



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

PEGASUS NEWS

SPRING TERM

ISSUE 3

FRIDAY 20 JANUARY 2017

The Headmaster writes...



And so it was, on Saturday morning, as I attended an Independent Schools Association Conference, that an email came through letting me know that Chris Jansen (Cognita CEO) was having to cancel his (much anticipated) visit to Long Close due to a personal emergency. I am pleased to say that everything is fine now with Chris and he has rearranged to come and see us on 8th March, but I was a little disappointed to have to send the email to all staff over the weekend to let them know the news. As a school we have to be able to react quickly to changes in plans and we also need to teach our children to be both adaptable and resilient. We do not always get what we want in

life, even with careful planning and huge amounts of effort. This could not be more clearly apparent today than in America, where Donald Trump will be sworn into office as the 45th President of the United States. More individuals voted for Hillary Clinton than Trump but today, despite a few of the protests that will be taking place in the US, is going to be about looking forward rather than lamenting the vagaries of the US political electoral system. No matter what your political colours, it is important to embrace change, to accept the world in which we live and the decisions that have been made that we cannot change. On my desk I have a piece of paper with a quote that I use to remind myself of this – it reads: ‘God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference’. Reflecting on this at a school level I find very useful but it is also a message that children going out into the world would do well to consider. This morning, the senior pupils had a very interesting talk from Mr Miles, who described his career as an engineer and how it has taken him from working on aeroplanes, to the oil rigs of the North Sea and now onto a role looking at minimising mistakes made in the NHS. Mr Miles was happy to tell us how he left school at the age of 16, took on an apprenticeship, attended night school to help him access university, and then went on to gain a first class degree in Engineering. Through his commitment to hard work and his determination to do his best in whatever he was doing, he gained access to Oxford University for further studies. His latest venture into the NHS is only possible due to his attitude to work and his investment in the future, focusing on controlling the factors that were within his control at the time, and the courage to change things in his life that he could at the time. We often talk about building character and resilience in young children and it really is a challenge for schools. I am sure you will all be aware of JK Rowling and how many times she was rejected by publishers before finally being told her book had a future! How different it would have been if she had not had that internal resilience that we would like to see in our own children. ‘I can’t’ is not a phrase we want our children to use – unless, that is, we add the word ‘yet’ onto it. This week, a wonderful attitude was shown by the children who were out until ‘far too late for a school night’ on Tuesday, singing in the ‘Young Voices’ event at the O2. Not once have I heard complaints about it being a long day, a late evening, or of being tired the next day. Mrs Bingham and all the teachers led from the front in this respect and it was lovely to witness the ‘buzz’ that they had from the trip on Wednesday morning. They chose their positive attitude. They could not change the late evening finish, and decided to accept the challenges in order to reward the children with a wonderful experience that, as a consequence, was enjoyed by all. So Chris may not be visiting this week but we will be ready for his visit when he does come. And we will continue to look for ways to challenge the children in the school in order to help them build character and resilience in whatever path they choose beyond Long Close School.

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AFTER SCHOOL CARE MOBILE NUMBERS

ASC team members can be contacted on the following numbers between 3.30pm and 6.00pm each day.

If you are running late to collect your child from ASC, please give the staff on duty a quick call to let them know. Thank you!

***Yellow, Red, Blue Room & Reception:
07783 198998
Years 1-11 (Mrs Bahri):
07986 316132***

EARLY YEARS UPDATE BY MRS HARRIS

I have had a super time this week observing children standing at the front of the classrooms using our interactive whiteboards to present their own Tapestry observations from home, which you as parents have uploaded onto their learning journals.

Not only does it excite me that we are continually working with you, our parents, to develop our partnerships but we are together creating children who are confident presenters. They are using IT knowledge to move pictures up and down and zoom in and out as they make the screen bigger and smaller. The children also manage to answer questions that are asked by practitioners and peers during these times with confidence. This really highlights how they all want to share and understand each other's families and their activities out of school.

Watch out, Sir Alan Sugar! Our children will be chasing you out of the boardroom soon - we definitely have some budding entrepreneurs in the Long Close School Early Years department!

YELLOW ROOM

The children in the Yellow Room have continued exploring our cultural puppets. We talked about our mummy, daddy, brothers, sisters and even our grandparents, aunts and uncles!

They sorted the puppets according to their size and noticed similarities and differences between them such as if they wear glasses or have a beard or moustache, and they noticed the length and colour of their hair when making different families.

