



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

PEGASUS NEWS

SPRING TERM

ISSUE 6

FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY

2017

The Headmaster writes...



The problem with having only a five and a half week half term is that we have to try and squeeze everything we normally do over a week longer into the shorter period of time. It is no wonder that many of the teachers are on their knees as we reach half-term. Whilst it is wonderful to see the large variety of school trips and the energy surrounding the 'Curriculum Collapse' activities, it must not be underestimated how draining these things are for teachers to organise. With the cold, damp weather and the various coughs, colds and other nasty bugs around, the short half term has seemed to drag a little. However, it was a true delight

this morning to listen to the children present the poems, paintings, songs and other creations that they had been working on this week in the Prep School. The theme of 'Pre-History' is one of my favourites and I pursued subsidiary courses in geology at university alongside my geography degree. In fact, I recounted to the pupils my first A level geology lesson in which the teacher very effectively taught us to think differently about time when considering earth processes, including the formation of rocks. I remember the teacher showing us a 5 million year old rock, discussing how old this seemed when considering our own life expectancy, and then he showed us a rock from the middle of Africa, that had an estimated age of 3.5 billion years. Suddenly the 5 million year old rock did not seem all that old anymore! Understanding how continents have moved around the surface of the earth and appreciating the fact that they continue to do so today requires a different perspective to the one we tend to focus on day-to-day. To contemplate how marine fossils can be found in the rocks near the top of the Himalayas requires an understanding that once a whole ocean (known as the Tethys Sea) once existed between the Indian and the Asian continent. As the Indian continent 'drifted' northwards, the ocean disappeared and the sea bed sediments were compacted into rock and then folded into the mountains that we know today, including the tallest of them all, Mount Everest. In Bill Bryson's book 'A Brief History of Nearly Everything', he has a chapter that discusses this and highlights the fact that it took the scientific community a very long time indeed to piece together all of the evidence - and in fact it was only relatively recently that these scientific theories were accepted by international communities. For many years the key barrier standing in the way of making sense of the jigsaw puzzle of evidence was the belief that the earth was only around 4000 years old. Until this belief was dispelled there simply was not enough time for the rest of earth's history to make sense. A true understanding of the phenomenal age of our planet, and the tiny part humans have played in its history, can be quite daunting and has a tendency to make us feel small and insignificant. However, the teachers this half term have been anything other than insignificant in the lives of your children, whether teaching them all about pre-history, taking them for sports fixtures or trips out of school. And your children have been anything other than insignificant in their impact on their teachers through their company, energy and good cheer. It may have only been five and a half weeks, which may be an extraordinarily short period of time compared to the history of the earth, but I am confident that we have all lived lives of significance in that time!

I hope you all have a fabulous rest and a very enjoyable half term!

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Happy half term holiday!
From all of us at
Long Close
School

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

It has been a super first half of Spring term! I am delighted with the progress the children have made in the Early Years through fun, hands on learning experiences that staff have worked hard to provide at a continuously high level. The Green Room has sprung into action and we can all certainly see the benefits for the children and our families.

We did receive some sad news this week in the Early Years and this is that Ted - our very own Father Christmas who has visited the children at Long Close for many years (not as part of the PTA Christmas Fair) - passed away peacefully in his sleep. Ted has shared many a kind word and spent much of his time spreading joy and happiness to our children at Christmas when he visited us.

Ted was a Fireman during his working life and had a passion for fire engines. I know that he will be missed in the community for all his work. We will send some flowers from Long Close to his family at this sad time.

We hope you all have a super half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the week commencing Monday 20th February.



YELLOW ROOM

The Yellow Room children have continued to explore colours this week as they sorted our coloured domino counters into the different corresponding coloured bowls very carefully.



The children then used their critical thinking skills as they extended the activity by introducing a water wheel, which they filled up with the counters and watched them run down. It sounded so good as the dominoes clattered down and around the wheel.

The children have enjoyed exploring mark making using paints, naming the colours they have used and describing what they painted to the grown ups.



GREEN ROOM



The children were very excited to come into the nursery on Monday to share their news of what they had been doing over the weekend. Many of the children said they had been to post a letter. Throughout the week Miss Hamblin has been receiving some mysterious letters, (unfortunately not Valentine's cards!). The children eagerly helped Miss Hamblin open the envelopes to see what they contained. SURPRISE! The children found that the letters they had posted from home over the weekend had been delivered! Miss Hamblin was puzzled as she didn't understand how they got from the children's home to the nursery. The children explained it was the postman!

