

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2015

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## THANKYOU TO ALL OUR PARENT HELPERS !



Official Library  
opening  
Wednesday 3rd  
June

I can't believe this is the end of my first half term already. The time has gone so quickly and what an exciting and enjoyable half term it has been. It has been a pleasure working in the school and I would like to thank everyone for their kind welcomes and words of encouragement, I am certainly very excited about the future ahead at Kibworth.

We have been very busy in school as you will see in this months newsletter. A great success has been the creation of our new rainforest library, this will be officially opened by our visiting author, Neil Griffiths, during rainforest week. I strongly urge parents to come and listen to Neil speak about reading with children on Wednesday 3rd June in the school hall at 2:30. The children are really looking forward to all the wonderful things that will be happening over this week. Thank you so much to all who helped make this project happen and especially our KPA.

We are currently planning for September, I am pleased to be able to confirm that we have all teachers in place for a three form structure across every year group, this will result in all classes being a consistent size of around 25 pupils. I have appointed four new teachers for September including a very experienced year six teacher. Early on next half term we will be informing you of who your child's new teacher will be and where their classroom will be based. Plans are being put in place to have three new classrooms on site and in the Spring we hope to extend the school hall. It's all very exciting and I am sure will make a great difference to the children's education.



It's like  
reading in a  
real jungle!

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# FUN AT THEIR FAIR WITH YEAR 6

As Year 6 near the end of their 'Victorian Revolution' topic, the children have been celebrating their learning by designing and making fairground rides for public excitement at the Great Exhibition. As the children set to work researching Victorian fairground rides, many were surprised that they were relatively tame and slow-moving for the thrill seekers in Year 6!



The design brief for the children's model was given... 'The ride must demonstrate all that is great about Victorian engineering, art and attention to detail'. Armed with this and the materials they needed (including motors, spindles, pulleys and bulbs), the children set to work on their fairground rides. Most groups opted to complete a Carousel, Ferris Wheel, or Swing Chairs, which were all popular rides during the Victorian era. During the practical sessions, the Year 6 teachers were particularly impressed with the cooperation which the children displayed whilst working in their groups. They worked independently and collaboratively and solved any problems which they encountered carefully. The finished models are yet to be seen, but judging by the progress and success achieved so far, they are likely to be completed to a high standard.

## YEAR 2 BOTANICAL GARDENS

Last week the whole of Year 2 boarded two buses and headed off to Oadby to the University's Botanical Gardens.

The weather was fantastic and we enjoyed searching in the garden for the ingredients to make a world food cake. As well as being great fun this helped to raise the children's awareness of the fact that the food they eat comes from around the world, that many people have been involved in its production and that we are interdependent on a global scale. The cake helped the children to make a link with people on the other side of the globe and the children were encouraged to start asking questions about their connections with and responsibilities towards their fellow villagers in the global village. Then they even got to taste a piece of the cake made with the ingredients they had collected!

Linked with our Scented Garden topic the children sorted herbs using their sense of smell and some clues. We should now be able to identify some of these herbs if we see them in our garden. Hopefully some children can even help at home choosing which herbs to put with which dishes!

Our lunch time was a very relaxed affair sitting on the grass in the gardens enjoying our packed lunch and the brilliant sunshine.

We all had a great day and learned so much about plants, flowers, and trees and how we use them and how important they are to us.



## YEAR 1 SUPERHEROS!

During this term the children have thoroughly enjoyed the activities related to 'Superheroes', which included an incredible cooking day!

First, through the topic journey the children became 'super scientists' and investigated a selection of materials, by using their superhero senses. The children made fabulous predications and worked together to find the correct answer. Banana Man sent the children a letter asking for their help, he was not eating a balanced diet, only bananas! The children researched and discussed what was needed for a balanced diet. Using this information they wrote a letter back to him to explain what else he needed to eat, to remain, fit, strong and healthy!