The children have been joining in with the words of their favourite stories, extending their sitting and listening skills during carpet time. We enjoyed the story "Dear Zoo" by Rob Campbell as we talked about the different animal sizes and pretended to be the animals from the book.

We are going to continue comparing different height measurements of the children and grown ups next week to develop our mathematical language on our height chart in the Yellow Room.



GREEN ROOM

This week the children have been exploring the topic 'All about me'. We started this topic by looking at our families; the children shared a photo of their family with their peers using the interactive whiteboard. Each child stood at the front of the carpet and described their family members in the photo. Thank you to all our parents who uploaded family photos on to Tapestry - the children loved sharing them.

We continued our topic by creating some wonderful family portraits. The children looked at a variety of shapes and thought about how they resembled parts of our bodies. We spoke about our family and chose who we would like to make. Most of the children wanted to create themselves! With a little guidance, the children used the shapes and made a portrait. They look amazing! The children have also been playing with the small world people and the doll's house. We have been looking at the different family members and speaking about the similarities and differences. It is lovely to hear the children talk about

their families in such detail.

Following on from the children's interest of doctors last week, we have completed our 'Doctor's surgery' role-play area and the children have had lots of fun extending their ideas and imagination using these resources!

Next week we will be exploring our emotions.



THIS WEEK IN EARLY YEARS

RED AND BLUE ROOMS

The children have enjoyed another fun filled week in the Red and Blue Room. This week we have continued to explore traditional fairy tales by introducing the well-known story of 'Little Red Riding hood'. Some of the children enjoyed dressing up in costumes from the story and role-playing their own version of it using the props from the story. We have now concluded our topic of traditional fairy tales - the children and the staff have thoroughly enjoyed exploring these stories and activities with the children.



The children have really engaged in their fun phonics sessions. We have reviewed the sounds they have already learnt and introduced the 'o' sound. The children are really focussed during these fun filled sessions and Mrs Bailey is thrilled with the progress that they are making. We have now begun to make our mark-making books for the children to use to record their letter formation during their phonic sessions. The children chose pictures of their favourite toys and characters as a front cover for their book and we



are excited to start using them next week.

Next week we will be exploring activities relating to the Chinese New Year - this year is going to be the year of the Rooster.

RECEPTION



This week Reception children have turned into 'Super heroes' in our number focus week. The week began with the children finding their number super hero partners, matching the special number they had each been given. The children then thought of all the different places we see numbers around us - the children thought of



buses, road signs, door numbers and clocks. They were set a series of tasks throughout the week, taking on challenges to test their number skills - one of which was to become number detectives. The children spent time investigating around our school looking for numbers in all sorts of places. The children found numbers on the playground, the nursery buzzer, posters on windows, classroom signs, and they even managed to sneak into Mr Pavey's office to find numbers on his telephone and computer keyboard. The children displayed great team work, helping each other to solve the problems. Each day a different set of partners were chosen to be the 'Number super heroes' of the day, receiving their very own cape, mask and number badge to wear. The children explored numicon and used it to solve puzzles, make patterns and work out calculation - what better way to enjoy numbers than to eat them! The children mixed ingredients for cookie dough and made individual pieces of numicon, choosing some of their favourite numbers. Once baked and cooled, the children iced them with the colour corresponding to that piece and yes, we thoroughly enjoyed tucking into the sweet treats! A great reward for all their hard work!



PREP SCHOOL UPDATE BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 1:

Over the past two weeks the children have donned their artist's aprons!

Last week in their art lesson they learnt about Joan Miro and created sculptures inspired by his work. This week, Wassily Kandinsky was our feature artist; the children enjoyed looking at his patterns and liked how



he used shapes and colours to represent his feelings. We looked closely at the painting 'Farbstudie Quadrate', which consists of wonderful circles and colours. The children were all asked to paint circles onto small squares of paper which were mounted to look just like the original! I am sure you agree, we have some budding artists in Year 1! Thank you also to the parents who have joined us in our excitement as they have created fact files about the artists on our Firefly pages! We look forward to learning about more artists as we continue through the term.

This week Year 2 put their DT research hats on. As a class the children explored the different types of puppets that exist and then, as the children will be



making glove puppets (hand puppets), they carefully examined a selection of them, thinking about what they were made from and how they were made. They learnt that glove puppets are best made from fabric, so that they can be moved easily, and that they are sewn together. The children decided that puppets made from metal just wouldn't work at all!



As part of their RS topic this term about stories with meanings, the children have been looking at the story of Goldilocks this week and thinking about the meanings and morals found in this story.

