



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

PEGASUS NEWS

SPRING TERM

ISSUE 5

FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2017

The Headmaster writes...



Was it just me or was January not all that much fun?!?! I don't think it was just down to my decision to (successfully) attempt a 'dry' January for the first time but it probably did not help! The reality is that the psychologists tell us that this is the toughest time of the year and one of the Mondays in January is the most depressing day of the entire year! We have had freezing cold mornings with frost covered cars followed by damp and dreary conditions over the last week. The sight of blue sky has been a rare thing and I imagine sufferers of SAD (seasonally affected depression) have had a tough time over recent weeks. Whilst the sun continued to be hidden behind the clouds on Tuesday, two senior pupils brightened up my day, and month for that matter, enormously. It was the 'Moving beyond KS2' parents' information evening and I had asked our Head Boy and Head Girl, Connor and Ria, to give presentations. Connor joined in Year 7 but Ria has been here since she was only 2 years old. I had simply asked them to state their reasons for joining or staying at the school, and what they had gained from being at the senior school. It is a very difficult decision for many parents to make with many different variables coming into play. For some, the senior school is not a financially viable proposition and for others there may be more appropriate senior schools that better meet their needs. My intention is never to tell parents that our senior school is for everyone but I know that it can help certain individuals develop both academically and socially and can give them a wonderful education. The inspection report highlighted this aspect of our school but that was over a year ago now and so I was after another validation of my belief in the strength of our senior school - and that is exactly what I got from these two students! Their presentations were brilliant. Both Connor and Ria were brave, honest and spoke from the heart. Visiting parents could not help but be impressed. For me, moments like that stay with me forever. Witnessing pupils taking on a challenge and meeting and exceeding my expectations makes me both proud of Long Close School, its staff and its pupils, and it reminds me of how lucky I am to be involved in Education. And then this morning I was reminded that the journey of education is not just one that is limited to school and as a school we should aim to inspire children to be life-long learners. My reminder was in the form of Mr Sargeant, who gave an inspiring assembly to the senior school where he recounted his experiences last summer when he went to China. This was no ordinary tourist trip but one in which Mr Sargeant had set himself significant challenges that took two years to plan. Through his talk he modelled the benefits of the pursuit of life-long learning and demonstrated how his life has been enriched by this. A quote by Einstein, 'The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge, but imagination' was used by Mr Sargeant to stimulate some thought and challenge for his audience. He did not preach, but posed challenging questions and as a consequence, inspired his audience. Connor and Ria did a wonderful job on Tuesday night but pupils like this do not appear by magic or by accident. Supportive, caring homes and dedicated, inspirational teachers are critical ingredients in order to help parents and teachers guide young people through their complex world. Children will get it wrong from time to time, but I was reminded by events this week about how wonderful LCS pupils can be, and the reasons why they are the way they are.

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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

The nursery has been just so exciting this week. The Yellow Room children are all settled and busy having fun, free flowing into the Green Room if they choose to. The Green Room children are full of 'chatter' as they tell me about yoga and 'bucket time'! Red and Blue Room children are getting stuck into such fresh maths activities and new story telling routines such as 'thinking out loud', which we were taught by our Read Write Inc tutor on her visit on Wednesday. Not to mention the transformation of our role-play area into a castle!

Reception children have taken things to another level as they told me in assembly yesterday that they were going to space today to eat space cakes! I hope they are all back safely by home time!

YELLOW ROOM



We have been exploring different textures this week and the children have liked the feel of rice and pasta when handling it. They have filled and emptied bowls and then been pouring the pasta and rice down into the water wheel, listening to the sounds they make as they whizz speedily down into the tray.



The children used our natural wooden logs and resources to build and stack, showing persistence when their towers toppled over. They picked them up and stacked them on top of one another again, noticing them getting taller and higher! We have also been practicing the names of our colours each morning and are now beginning to recognise and name colours all around us.

