



Stockport Grammar Junior School NEWSLETTER



9th November 2016

FOUNDED IN 1487

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter and apologies for the slight delay in publication this week. Friday was taken up with final preparations for our ISI inspection and we have been busy working with the team this week. We always enjoy showing visitors what we do and the children, of course, have impressed them in so many ways. The inspection is part of a revised format and we have had what is now known as a 'compliance' inspection. This is intended to check that we comply with all the various regulations and meet all the many government standards. Although the inspection team has looked at every aspect of what we do, a 'compliance' report will not provide any comment on the quality of our school and we will have to wait until our next inspection for detailed feedback and judgements on the quality of all that we do. My thanks to those of you who were able to complete the parental questionnaire, which produced a very positive response.

Lots has happened over the last few weeks. Harvest certainly seems a long time ago now that the colder weather has arrived but there was a splendid array of gifts and the Y3 children enjoyed the opportunity to distribute some of these in person. Nursery children continue to be busy and are having lots of fun, the Infants had a fantastic visit from the very lively and entertaining 'Artful Playground' and Y4 clearly had a brilliant time in York. We are all very excited to see our plans for redeveloping a section of our school move a step closer to reality – I have already had a 'virtual' tour of the new building and I can definitely say that it is exciting. You can now view the plans and some artist's impressions via our website www.stockportgrammar.co.uk/about/junior-school-redevelopment/ There is, as ever, much to look forward to over the weeks ahead, including the 'SGJS has got talent' competition, which concludes on 'Children in Need Day', a theatre visit for Y3 and 'Zoolab' for the Infants.

The Weeks Ahead

Monday 7 th November	AJIS Rugby Tournament @ Merchant Taylor's Netball v OHSG (A)	U10 U11 A and U10 A	9.00am-12noon 3.30-6.00pm
Tuesday 8 th November	SPA Christmas Pudding Tasting Football v KSC (A) Core Subject Parents' Consultations	All Welcome U10 A B C and D KS2	Before school 1.00-6.00pm 4.00-7.00pm
Wednesday 9 th November	Zoolab Football v Vernon Primary, Metro Cup (H) Gala v MHSG (A)	KS1 U11	9.00am-3.00pm 3.45-5.00pm 4.00-6.25pm
Thursday 10 th November	Core Subject Parents' Consultations SPA Uniform Sale	KS2	4.00-6.00pm 4.00-5.00pm
Friday 11 th November	Football v St Ambrose (H)	U11 A and B	2.30-3.45pm
Saturday 12 th November	Hockey v AKS (A)	U11 A and B	7.45am-1.00pm
Monday 14 th November	AJIS Swimming Championship	U10 and U11	2.00-6.00pm
Wednesday 16 th November	Theatre Trip 'George's Marvellous Medicine' Art Afternoon Netball v AESG	Year 3 Year 1 U11 A and B	9.00am-1.00pm 1.00-3.00pm 4.00-5.00pm
Thursday 17 th November	IAPS Cross Country @ Stoneyhurst Football v KSM (H) Netball v KSM (H)	U10 A and B U10 A B and C	10.45am-5.45pm 3.00-4.15pm 3.00-4.00pm
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need Day Hockey v Hereford Cathedral School (H) Football v NULS (H)	U11 A and B U11 A	1.00-4.00pm 2.30-3.45pm
Saturday 19 th November	Chess Competition @ Bolton School Manchester Harriers Cross Country @ Wythenshawe Park		9.30am-1.00pm



Space Week

The children had an 'out of this world' experience as they enjoyed 'Space Week' just before half term. Pupils had a fun-filled time in Y3 as they carried out activities with an intergalactic theme. Space dough was moulded into moon rocks and asteroids and the children learnt the order of the solar system.

"I researched black holes and found out that a star turns red and dies and becomes a supernova." Deen Chowdhry

"I learnt a simple way of remembering the order of the planets – my very easy method just speeds up naming them!" Alfie Boler

Y2 Drop off

A reminder that, along with children in R and Y1, children in Y2 may also be dropped off at the Dining Hall in the morning, which parents may well wish to do as we move towards the colder, wetter mornings of winter.

A Flying Start to Nursery Life



Our Nursery children had a fun and eventful first half term as they made friends and started their learning journey in the Junior School. The school year began with the boys and girls meeting their new classmates, getting to know each other and learning names. They were also introduced to the grown-ups who will be looking after them throughout the year, including Nursery Manager Miss Peake and their teacher Mrs Barrowman.



To help the children get used to their new routines, we have taught the boys and girls catchy songs to help them remember. They also learnt about the Nursery's golden rules through story and discussion, and had lessons on how to tidy up, how to look after property and how to share and take turns. The children were encouraged to explore their new environment and resources and find out where to store their belongings and they played outside every day with a selection of toys. They also took advantage of the school swimming pool and enjoyed their weekly lessons with our swimming coaches, Miss Pepper and Mrs Franklin.