In groups the children acted out the story and then created some fantastic 'freeze frames' of key scenes. What scary Father Bears the children made!



PEGASUS CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the most recent Pegasus certificate winners:

- 1H Basant Dhillon
- 1S Harry Manik
- 2M Matthew Joly-Panayiotou
- 2W Jaiya Sandal
- 3I Nadia Shenawy
- 3R Beatriz de Ataide
- 4M Nickolas Chandla
- 4R Josh Gajree
- 5B Meera Thaper
- 5C Malvika Kaujalgi
- 6F Cara Ettridge
- 6O Nishi Bosamia



PREP SCHOOL UPDATE BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 2:

Year 3

Congratulations Year 3 on your amazing information report about the mystifying pyramids of Egypt! Your work was even commented on by other teachers who loved your organisation and presentation skills.

Year 3 were enthralled by the variety of climates around the world and how the climate changes depending on the location of the earth in relation to the sun. They enjoyed identifying weather symbols and describing what they represented.

The children have started working on their DT projects for this term. They're making papier-mache hot air balloons! We can't wait to see the wonderful master pieces towards the end of this half term.

Year 3 are very excited about their Ancient Egyptian workshop day on Tuesday. It is optional for the children to come to school dressed in some form of Ancient Egyptian costume. Please don't feel the need to purchase a costume as we are happy to provide a head band or an accessory for the children that are dressed in plain attire. This could be black, grey or white items of clothing.

Year 4

Viking Attack! This week we have been immersed in Viking invasion and have been learning about the Berserkers who fought so aggressively in battle. Our next lessons will involve learning all about the holy island of Lindisfarne. In English, we have been focusing on poetry and the different ways to write using descriptive language- personification, haiku, similes and metaphors.

Trying to stop an ice cube from melting has been a tricky business! We tested a variety of materials to see what would delay an ice cube melting the quickest. It was interesting to compare our predictions to our conclusions.

Our Andy Warhol inspired art lessons have started off very well. The children have been using their observation skills to sketch objects and are looking forward to exploring colour and repeated patterns next.

Year 5

This week, our pupils in Year 5 have worked very hard rehearsing for their assembly and learning their lines. The history lessons have focused on Shakespeare and his life, and the pupils created fantastic poster about him. They are now really looking forward to their trip on Thursday where they will visit his house as well as shopping like the Tudors did, using coins from that era.

In science, the children worked on how the body reacts to exercise and they learnt about the functions of the lungs and the heart.

Year 6

In English, Year 6 have been extending their note taking skills by identifying key words in information texts in order to precis (summarise).

In science, the pupils have been investigating solutions to find the best method of separating particles from liquids - including sieving, filtering, evaporating and dissolving.

Self portraits are underway in art with the pupils challenged to make facial features (eyes, nose etc.) as realistic as possible.

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY

Year 10 and 11 Trip to the Destinations Expo Careers Fair, Windsor

On Wednesday 18th January, Years 10 and 11 departed from school to Windsor Racecourse for a careers expo. Once we arrived we were greeted



by some of the organisers of the event and they introduced us to the venue and showed us where to go. We were amazed and engulfed by the entire spectacle of all the incredible stalls with so many potential career options. Great companies including Legoland, Microsoft and Mars were all happy to guide us through the ins and outs of a career in their employment sector. Many universities and colleges also assisted us in helping to decide our futures. Some of the Year 11's signed up for summer jobs with the Year 10's



viewing a future in some of the many advertised industries. Arun Ramtale said "It opened our eyes to new horizons". Overall, I believe it was an incredible experience that inspired us and opened our minds to many new career options to consider for a future in the world.

Connor McGinn, Year 11



On a related point, we would like to say thank you very much to Mr Miles for talking to our Year 9-11 students today about his job in engineering. It was fascinating to hear about some of the different areas of engineering and to find out about Mr Miles's own career path, which started as an apprenticeship. After this week's careers fair, we're sure it offered very good food for thought for some of our students.