GREEN ROOM

This week the children have been exploring different occupations. They have been investigating the doctor's role play area in more detail and also thinking about the role of a baker. The children have been watching short videos and reading stories based around different occupations. As we were discussing bakers, the children decided to create a bakery using the play dough. There were lots of cupcakes being baked along with some amazing birthday cakes. The children then used their imagination and turned the bakery into afternoon tea!

We have also been exploring technology by using the interactive whiteboard. The children discussed a farmer's occupation and what duties he has to carry out. Together we decided that it was very important to make sure he had all the animals. The children participated in an interactive game counting specific animals. What fantastic way to learn about occupations and develop number knowledge! The children have been very competitive this week and have shown lots of interest in racing. Miss Wilson took the children into the garden and called out a variety of different ways for the children to move. They then had a race moving in the different ways such as jumping and hopping. The children demonstrated superb listening skills - well done to everybody for taking part!



THIS WEEK IN EARLY YEARS

RED AND BLUE ROOMS

The children have had lots of fun this week as we have introduced our new topic of 'Kings and Queens'. We started by learning all about our own Queen Elizabeth II. Mrs Bailey showed the children a Power-Point presentation about the how the young princess became our Queen and where the Queen lives. The children were very excited to see Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace on the interactive white-board. The children were so inspired by the pictures of the Queen's homes that they decided to design and create their own royal castles and palaces with the coloured wooden bricks. Some of the castles were definitely fit for a Queen or King.

The children have enjoyed activities such as making symmetrical patterned shields, mark making in fairy dust and role-playing in the princess hair salon.

We have also enjoyed beginning to transform our role-play area into a castle and look forward to completing it next week.

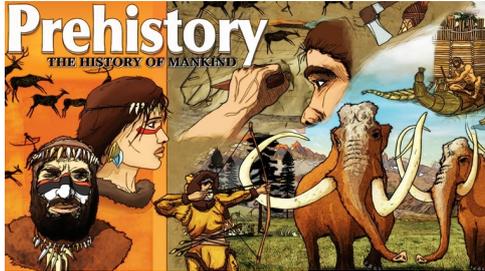


RECEPTION

This week the children in Reception were transported into space. Inspired by many children making rockets last week and a talk about visiting the moon, we thought it would only be fair to visit the moon for ourselves! In preparation for this event the children watched a rocket launch and the first landing on the moon by Neil Armstrong. We decided to write a letter to Mr Armstrong asking him questions about his visit and how he must have felt during this amazing experience. We spent the rest of the week preparing passports for when we land on the moon, creating our own 'friendly' aliens that we might meet there and, most importantly, on our list of things to take with us were our cake pop planets which we had lots of fun making. We first crumbled cake sponge into a bowl, added frosting to combine it, then used our hands to mould the mixture into small sphere shapes and to finish, we coated the balls with icing and sprinkles of edible galactic glitter! Throughout the week the children have thoroughly enjoyed our rocket role play, wearing the jet packs and using the control panel to contact the space station back on Earth! To end the week we flew in our rocket ship to the moon where we had a very enjoyable picnic whilst singing our favourite 'space' themed songs.



PREP SCHOOL UPDATE BY MS FIELD



CURRICULUM COLLAPSE WEEK

Next week will be the Prep School Curriculum Collapse week. Our theme this year is 'Pre-History'. The year groups have been planning a wide range of exciting lessons and will be stepping back in time to the world of dinosaurs and also early people. We will learn about the incredible world of those awe inspiring creatures and the evolution of human beings.

The older year groups will learn more about the work of Charles Darwin and his study of evolution and inheritance. The children will also follow in the footsteps of Mary Anning and other great minds as they become archaeologists and palaeontologists for the week! In art lessons, they will try cave paintings and other techniques to learn how our ancestors expressed their ideas.