Together everyone explored the role of a postman and the process a letter goes through in order for it to be delivered. The children found out the importance of writing the name and address on the front of the envelope, not forgetting a stamp with the Queen's head on.

Following on from this the children have shown an interest in the Royal family. The children have been looking at images of the Queen and where she lives. Everybody was very surprised to find out she has more than one home! We have discussed that Kings' and Queens' children are called princes and princesses; it was very exciting when we found out they wear cloaks! What a wonderful way to start our Kings and Queens week after half term!

Have a wonderful break!



THIS WEEK IN EARLY YEARS

RED AND BLUE ROOMS

This week the children have continued exploring our 'Kings and Queens' topic. They had fun dressing up as knights in shining armour and princesses with long frocks and tiaras, before riding very fast on their noble steeds as they escaped from Spike the Dragon! Dressing-up sparked some fantastic role play scenarios from the children such as delivering trapped knights from a turret, rescuing the Little Red Riding Hood from the Big Bad Wolf and transforming their friends into frogs with their magic wands! Our castle role play area set the scene for some lovely festivities where Queens and Kings entertained their guests during scrumptious banquets. The children have also enjoyed taking part in other activities such as creating their own castle pictures with different shaped materials and making a super 3D junk modelling castle using recyclable resources. We even created our own potions and spells!



RECEPTION

This week the children have been thinking about feelings - our own and how our actions can affect those of others. We started the week by reading the story, 'Have you filled your bucket?' by Carol McCloud. It helped us to understand that we all have invisible buckets that we carry over our heads. Each time we make good choices or someone is kind and thoughtful towards us, these actions fill our buckets making us feel positive emotions. However if we are mean, unkind or if someone else is that way towards us, this makes us feel sad or angry and these emotions dip into our bucket, making it empty. So all week the children have made an extra effort to help fill each other's buckets and as a reward they have received positive notes to add to their own 'classroom' buckets, which were very full by the end of the week! The children made 'bucket filling' and 'bucket dipping' lists which we referred to throughout the week. The children painted 'How I am feeling inside' hearts using colours and patterns to represent their emotions. A fun activity shared was looking at how our faces change as we experience these emotions. We spent time making faces at our friends, happy, sad, angry, excited and many more. We then looked in mirrors noticing the changes and went around the classroom using iPads, taking pictures of each other displaying emotions during activity time. By the end of the week there was definitely love in the air, as we had such a positive time making good choices, finishing with making 'Valentine' cards for our families - really thinking about how the person we love makes us feel. A thoroughly enjoyable and very emotional week in Reception!



CURRICULUM COLLAPSE WEEK SPECIAL BY MS FIELD

We have had a superb curriculum collapse week and the pupils have learned about several million years of history within a week! There have been many exciting activities across the Prep School, some of which we highlight in this special Curriculum Collapse Week section. We hope that the children enjoyed learning about 'Pre-history' and that it will stimulate them to find out a bit more about dinosaurs, evolution and the Stone Age. Well done children—you have worked incredibly hard!

BODY PERCUSSION WORKSHOPS, Years 1-6



PEGASUS CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the most recent Pegasus certificate winners:

- 1H Basant Dhillon
- 1S Krithik Anand
- 2M Aarav Girmaji
- 2W Ali Aamir
- 3I Sameer Ahmad
- 3R Keshav Verma
- 4M Rohan Dhariwal
- 4R Aaliyah Naveed
- 5B Ophelia Edgson
- 5C Mannat Grewal
- 6F Jeevan Sidhu
- 6O Palash Rajput



CURRICULUM COLLAPSE WEEK SPECIAL BY MS FIELD

YEAR 2 IN ACTION



YEAR 3'S GRAFFITI WALL AND CAVE



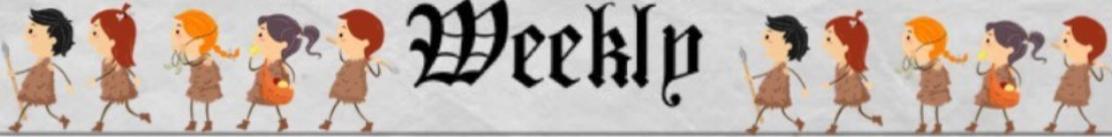
YEAR 4 IN ACTION



CURRICULUM COLLAPSE WEEK SPECIAL BY MS FIELD

Year 1

Long Close Pegasus Weekly



08 FEB 2017

Year 1 go back in time during Curriculum Collapse week!