The children had an amazing Superhero Day, all the children and staff came as their favourite superhero. Which is yours? The children had great adventures; they became part of 'Big Art' and flew across the sky! Next they made hinge pictures to make their superhero invisible. After that the children became superhero dancers and moved to the rhythm of the music. Then the children created a superhero mask, adding detail and coloured cellophane in the lenses! Finally all the children performed a superhero poem, including a new verse they had written together. What a great day was had by all.

On our superhero cooking day, the children investigated a selection of dried fruit. Then they predicated what it would taste like and its texture. Some surprised the children! They researched how to dry fruit out and the children tried the method in the oven, but sadly the apples burnt but the grapes were delicious! Finally, the children investigated how the cereal bars were sold in the shop, they looked closely at the packaging, and thought about its presentation, e.g. bright pictures of the bar and the fruit included the name of the bar, the company, the price etc. Next they children designed their own packaging, thinking of how it would encourage the superhero to pick the bar up and put it in their shopping basket.

What an amazing term in Year 1, the children have learnt so much. What will the next topic bring?



## MINI BEASTS AND LIFECYCLES!

This term the topic has been Mini-beasts and Life cycles. The children have really enjoyed the topic. They



have learnt about all sorts of mini-beasts and used this information to create mini-beast riddles. The children also went on a mini-beast hunt around the school. They searched under logs and rocks, on plant leaves and in the soil for worms and found a lot of creepy crawlies to look closely at, using the magnifying glasses. They have made mini-beast models and mini-beast hats.

The children enjoyed reading the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. They retold the story and created some fantastic 'Hungry Caterpillar' books.

The children learnt about life cycles and

we had some very special visitors into the Foundation unit. The children eagerly watched and waited for the chicks to hatch. It was very egg-citing when five chicks hatched. (The eggs were kindly donated by Mrs Smith - Rosie and George Smith's mum). Year five children were also learning about mini-beasts. The children got together and shared their work. The culmination was the family assembly showing everyone what they had learnt in the topic.

We were all very proud of them. What fantastic Foundation children we have!



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### YEAR 5 - BUZZING BEAST DAY!

Year 5 Open Day was a blast! This half term's unit has been beast creator and to celebrate we invited parents and carers in to share our learning and have a day full of fun. To begin the day, the children (and adults!) were challenged to eat mealworms and crickets. Even Mr Briggs tried one! We were so impressed with how many children gave it a go and the atmosphere was absolutely buzzing. Following on from this, all the children made themselves some scrumptious flapjacks with dried fruit being disguised as creepy critters.



The afternoon kicked off with a very special visit from Caleb's pet tortoise, Bobby. We all found out some fascinating facts and Caleb talked confidently about how he cares for Bobby at home. We have a funny feeling that Tortoises may now become a popular choice for a pet for the children in year 5...so parents beware! For the final part of the day, the classrooms were transformed into art studios and amazing collaborative art work took place using canvasses and oil pastels. The masterpieces can now be found adding a splash of colour and taking pride of place in the rainforest library.

### Year 3 - Flow the source to the sea!

Year 3 have been learning all about rivers this term in their topic called 'Flow!' They began the unit by identifying and locating rivers around the world and were shocked at some of the facts that they discovered!  
 'The longest river in the world is the Nile River and it is about 4132 miles long!' - Kalum Dann  
 'The Yangtze river is one of the most polluted rivers on Earth.' - Annie Nimmo

The children also really enjoyed learning about all the different geographical features of a river such as; v-shaped valleys, interlocking spurs, meanders, oxbow lakes and waterfalls! They had a fantastic afternoon, using all this new knowledge, to create giant pieces of art with a range of materials.

