving looms. The children looked at the water wheel that provided the power to make the machines work, and at the steam engines. They talked about the jobs that children would have done in the mill, the long hours they worked and the fact that they would have to go to school after their long day at the mill. Our children were horrified and decided that they probably would not have liked to work in a mill!



Mum's (and Dad's) The Word in Reception

Our Reception children are continuing their story telling journey with a 'Secret Story Teller' visiting each Wednesday afternoon to surprise the children with a story book to read. Lots of mums and dads have brought much anticipation and excitement to both RT and RH so far this term. We look forward to more secret story tellers after half term and thank the parents who have taken time to come in and read to the children so far.