Linking in with the tribal feel, we are delighted that on Wednesday we will be visited by Ollie Tunmer - a former cast member of Stomp - who will be running musical workshops through the day, which will include 'body percussion'!

On Friday we will be putting all our work on display in the classrooms. Please do pop in from 3.30pm (KS1) and 4.00pm (KS2) to have a look at you child/children's work.

If you have any items that you would like your child to share with their class for display tables, such as books, fossils, stones and precious stones (not too valuable!), we would love to see them, They can either be left for the day or throughout the week.

We are looking forward to a super week!

PREP SCHOOL COUNCIL

Last week, the School Council met with Tracey and Belinda from the Catering Team to discuss the school lunch menu. Each class had completed surveys in which they considered the meals they like, those they don't like and any ideas which can be added to the lunch menu. There were many common favourites including pasta dishes, such as lasagne and spaghetti Bolognese; fish and chips; hot dogs and burgers. There were a few dishes that really did get the thumbs down, most notably the flan! Ideas for improvement included adding more variety to the salad bar; improving the baked potatoes and offering a greater range of ice cream flavours. This week, the School Council were given a food tasting treat in order to try out a range of fish fingers and choose the variety they preferred. They all agreed that they were very tasty and looked forward to having them for lunch today.

The School Council has noticed that their voices have been heard and are delighted that changes have been implemented quickly. School lunches are definitely getting the thumbs up again!



PREP SCHOOL UPDATE BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 1:

Year 1



Year 1 had a super science lesson this week! There were some very kind soft toy volunteers - Mouse, Peppa Pig, George Pig, Penguin and Fox, who helped us with our experiment.

Miss Staniford wrapped foil, a tea towel, paper, plastic bag and masking tape around the soft toys before they were plunged into water to see if they were waterproof!

The children were eager to find out which materials would be waterproof and which ones were not! To begin with, the children talked to their partners about what they thought the outcomes would be and made super predictions. They were also asked to fill in the results onto their sheets as we went along. It was interesting to learn that the plastic container and plastic bag were the best waterproof packages, and luckily only some of the soft toy volunteers got wet!

For the last two ICT lessons, Year 1 has been exploring a new programme called Fresco. This software is similar to Microsoft Paint as it allows children to create pictures and designs.

Fresco also lets the user create patterns by reproducing an image. The children were asked to paint a picture of a face before having a go at making a pattern by reproducing the images twice over!

Once the children's work was printed, we compared the pictures to the work of Andy Warhol, who was famous for his repeated patterned printing.



Year 2



Year 2 had some VERY special visitors this week. Mrs Gandhum, Aman's mummy, brought in her baby girl, Amarith, to show us and tell us a bit about babies! The children learnt that Amarith is just 3 months old and that she was born at the end of October.



Mrs Gandhum talked through Amarith's daily routine with the children and we learnt all kinds of other interesting facts, including that babies need a lot of sleep in order to give their brains time to rest and process all the information they have learnt during the day. Babies need lots of milk in order to make their teeth and bones grow strong. Mrs Gandhum brought in some of Amarith's baby things to show and tell, including her Manchester United baby grow!

Prior to the visit, the children planned some questions that they might like to ask Mrs Gandhum about looking after a baby. Mrs Gandhum was very impressed with the quality of the questions! Year 2 realised that there is a lot that goes into looking after a baby and that they need a lot of time, care and love to be looked after properly.



PEGASUS CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the most recent Pegasus certificate winners:

- 1H Ehsan Abbas
- 1S Eshaan Kaiser
- 2M Maia Sponaro-Dar
- 2W Safa Majid
- 3I Sofia Awan
- 3R Smaran Kesireddy
- 4M Mariyah Ahmad
- 4R Holly Hunter
- 5B Simardeep Singh
- 5C Nikita Saini
- 6F Iseoluwa Shittu
- 6O Natasha Sleep



PREP SCHOOL UPDATE BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 2:

Year 3

Year 3 have had an eventful week! They've been busy getting their hands dirty during our science experiment on different types of soil and how they mix and settle in water. The children enjoyed comparing and discussing the results amongst each other.