In art lessons, the children have been creating paintings inspired by the famous artist Claude Monet. They enjoyed examining his paintings and discussing their likes and dislikes about his work. They experimented with using acrylic and watercolour paints to create different shades of colour. Take a look at some of their fantastic interpretations of his famous 'Water Lilies' painting:



By Phoebe Hatcher



By Erin Morrison



By Max Coats

## PARKING.

Over the past few weeks we have had parking complaints from Dairy Way, Hillcrest Avenue and The Tithing's. Can we please ask all parents to park with consideration if you do happen to drive your child to school.

The Grammar School Hall is only a short walk away from the school and there are lots of parking spaces available there.

I am sure local residents appreciate that there is likely to be cars parked on these roads during school hours but the manner and behaviour of a small minority of drivers has been reported to us on a number of occasions now and we would really like to resolve this.

If you do have any complaints about parking then you can contact Andy Cooper the local police officer on 0116 222 2222 ref number 1261. We have been informed that the police will be patrolling the area on an adhoc basis.

## MARCHING IN A ROMAN'S FOOTSTEPS!

**Salve** (*Hello in Latin!*)

Year 4 got their new topic off to a great start with a visit to the Jewry Wall museum in Ratae Corieltavorum (that's Leicester to you and me!)

They were astonished to learn that their home city was once a Roman settlement and that the Jewry Wall museum is the site of a large Roman public baths complex. The wall itself is nearly 2000 years old!

The children became history 'detectives' for the day, in order to help a time travelling Roman potter return to his own era! In the process, they learnt about mosaics and got to predict the function of and handle *real* Roman artefacts from the museum. They learnt about clothing, food and hygiene, and played games such as Knucklebones, just like Roman children did.

A highlight of the day was Roman soldier drills. Under the beady eye of the legion commander, the children were put through their paces and battle formations. A little lacking in the discipline department, he wasn't quite convinced they would manage to conquer Europe!

It was a splendid introduction to Roman life and inspired the children to learn more about this fascinating time.

**Vale!** (*Goodbye in Latin*)



Thanks to our amazing parents we have collected over 20,000 Active kids Vouchers. The promotion has now finished so we would be most grateful if you could bring any stray vouchers in straight after half term. We are going to focus on playground equipment this year.

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

# WORTHY WINNERS!

We have had a week of celebration in school. All of our teams and individuals have been successful in their competitions.



Harrison, Hugh, Lissy and Gracie were quiz champions at the Robert Smyth STEM Challenge Day.



Jess's delicious blueberry muffins were part of her tasty winning menu which won her a place in the regional final of Young School Chef of the Year.



Evie and Evie led the School with their fantastic Wig Wednesday 2015 for CLIC Sargent. So far the school has raised over £400 for the charity to run their special 'Billy's House'.

Both our dance teams created fantastic routines with their choreographers Mrs Wright and Miss Littlejohn. The Year 3 and 4 team were winners!



Our Girls Football Team won their Tournament in Market Harborough.



And just to keep up the Rugby teams won both the A and B leagues in the Discovery Tournament. Also the Cricket teams won!



We would like to say a huge well done to Izzy Clapham who has been in nearly every team - in fact she has been so busy she didn't even have time to be in some of the photographs!