The children also have daily phonics and Maths sessions, Mrs Carr takes them for French lessons, Music lessons are with Mrs Matthews and Mrs Nichols gets them active in their PE classes.

A Bumper Harvest

Pupils from across the Senior and Junior schools demonstrated their charitable side as they donated food and raised money for a number of charities this Harvest Festival.



Nursery and Junior School children were asked to donate food parcels as part of the Harvest celebrations which were delivered to retirement and sheltered housing scheme Queen's Garden in Cheadle and The Wellspring, a resource centre for homeless and disadvantaged people. The boys and girls responded extremely generously with pasta, biscuits, fresh fruit, soups and cereals amongst the items donated.



Solid Foundations

We have now submitted a planning application to the local authority for the proposed redevelopment of the Junior School and the creation of a new Early Years Facility. There will now be an extensive consultation and review process which will involve thorough scrutiny of the detailed plans and consultation with local residents. Subject to permission being given in the early part of the New Year, the Governors intend that the proposed work should commence in the summer of 2017. Details of the proposed development and some plans and images can be found via a link on the school's website and this information will be updated during the phases of development.

After School Arrangements

Thank you to all those of you who have returned booking forms for our various after school arrangements. With the various booking options available, including our new online booking form, we hope that you will quickly adapt to the new system. You will all appreciate, I am sure, that we need accurate lists so that we can ensure that the children are all in the right place and also to adjust staffing requirements if necessary. We appreciate, of course, that there were still be last minute changes as the result of our busy lives and the new system will make it much easier for us to ensure that these are communicated to the children.

Firing Y2's Imagination



Y2 children enjoyed making bonfire cupcakes using flakes and icing in one of their Art lessons. They were then challenged to create a firework picture using a kitchen roll tube and some paint. The children all got really creative and thought of their own ideas.

Artful Playground

All of our Infant children were very excited to welcome Artful Playground back into School to engage the children with an interactive musical story called 'Just Us Three and The Sea'.



Real musicians took on the characters and introduced different musical instruments as the story was accompanied by a live musical soundtrack. The children enjoyed taking part in physical activities, taking on the role of characters, learning songs and playing drama games. Through music, the story was brought to life and the children were invited in!

Record Breaker Ronan

Well done to Ronan Breen who broke the 400m indoor record for U9s at a recent Sport City Quadrathlon event. Congratulations on this fantastic achievement.

Y6 Netballers on Winning Form

Our U11 netballers, Rosie Lear, Libby Goodman, Darcy Breen, Anna Wilkinson, Amaya North, Jessica Jones, Annalisa Griffiths and Aimee Reynolds, travelled to Rotherham to take part in Saint Pius X Catholic High School's Netball Tournament.

The girls had a cracking start, winning their first match 18-0 against the hosts and they carried their good form on throughout the group stages, winning all their games.

The knockout rounds were up next and in the quarter final, the girls faced Buchan School, who had flown in on the morning of the tournament from the Isle of Man! The school saw off their challenge to earn a match against The Grammar School at Leeds in the semi-final. Our team continued their fine form, defeating the girls from Yorkshire to secure a place in the final.

In the decider, they came up against Grange School. As you would expect, it was a tough game but the girls' battling qualities shone through as they out-scored the opposition to secure a 9-3 victory and win the tournament.

There was extra reason for celebration as Anna Wilkinson was chosen as one of the three players of the tournament too! Well done to all the girls.



Food for Thought

Y4R have been learning about teeth and digestion. The children have been looking at the digestive tract to see how long it is and to find out which parts of the body are responsible for the absorption of nutrients. Together they drew around Josh and used the outline of his body to work out how each section fitted together. Did you know that our digestive tract from top to bottom is over 9m long?



Author Visit

We are delighted to announce that bestselling novelist Jodi Picoult will be speaking at school on the evening of Tuesday 22nd November. Eleven of Jodi Picoult's titles have been number one bestsellers in the UK and her last eight novels have debuted at number one on the New York Times Bestseller list. The evening is a public event organised by her publishers who expect high demand for tickets which must be purchased in advance at www.eventbrite.com/o/silverwood-events-8390734856

Holiday **S**Care Club



Our children had lots of 'spooky fun' at Holiday Care this half term, including a Hallowe'en party! The children enjoyed making pumpkin biscuits and, as the weather was kind, lots of outdoor activities over the two weeks.

Y4 Enjoy 'Roman' Around York

Y4 pupils went on their residential trip to York just before half-term. The first day saw them visit Murton Park for a living history day where pupils dressed up as Romans and learnt how the Roman army lived and worked. They also wrote in Latin, found their way around the fort using a map and made clay oil lamps.

