

Stockport Grammar Junior School NEWSLETTER



24th November 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter. We are all very much looking forward to the SPA Christmas fair tomorrow and I hope to see many of you there. Many of our Junior children have been busy this week preparing to run stalls and it has been great to see how enthusiastically they have taken on the challenge. Our thanks to the children for last week's *spotty day*, which raised a total of £460 for Children in Need. There were some great spotty additions to uniforms and we all had lots of fun. Y3 enjoyed a visit to Manchester Museum and Pre-Reception have been out and about once again, this time to the local hairdresser. Reception had their own teddy bears' picnic whilst Y1 had a teacher (rather than a tiger) come to tea! This week's Performing Arts Concert was much enjoyed by a large audience. The range of talents on show from the larger number of children taking part was most impressive, with many involved in two or three different items. There were also 'showcases' for the children who have been taking part in some of our music taster sessions and it is good to see the number of children involved in music continue to grow.

Recent Junior assemblies have been focusing on the British political system and Y5 and 6 learnt what it would be like to be forced to vote for something your party supported but you didn't agree with (having lessons for six days a week and having only six weeks holiday - although a surprising number of children were prepared to vote for this!). This morning's assembly started out with ventriloquism before moving onto the idea that we are not puppets and that we have choices about how we behave and how we react (with a special guest appearance from Norman the puppet!).

Finally, our congratulations to Mrs Gilmour, one of our teaching assistants in 1S, on the news that she is expecting.

Kick Start your Christmas

The SPA have a fantastic day planned tomorrow with some exciting stalls for some early opportunities for Christmas shopping along with lots of family fun and games including a rodeo reindeer, a coconut shy and a teddy tombola. Food will be served throughout the day in Hallam Hall and you can also enjoy the festive spirit with a mince pie (or two) in the Dining Hall. Of course, Santa will be popping in (it really wouldn't be a Christmas Fair without him) and the grand raffle features lots of top prizes including an Apple iPad, Trafford Centre vouchers and an Amazon Echo. We look forward to seeing you there between 11am and 3pm.



The Weeks Ahead

Monday 27 th November	Football A-D v KSM (A) Netball A+B v KSM (A)	U9 U9	1.30-4.45pm 1.30-4.45pm
Wednesday 29 th November	AJIS Swimming Gala (A)		Times TBC
Friday 1 st December	Football v Birkenhead (H) Netball v Birkenhead (H)	U11 U11	2.30-3.45pm 2.30-3.45pm
Tuesday 5th December	Nativity Performance	KSI	9.15-10.15am
Wednesday 6th December	Nativity Performance Netball A+B v Lady Barn (H) Nativity Performance	EYFS U11 KSI	2.00-3.00pm 4.00-5.00pm 6.00-7.00pm
Thursday 7th December	Nativity Performance Hockey A+B v AESG (H) Rugby v KSM (A)	EYFS U10 U10	9.15-10.15am 2.15-3.30pm 2.20-4.45pm

U11 Netball Success



Our Y6 Netballers proudly showed off their medals after finishing runners-up in the Plate at St Pius X Preparatory School. All of the girls played exceptionally well, losing only two games throughout the whole of the tournament.

SPA Christmas Puddings

Back by popular demand, the SPA is again selling Christmas puddings to raise funds. Made by *The Ultimate Plum Pudding Company Ltd*, the puddings have won gold awards at 'The Great Taste Awards', as well as being endorsed by the BBC Good Food Magazine and are supplied to Fortnum and Mason. Along with traditional puddings, there are some new alternatives: Triple Chocolate, Sticky Toffee, Luscious Lemon and Triple Ginger. To order, please email: spa@stockportgrammar.co.uk or fill in an order form today. **The last date for pre-ordering is Monday 27th November 2017**

Jenson is a Good Cityzen



Y5 pupil Jenson Wilkinson was fortunate to win a *Player Escort* opportunity at a recent match between Manchester City and Burnley. Jenson met his heroes, shaking hands and speaking to Agüero, De Bruyne and Silva and walking out onto the pitch with Otamendi.

Pre-Reception Enjoy a Trip to the Salon

Our Pre-Reception children made the short journey to the hairdresser in Davenport earlier this week to learn about the life of a hairdresser and have a go at being one for themselves.



