



Dear Parents,

As you will see from this newsletter the Pre-Prep children have all been having an exciting time this term, with more exciting learning experiences to come.

After half term we will be taking part in World Book Week and for your information the dates of the activities are outlined below.

Monday 27th February Year 1 visit Lockswood library

Tuesday 28th February Year 2 visit Waterstones Book Shop

Thursday 1st March World Book Day. The children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from a book.

Thursday 1st March Usborne Book Fair

Friday 2nd March Year 8 story telling with Reception.

We do hope that these activities will bring alive the world of books for the children.

Rosie our cleaner does a wonderful job of keeping the Pre-Prep clean for us all. She has asked if parents could help her by cleaning the children's boots after the football and rugby activities as she is fighting a losing battle with dried mud coming off boots from the previous week.

For your information, the school shop now has a renewed supply of school scarves available for purchase.

The time has come round again to start planning for our next Pre-Prep Spring Fayre. Part of the success of this day is due to the tremendous effort put in by parents and if anyone is interested in joining the planning group there will be a meeting on Wednesday 7th March in the Pre-Prep library. If you would like to help but are unable to attend the meeting please do let me know. This is a lovely family event which is one of the highlights of the Pre-Prep year.

Gill Harris

Dates

Thurs 9 Feb
Reception Alfie's den day

Fri 10 Feb
Pre-Prep Victorian Day

Half term holiday

Mon 20 Feb
Back from half term

Tues 21 Feb
Foundation—Pancake Races

Wed 22 Feb
Swifts—Alfie's Den day

Thurs 23 Feb
Larks—Alfie's Den day

Fri 24 Feb
Fire Engine visit for
Y1 and Y2

Mon 27 Feb
Y1 visit Lockswood Library

Tues 28 Feb
Y2 visit Waterstones
Book shop

Thurs 1 March
World Book day /
Book character day

Usborne book Fair

Fri 2 March
Y8 story telling with Reception

Swimming hats and goggles

This week Mr Always, Director of sports, observed the Pre-prep swimming lessons and was very impressed by their achievements. He asked that parents be reminded that all pupils should wear goggles and swimming hats during their lessons.

Good News Awards



24.01.2012



31.01.2012



Southampton Art Gallery



On Thursday 19th January, Year 1 went to Southampton Art Gallery. We visited the room in the gallery where the story of Perseus is told in a series of beautiful paintings. We were all very impressed with the way the children were able to discuss the story and the paintings. We took part in a clay workshop and each child made a head of Medusa, with snakes in her hair. After lunch we had time to look around the gallery and enjoy the variety of exhibits.



Foundation class find out all about the Chinese New Year



On Friday, children in Foundation Class had lots of fun exploring Chinese New Year and listening to Chinese music. After cooking rice, everyone enjoyed trying to eat with chopsticks (though it must be said the prawn crackers were the highlight of the "meal.") Then they all worked together to make a colourful and fiery Chinese dragon, long enough for every Robin to dance under and parade around the school. Their lovely dragon art creations are now proudly displayed on the wall outside Robins' classroom.

VICTORIAN DAY

On Friday the 10th February we are holding a Pre-Prep Victorian Day to celebrate the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens. The children will be finding out about school life in Victorian times and singing the Victorian songs that they have been learning in music. They are invited to come to school that day in Victorian costume.



Year 2 - Alfie's Den



All the year 2 children had a wonderful time in Alfie's Den this week. The cold weather spurred them on to gather wood and using Swedish fire lighters to get the campfire going. Our PHSE theme this week is all about developing our listening skills and with this in mind the children took part in some games which involved very careful listening. Kingfisher class had great fun learning the silent fox walk which they put to good use creeping up on a blindfolded, water pistol wielding Mrs. Raymond. They then had to put their trust in a friend who guided their blindfolded partner through the woods, following the sound of a drum beat. Magpie class made some imaginative stick men using the natural objects that they found in the woods. Mrs. Beardsall and Mrs. Rosling then called everyone over when the fire was ready and we toasted our crumpets over the hot ashes. They tasted delicious!

Pond design Exhibition

As part of the school's plan to develop a pond and wild life area all the pupils across the school have taken part in designing a pond. The stunning results were displayed in an exhibition which parents were invited to view. The pupils in years 3 to 5 worked with Mr. Adam in their ICT lessons and also created detailed and imaginative 3D designs in DT with Mr. Kettlewell. The stools and benches made by years 5 to 8 were of an excellent standard and will look beautiful around the completed pond. The Pre-Prep pupils worked on individual and class collages whilst the nursery worked collaboratively on a design showing the wildlife that they hoped would be attracted to live in the water.

Detailed plans are in the process of being drawn up with the kind help of Mr. Shannon and Mr Eveleigh and we hope to incorporate as many of the children's ideas as we can.

Some of the funding for this venture has come from Hampshire County Council and we were delighted that Councillor Hockley, who has been instrumental in enabling the school to receive this funding, was able to come along to view the exhibition. The pupils were all justly proud of their achievements.



Y2 visit Titchfield Village

Year 2 visited Titchfield village as part of their geography work. Whilst walking down the hill from the school into the village the children spotted a wall made from the knuckle bones of sheep and even a dragon on a roof top. It was amazing to discover that the sea used to come right up to the village and that it had been a busy port at one time. After finding some fascinating facts from the gravestones in the churchyard the children learnt how to orientate a map, marking on the shops and key features. The children had been learning about tally charts in mathematics and used their knowledge to undertake a traffic tally count. After all their hard work they were treated to juice and biscuits at Ms. Ascough's house and listened carefully as she told them all about the history of her home. Finally we visited the play area to identify ways in which the children thought it could be improved. Our thanks go to all the parent helpers who came with us which enabled the children to work in small groups and therefore get the very best out of the visit. The children's behaviour was exemplary and they were a credit to the school.