The next day, the travelling party visited York Castle Museum. Time was spent in the Victorian Street and pupils were shown the slums and imagined what life was like back then.

Lastly, pupils attended a workshop where they followed an actor as he took them through the criminal system. Some of the boys and girls dressed up as a judge, a policeman and a robber and the class had to decide if the robber was guilty or not. They decided he was and so they threw him in a jail cell. Mrs Carroll also put the whole of her class behind bars!



Children in Need 2016

This year, the children will be taking part in the 'Big Spotaclar'. On November 18th, children may swap one item of their uniform for something spotty in exchange for a donation to Children in Need. Older children may also get creative and find ways to turn parts of their uniform 'spotty' (without, of course, ruining their uniforms!). Let's see how creative we can be, how much fun we can have and how much money we can raise. There is also the final of our 'SGJS Talent Contest', organised by a number of our Y4 girls, to enjoy.

Cross Country News

Well done to the children who competed in the first Stockport Harriers Cross Country race at Woodbank Park on Saturday 5th November. Charli May Barnett came home 3rd in the Y5 & 6 girls' race. Arthur Wolstenholme finished 40th and Sam Hill 41st in the Y3 & 4 boys' event.

If any other children would like to take part, the next race in the series of 6 is on Saturday 26th November. Times and venue are published in the children's yellow termly calendar and available via the online calendar.



Proof is in the Pudding for Sam

Y3 pupil Sam Duckworth is all smiles after his drawing was selected as the winner of the SPA Christmas Pudding Label competition.

His colourful artwork beat a number of other high quality entries and will now adorn the scrumptiously tasting puddings that the SPA are selling.

To order your Christmas pudding please complete the form and return it with your payment.

<http://www.stockportgrammar.co.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Xmas-pud-flyer-and-order-form-2016.doc>



A Happy Birthday to...

Jessica Storey, Jacob Thorburn, George Hartley, Georgiana Hallam, Oliver Dutton, Jessica Lewis-Gill, James Pullen, Deen Chowdhry, George Byrne, Joshua Muamba, Samarth Varma, Aimee Dignan, Kingsley Arthanayake, Olivia Cartright, Grace Warburton, Frazer Assheton-Smith, Ashley Bennett, Annalisa Griffiths and Anusha Prasad.

SPA News

Christmas Puddings

Don't forget to place your order by Friday 11th November.

Christmas Fair, Saturday 3rd December from 11am to 3pm.

We have a fantastic day planned with some exciting external stall holders coming along for early Christmas shopping opportunities, as well as a wonderful selection of food and drinks available throughout the day. We also have a "rodeo reindeer" coming along to join in with the great selection of games our parent volunteers have planned! And of course, the Big Man himself will be joining us in person in our grotto!

Our volunteers are working hard to plan and run our stalls and kindly ask you for your help! If you can spare an hour or two during the day of the fair to help on one of our stalls, please get in touch with spa@stockportgrammar.co.uk. Without your help and support we can't put on these large events, so we hope that some of you will be able to help.

We are also asking for your help with donations for the fair. It's also not too late to donate a prize for our grand raffle! You will shortly be receiving your raffle tickets to sell in advance from your child. Please sell as many as you can and return unused raffle tickets and money to the school offices.

For more information about the raffle please contact spa@stockportgrammar.co.uk

Donations should be taken to the Junior or Senior school offices as soon as you can. Thank you.

Personally Designed Christmas Cards

All orders must be received in the School Office by Thursday 10th November.

Uniform Sale

Our next uniform sale takes place this Thursday 10th November in the dining hall between 3-6pm. This is perhaps an opportunity for you to get a spare games kit in case of emergencies! We also buy and sell a number of musical instruments.

Rice to See You...

The children in Y3 have been learning about the Diwali celebrations and have enjoyed making Rangoli patterns with coloured rice.



Autumn Fun in Nursery

Hallowe'en fun continued in Nursery as the children took a closer look at pumpkins. All the children enjoyed looking inside and scooping out the seeds with tools. Lots of the children, surprisingly, did not want to use their hands! Our children then washed, counted and made pictures with some of the seeds.



Our excited children have also been decorating Bonfire Sparkler Firework biscuits using an icing sugar mix dipped in sprinkles. Pretending to be fireworks in their PE session and watching some fireworks on the interactive whiteboard rounded off a fun-filled activity.



The first Signs of Frost and Ice

Our Nursery children also had lots of fun when they realised Jack Frost had been to visit! In the garden they enjoyed searching for frost and ice, watching it melt using salt, making marks using a variety of tools and even using the tools to smash the ice. Bbbbrrrrrilliant!