They helped Miss Clifford, a mother of one of our pupils, open the salon up and took part in a number of tasks including brushing hair, sitting in the seat at the sink and sweeping up.



The trip was designed to enable our pupils to talk about shared experiences, understand what money is and what it is used for and to build a relationship with their local community.

Teddy Bear's Picnic

Our Reception children held a Teddy Bear's Picnic last week. Our boys and girls brought in their own teddies and tucked into scrumptious sandwiches.



They have been reading 'Mr Bear's Picnic' as part of their topic on bears and they also decorated their own teddy biscuits to eat!



Y1 Art Afternoon is a Roaring Success

Our Y1 classes enjoyed an exciting art afternoon with their parents and grandparents last week. The children made a paper plate tiger as part of their English work on 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. Great fun was had choosing different collage materials to create the tigers. Once completed, the children could choose to make a background for their tiger using browns and greens to represent the jungle. The afternoon finished with a chocolate biscuit and a drink of juice and some beautiful tiger plates for our displays. Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who came.



Y6 Spin us a Yarn on their Art Day

After studying the work and style of successful Lancashire born textile artist and lecturer Michael Brennand-Wood, Y6 learned how to use buttonhole stitch and yarn to cover household items such as washing line and curtain rings to add colour and texture. These will be incorporated into their work where line will be explored three dimensionally. Stencils were created by recycling plastic bags and inks added over the top of these to create decorated fabrics. The fabric designs will then be worked into with stitch and act as a background where a themed structure will be developed upon it, in the style of Michael Brennand-Wood's work.



Y5 Playground Buddies Play their Part

Following a number of training sessions, our dedicated Playground Buddies are now performing tasks such as leading games with the Infant children, looking out for children who might be shy or quiet in the playground and helping to look after the play equipment. Speaking about being a Playground Buddy, Humaira Gurjee said: *"I have a younger brother and sister and I like helping, so becoming a Playground Buddy made sense. I like leading the games and it has made me more confident speaking to bigger crowds."* Matthew Rogan added: *"I like the extra responsibility it gives me as it is a nice way to get ready for Y6. We are on a rota so we do our duties once a week and the role helps me to think more about others."* Commenting about some of the things they get up to, Noor Farooq said: *"Sometimes we put on shows for the younger children to cheer them up or we play games like tig or hide and seek."* Explaining his reason for becoming a playground buddy, Thomas Alexander said: *"I wanted to become a Playground Buddy because I saw pupils doing it last year and I was keen to help. I was in the younger pupils' position a few years ago so I remembered back to then and thought about how useful the help would be to them. The duties have made me more confident and observant and I like helping out around the playground."*



Ben Strikes Gold Again

Following his earlier success at the Greater Manchester Autumn swimming meet, Y6 pupil Ben Lavender had even more reason to smile as he picked up further medals at Marple Swimming Club's annual gala. In his age group he struck gold in the 50m breaststroke, 50m backstroke and 100m individual medley. He also grabbed silver in the 25m butterfly and the 50m freestyle.



Ben then entered the Open Age 100m breaststroke event, picking up a bronze medal, losing out only to a 15 year old and a 22 year old!

Holiday Care

A reminder that there will be no Holiday Care during the Christmas Holidays but bookings are now being taken for the February half term break.

A Happy Birthday to...

Henry Lloyd, Skyler Li, Zayd Gurjee, Lily Roth, Eugene Graham, Sebastian Graham, Robert Lord, Chetas Rajanna, Malak Hroo, Jack Delaney, Sofie Sabti, Rahul Valluri, Bea Stockwood, Jack Williams, Lily Brown, Nathan Hopley, Molly Parnell, Henry Thomas and Thomas Morrison.

IAPS Cross Country

It was an extremely cold day last week for Cross Country running but our runners soon warmed up, working their way around a challenging course at Stonyhurst. Everyone was determined to race well and really excited to be there. They all ran their best and enjoyed themselves, especially once they had a hot chocolate to warm themselves up!



Both the U11 boys' and U11 girls' teams finished 8th overall. A solid achievement in a field of strong competition.