SPORTS FIXTURES FOR W/C 23 JANUARY 2017

Tues 24 Jan: U9 Netball v St Bernard's (A)

Tues 24 Jan: U9AB Football v Claires Court Junior Boys (A)

Wed 25 Jan: U11AB Football v St Mary's, Henley (H)

Wed 25 Jan: U10 & U11 Netball v St Bernard's (A)

Wed 25 Jan: U16 Football v Shiplake (H)

Thurs 26 Jan: KS3 & 4 Badminton v St Joseph's (A)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS BY MRS BINGHAM

CHOIR TRIP TO YOUNG VOICES AT THE O2

On Tuesday 17th January, Year 5-11 choir members took a trip to the O2 to perform at the annual performance of Young Voices. The performance was accompanied by guitar slinging performer Tabby Callaghan, the Beatbox Collective (made up of a cast with MC Zani, The BFG and Ball-zee), Natalie Williams - a stunning soul/jazz artist - and some amazing dance performances by Urban Strides, the street dance specialists. We performed lots of songs and even did some dancing!

Leading to the next dimension, the Young Voices team presented an eye-catching light show, which put the cherry on top of an amazing day. We had such an amazing time and we think we can say that on behalf of all the participants on the trip. We sang some lovely songs and made some lovely memories. It was a trip of a lifetime and we would all do it again in a heartbeat!

Thank you Mrs Bingham for organising it for us and thank you to all the teachers who came with us.

By Poppy and Kiran (Year 6F)



UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS FOR THE CALENDAR

Thursday 23 February: Wellington Prep Choral Day—Choir Members in Years 5-7 only. Limited spaces, available on a first come first served basis. Letters given out to pupils today.

Friday 10 March at 4.15pm: Senior Instrumental Afternoon - FOR ALL SENIOR PUPILS IN CHOIR OR WHO LEARN AN INSTRUMENT

Thursday 16 March at 4.15pm: Prep Instrumental Afternoon - FOR ALL PREP PUPILS IN CHOIR OR ORCHESTRA AND WHO LEARN AN INSTRUMENT

SCHOOL NOTICES

HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB AT LONG CLOSE

Always Growing's Holiday Club for 3-13 year olds will be back again at Long Close this February half term and we can't wait to get started! We had a fantastic time over the Christmas holidays with lots of fun activities for the children, including bouncy castle and trampoline fun, visits from some reptiles and plenty of arts and crafts.

We will be open from Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2017, from 8am to 6pm, and we will have a range of activities to suit everyone. The cost for a full day (08:30am-5:30pm) is £31.00* and we also offer half day places for £19.00, which split at 1pm.

* Additional slots between 8:00-8:30am and 5:30-6pm will cost an extra £3 each.

You can now book online: <http://alwaysgrowing.co.uk/booking/>

If you have any questions at all or any trouble with our new booking system, please email info@alwaysgrowing.co.uk or call 07761 293425. More information can also be found on our website: www.alwaysgrowing.co.uk

We look forward to seeing many of you soon.

The Always Growing Team

SCHOOL EVENTS FOR W/C 23 AND 30 JANUARY 2017

Tuesday 24 January—Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Workshop at LCS

Thursday 26 January—Year 5 Trip to The Shakespeare Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

Monday 30 January—Year 5 Assembly

Tuesday 31 January—Final date for GCSE entries

Tuesday 31 January—KS2 Parents' Information Evening—Moving Beyond KS2

A MUSICAL ADVENTURE

If you're looking for activities to go to during half term, the Dionysus Ensemble will be performing 'A Musical Adventure' at St Mary's Church, Slough (SL1 1PJ), on Thursday 16 February 2017 at 11am.

It is a children's concert with bite-sized music, suitable for ages 0-7. Entry for children costs £2 each but adults are free.

Book your place online at www.amusicaladventure.co.uk.

CHEERLEADING CLUB DEMO

The new Cheerleading club leader, Evangelina Maw, will be running an information/demo event for Years 5-9 on Monday 30 January at 1:30pm in the School Hall.

PTA NEWS

This week we are really excited to share more information on the upcoming disco for Years 1-6.



When: Friday 10 February
Doors open at 6pm and
the fun starts
from 6.30pm
Where: Thames Valley
Athletics Centre



We took on board the feedback from those of you who attended the last disco and have secured a new venue and will also be including food for the children in the ticket price. On top of that, we have partnered with www.jellydisco.co.uk who are experienced in providing fantastic fun and entertainment for children so it's sure to be a great evening! They will be ready with prizes for the best dressed and best dancers so let the children know they need to get practising those dance moves!

Look out for more details of how to register and pay for the event in bags next week. Tickets will cost £8 each.

We will be looking for volunteers to help us out on the evening, we will need help with –

- * Entry and exit desk
- * Food station
- * Tuckshop
- * Tattoo/glow bands stall
- * Room monitors

Please get in touch with us directly or via your class reps if you can spare 30 mins or an hour to help out.

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