During our religious studies lesson, the children made fantastic, eye catching dancing dragons! They used a beautiful array of colours to represent what the authentic versions look like in Chinese New Year parades.

Year 3 enjoyed using the 'frog' method of counting up when subtracting during our maths lessons and were able to apply this process of taking way to calculate change from £5 and £10.

The children are now looking forward to learning something new and exciting next week!

Year 4

What an action packed week Year 4 has had! In between our half termly topic tests, the children have also been learning about several Viking Gods. Did you know that Odin never ate or drank in the hall at Valhalla? The food was instead given to his two wolves that sat next to him! In creative writing, the children developed their use of figurative language when writing about the Viking attack on Lindisfarne. In RS, the children have been learning about Jesus' 12 apostles and how they first met. The children were surprised to find that a number of the apostles were related and the fact that 11 of them suffered terrible deaths. Next week will be so exciting because it will be our curriculum collapse week! We are all looking forward to a variety of different activities linked to the Stone Age. If you have any artefacts or items of interest linked to this topic, we would love to see them!



Year 5

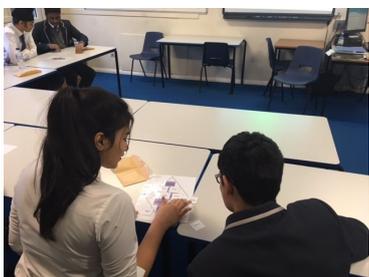
Year 5 has focused on reading this week and geared all their work towards analysing, discussing and summarising texts. The pupils began to read their Michael Morpugo books and have worked in small groups in order to retell the stories. The students also discovered this week that the actual body of Richard III was found under a car park in Leicester. What a revelation! All the children acted as little reporters and wrote their own newspaper articles about it. Will they discover the body of another king under the car park next to the school? We will never know. In science, the pupils learnt how helpful and harmful drugs affect our bodies and started their revision for the end of topic test.

Year 6

Year 6 pupils have had fun in English, practising their skills at writing in direct speech and then changing it to indirect speech to report, by imagining a conversation that might take place in a travel agent. The opportunity for a bit of comedy was not lost and the final dialogues were most amusing! In maths they have been working hard on division methods, including short and long division.

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY

YEAR 10 ATTEND 'SKILLS FOR LIFE' SEMINAR



On Monday this week, Year 10 attended a Skills for Life seminar led by Learning to Work as part of the build up to their work placements later this term.

The group were involved in some active discussions and debate around some vital aspects of life in the workplace. It was extremely pleasing to see how engaged the students were and how willing they were to explain their ideas and points of view.

During the seminar, the group considered a wide range of themes, includ-

ing:

Key skills needed for employment - we agreed that some of the most relevant were attitude, initiative and communication;

Good and Bad Customer Service;

Personal Skills - preparing for excellent customer service;

Interview Techniques and the many different types of interviews;

Body Language;

Health and Safety in the workplace.

Overall, the group received a huge amount of good advice on how to prepare fully for their upcoming work placements. Thanks go to Kate and Yasmin from Learning to Work for delivering such an interesting and useful session.



YEARS 9 & 10 TAKE PART IN STEP INTO SPORT'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME



As part of the Youth Sports Trust's Step into Sport programme, a group of our Year 9 and 10 students took part in a leadership event at Thames Valley Athletics Centre yesterday. This event gave them the opportunity to develop their leadership skills; to understand and learn how to deliver high quality, fun, inclusive sport; to learn how to get more people in our school active and involved in sport; and to become part of our School Sport Organising Committee. They took part in several inclusive sports such as tennis, boccia and new age curling, plus they enjoyed the following sessions:

- Polybat/table tennis with Lucie Bouron (GB parasport, YST Youth Board)
- Wheelchair basketball/rugby with Liam Barker (Young Athlete Role Model)
- Indoor rowing sessions delivered by Olympic rower, Toby Garbett



They had a great day and we're looking forward to seeing the results in the coming weeks and months! Well done to all those involved.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY

SENIOR SCHOOL WORK SHOWCASE

SEASIDE SURRENDER



I washed upon shore; the scorching sun hovered over me baking the sand to a golden crisp.