Our brilliant sports teachers Mr K, Mr Poli, Mr Campton, Mr Price and Mr Adams and Miss Littlejohn do a fantastic job under the guidance of our PE leader Mrs Wright. A huge thanks to them all!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<b>Monday 1st June</b>	After School Clubs Rainforest Week KPA Meeting 7pm
<b>Tuesday 2nd June</b>	Year 5 - Primary Languages Day at Robert Smyth
<b>Wednesday 3rd June</b>	Parliament Day at Kibworth Grammar School
<b>Thursday 4th June</b>	Year 5 - Pastures Farm Visit
<b>Friday 5th June</b>	Year 4 Open Day Year 5 - Pastures Farm Visit Badminton Tournament 4pm - 6pm
<b>Tuesday 9th June</b>	Year 1 Stanwick Lakes Foundation Stage at St Wilfrids 1:30pm
<b>Wednesday 10th June</b>	Year 6 - Ernest Cook Foundation Stage to St Wilfrids 1:30pm
<b>Thursday 11th June</b>	Year 6 - Ernest Cook
<b>Friday 12th June</b>	Foundation Stage Open Day KS2 Big First Aid Lesson 2pm
<b>Monday 15th June</b>	Year 1 Phonics Week Sports Week
<b>Tuesday 16th June</b>	Able Writers at Farndon Fields
<b>Wednesday 17th June</b>	KS1 Induction Evening
<b>Thursday 18th June</b>	KS1 SPORTS DAY Year 5 Experience Day at Robert Smyth
<b>Friday 19th June</b>	KS2 SPORTS DAY DSAT Dance Off
<b>Monday 22nd June</b>	Year 4 - Darbar Arts Performance
<b>Tuesday 23rd June</b>	Year 6 Dress Rehearsal 2pm
<b>Wednesday 24th June</b>	Year 6 Play - 2pm and 7pm
<b>Thursday 25th June</b>	Year 6 Play - 7pm
<b>Friday 26th June</b>	Family Assembly
<b>Monday 29th June</b>	NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
<b>Wednesday 1st July</b>	Year 6 @ St Wilfrids - Heros and Choices
<b>Thursday 2nd July</b>	DSAT Basketball Full Governor Body Meeting
<b>Friday 3rd July</b>	DSAT Awards Evening
<b>Monday 6th July</b>	NO AFTER SCOOOL CLUBS Year 6 visiting Kibworth High School
<b>Tuesday 7th July</b>	Meet your Teacher Morning Year 6 Leavers Disco at Cricket Club 7pm - 9pm
<b>Wednesday 8th July</b>	Open Evening and Art Exhibition
<b>Thursday 9th July</b>	Year 6 Leavers Service @ St Wilfrids
<b>Friday 10th July</b>	Close for Summer!

# PARENT SURVEY

A huge thank you to everyone who completed our parents and carers questionnaire. We had over 100 replies and were overwhelmed by the many positive comments we received. Your views are very important to us and we hope you will see some changes around school.

We have already:

Obtained funding to extend the school and provide space for three classes in each year thus reducing class sizes in Key Stage 2.

Appointed Mrs Marks as our new SEND co-ordinator. Mrs Marks and Mr Briggs have already held meetings with many parents and has a remit to ensure effective communication is a key objective.

Changed the design of our Bulletin and Newsletter to include upcoming dates. Sometimes we are given opportunities which we feel are beneficial to the children but which only give us very short time-scales to organise and inform parents. All class assemblies, open days and performances are on the yearly planner issued every September.

Our behaviour policy is available on our website.

Put a 'Parent Handbook' and 'Ready for School' booklets on our website. These should help parents when their children start school either in Foundation or further up the school.

Mr Briggs postcards have been a real success with the children and offer a way of us ensuring achievements by all pupils are recognised.

We hope you will have noticed all the new displays. This half term the Year 3 corridor is being painted and we have put together a tidying and decorating programme. After half term the old library will be converted into a classroom. Foundation stage will also be having a new makeover and new furniture.

We now have a new school library to enjoy and we are currently applying for funding for new books. Over the next year we plan to:

Provide space for the Sunshine Club to expand.

Hold a maths evening in September to share how we teach maths and the National Expectations your children are working towards.

Find more efficient ways to welcome parents and grandparents into school when they come for our open events. We are hoping to have a new reception area if finance permits.

An extended hall is part of our building plans. This will enable the whole school to meet together. Our cooks are really good at getting everyone served in time and we would like to confirm that children only eat on the benches outside if they choose to do so.

Ensure lunchtimes are a positive experience for all our children.

Build closer links with our preschool providers, possibly having them on site.

Hold a whole school review of homework. We will be gathering views from parents, children and ~ governors to look at how homework can support learning effectively.

We found the survey really useful! If you would like to become part of a parent group, which would work together to further improve the school, please contact the office.