Cricket's Big Hitters

Congratulations to brothers Zimar and Zayan Jatoo who were awarded *Best Player of the Year* and *Most Improved Player of 2017* respectively, at a recent awards ceremony at Stockport Cricket Club.



Y3 Manchester Museum Trip

Last Thursday, our Y3 children visited Manchester Museum as part of their work on the Ancient Egyptians. They were split up into two groups and had a 'hands on' work session. The children were told the story of a Mummy called *Asru*, a wealthy Egyptian lady who lived many years ago. They discovered that she had arthritis in her spine and instead of removing her brain through her nostril, it was removed through her eye socket! (Needless to say, many of the children squirmed at this!)



Our boys and girls handled genuine artefacts that were thousands of years old and then spent the afternoon exploring the galleries filled with snakes, skeletons and frogs. Everyone agreed it was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Guess the Author

Our Librarian, Mrs Whinnerah, ran a *Guess the Author* competition in the library last week. 15 photographs were put on display, with no clues, and the children had to work out who they were.

Mrs Whinnerah was very impressed with how many children were able to name a good number of the authors and everyone who entered got a special emoji bookmark. The winners, Zahra, Noor & Mia jointly won 1st prize after being the only ones to name all 15 authors correctly. Their prize is to choose a book from Amazon – they're still making up their minds!

Gymnastic Fantastic

Pupils Evelyn Turner and Amelia Le Fondre competed in the *Stockport School of Gymnastics Club* competition recently. Both girls finished the day with a medal and trophy haul; Evelyn with a Bronze for beam and bars and Silver for vault, finishing 3rd overall in her category and Amelia walked away with a gold on Vault, Silver on Beam and Bronze on both Floor and Bars. This gave Amelia a finishing position of Gold overall in her category. Amelia also competed recently in both the *South Manchester Gymnastics* and *Greater Manchester Championships*. Amelia and Evelyn practise hard, putting enormous effort into perfecting their routines. Both girls really enjoyed showing off their skills at the competitions and we think their dedication is 'flipping' marvellous!



Pre-Reception Prepare for Christmas

Our Pre-Reception children have been getting creative with glitter, clay and wool this week. They have all made a selection of decorations to support St. George's Church and their annual Christmas Tree Festival. As glitter was sprinkled, it's certainly beginning to look a lot like Christmas! We are sure our creations will sparkle and shine and it will be well worth a visit to the Church to get into the Christmas spirit.



The opening hours of the Christmas Tree Festival are:

Wed 29th November 12.00-6.00 pm

Thursday 30th November 12.00-7.00 pm

Friday 1st December 12.00-8.00 pm

Saturday 2nd December 10.00-6.00 pm

Sunday 3rd December 12.00-4.00 pm

In The Swim for Children in Need



Well done to brothers Eugene and Sebastian Graham who, along with their swimming group, Norris Bank, raised an incredible £1800 for Children in Need last week by swimming as many lengths of our school pool as they could in just 30 minutes. A splashing result, boys!

Performing Arts Festival

Our children enjoyed showcasing their skills to a packed hall of family and friends this week. Our children from Lamda, Junior Choir, Orchestra, Drums and Ukelele Groups as well as Junior Dance and Sing, Speak, Move, all performed pieces they've been practising to their enthralled audience.



The Teacher Who Came to Tea!

Y1 have been learning about a favourite story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr. The children learned how to set a table for tea and waited for the surprise visitor, with a little apprehension in case it was a tiger! There was a loud knock on the door and, when it was opened, the children discovered that their visitor was, in fact, Mrs Turner. They invited Mrs Turner in for tea and served her, using beautiful manners. Thankfully Mrs Turner did not eat all of the biscuits or drink all of the juice so the children were able to enjoy a biscuit and a drink too!





BBC

Children in Need

Our children were *Spot On* last Friday, raising a Spotacular £460 for Children in Need this year. Our boys and girls came to school in an array of spots, fashioning items of uniform with some of our older children replacing an item of their uniform, making us all see spots before our eyes! The children made and decorated spotty biscuits and coloured in Pudsey Bears, all whilst wearing their most colourful dotty clothes to school! At lunchtime they enjoyed special Pudsey Bear cakes too.