Fluorescent shells were scattered all over the Beach gleaming and glistening. The Aquamarine Ocean formed gargantuan waves crashing on a Couple of ridged rocks, creating frothy foam. Candy floss like clouds were dancing gracefully in the sky.

I strolled to emerald green leaves branched on to trees that stood tall like sentinels towering over me. As I clawed my way through the humid jungle. The horrendous smell of rotting leaves wafted over my nose.

Vines wrapped itself around jungle coco trees like a constrictor suffocating its prey to the last breath. The wind rushed over my face cooling the moist air, rustling the lush leaves above.

By Avinash Naidoo, Year 8



MATCH REPORT & SPORTS FIXTURES

On Tuesday afternoon, our Under 9s football teams travelled to St Bernard's. Thankfully it stayed dry for us and both teams enjoyed very competitive matches.

The A Team started very strongly, scoring early on in the match. St Bernard's worked hard to get an equalizer from a corner, but this made Long Close work even harder. The boys passed the ball around from one side of the pitch to other, made strong tackles and put a great deal of pressure on the opposition. We managed to get a 3-1 lead by half time. We started the second half with just as much determination and managed to score a further two goals. Everyone had a chance to try out different positions, but it did not change the way we played. A very pleasing result, ending 5-1 to Long Close with goals from Manas, Jeevan x2 and two own goals.

The B Team were playing their first match for the school and every individual was keen to enjoy the game and played with great passion. The boys had chances but weren't quite able to convert them into a goal. At half time, it was 0-0, a very fair reflection on the game. The team went out in the second half and did everything they could to score and eventually broke the deadlock with a long shot from Dara deflected into the goal. Long Close held on to win the game 1-0. Well done to all the boys involved!

Mr Powell

SPORTS FIXTURE FOR W/C 6 FEBRUARY 2017

Wed 8 Feb - U11AB Football v Dair House, 2:45pm (H)



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 6 FEB 2017

Monday 6 February—Prep School Curriculum Collapse Week—Pre-History

Tuesday 7 February—Years 9-11 Parents' Evening 1600-1930

Wednesday 8 February—Years 1-6 Body Percussion Assembly/Workshops

Friday 10 February—PTA School Disco for Years 1-6

HALF TERM

Just a quick reminder that next Friday 10 February is the last day before half term starts. All After School Clubs will run apart from Golf, as already communicated to relevant parents. We will return to school at the usual time on Monday 20 February.

Please accept our apologies but due to Years 9-11 parents evening on Tuesday 7 February, Mrs Amod will not be able to take the English Club that day. A communication has been sent by the School Office to affected parents.

PTA NEWS

Happy Friday everyone, only 1 week to go till the PTA School Disco!!!



For: Years 1-6

When: Friday 10th February

Doors open at 6pm and the fun starts from 6.30pm

Where: Thames Valley Athletics Centre

Cost: £8 per ticket

Tickets are selling our fast so we hope you have managed to return the forms or catch us at the gate to get yours. We will be at the gate again on Monday morning, Wednesday morning and Wednesday afternoon but in the meantime, you can return the registration form along with payment to the school office. Don't forget that we have a company called www.jellydisco.co.uk coming along to help keep the children entertained - they are experienced in making sure that children have a great time! We are also providing food for the children (which is included in the ticket price). For the grown-ups there is a bar and food will be available to buy.

We hope you have a great weekend!

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Click on the image to email us (CTRL and click)