By YEAR 1 TEACHERS

This week in Year 1 the children went back in time to the Stone Age era. Curriculum collapse week began with awe and wonder as the classrooms had been transformed back in time and included caves which were later decorated with amazing cave art! The children learnt about how long dinosaurs were by heading outside into the playground and measuring different lengths; from 3 feet to over 90 feet long! Some dinosaurs were enormous! The children learnt about how fossils were formed thousands of years ago and what it feels like to be a palaeontologist by excavating the chocolate from chocolate chip cookies! They also created their own imprints into salt dough to create fossils of their own. The highlight of the week was on Wednesday when Ollie Tunmer from 'Beat Goes On' visited the school to hold a Body Percussion workshop. The children had a fabulous time expressing themselves through music and movement. Later on in the week the children used their modelling skills to make replica bone necklaces just like the jewellery worn in the Stone Age. To end the week the children's work was presented to parents; thank you all for coming. I know that the children are very proud of their work and really appreciated time to share it with you. Happy half term everyone!



CURRICULUM COLLAPSE WEEK SPECIAL BY MS FIELD

Year 1 (continued)



CURRICULUM COLLAPSE WEEK SPECIAL BY MS FIELD

Year 2

What an exciting start Year 2 had to our Pre-History themed Curriculum Collapse week when they discovered a gigantic dinosaur egg behind Mrs Rees's classroom! Mrs Woodcraft and Miss Moss had heard a rumour that something had appeared there over the weekend, so we all crept round after assembly and couldn't believe what we saw!

Returning to the classroom after the exciting dinosaur egg discovery, the children soon realised that it was no longer 2017 and that they had been transported back in time to the Mesozoic period, also known as 'The Age of Reptiles', a staggering 230 million years ago!

The children learnt that the world looked very different then - everything from the climate to the plant and animal life and even the continents were different! Year 2 set to work transforming their classrooms into how it would have looked all that time ago, creating giant trees, leaves and vines, bubbling volcanoes, rocky mountains and crumbling caves!

Year 2 then took a closer look at the dinosaurs themselves and we learnt that the word 'dinosaur' actually means 'terrible lizard'. We then went on to look at the life cycle of a dinosaur and how dinosaurs laid eggs which hatched into baby dinosaurs. The children then had great fun decorating their own dinosaur eggs!

Using fact sheets and books, the children then went on to research dinosaurs further, carefully noting down their favourite facts.

With their writing hats now well and truly on, the children then listened to some dinosaur poems, studying the rhythm, rhyme and repetition found in these. Inspired to write their own, the children then went on to write some fantastic acrostic and shape poems about dinosaurs. They were T-REX-iffic Year 2!

On Wednesday, we were lucky enough to be visited by a former cast member of 'Stomp' who taught us how to turn our bodies into percussion instruments! We were amazed to discover the different sounds our body could make without even using our voices! As well as learning how to do the Brazilian samba and clave, we recreated a spectacular rainstorm in the Amazon rainforest! We could just imagine the dinosaurs stomping around in such a storm!

Continuing with our stomping theme we then went on to make some super stomping dinosaur biscuits before ending our very hands on day by bringing our favourite dinosaur species to life using playdough, drinking straws and pipe cleaners to add extra details such as spikes.

We then looked at the possible theories behind the extinction of the dinosaurs and thought about how we know so much about them when they lived such a long time ago. For those of us who didn't know, we learnt what a palaeontologist is and looked at what a fossil is and how palaeontologists can work out when, where and how dinosaurs lived from studying fossils.

We then had a go at becoming palaeontologists ourselves by carefully digging for dinosaur 'fossils' in sand and trying to reconstruct a dinosaur skeleton from them. I think you'll agree we have some budding palaeontologists in Year 2!



CURRICULUM COLLAPSE WEEK SPECIAL BY MS FIELD

Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about the three main periods of time in the Stone Age - Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic. They have learned about how they lived, their food and their tools. The children were inspired by the discovery of the Lascaux caves in France and have drawn their own authentic looking cave paintings. 3I have decorated their own rustic cave and 3R have created their own graffiti art wall!

The children had fun with Ollie from Beat Goes On and learned from impressive body percussion rhythms. You might hear them chanting to these groovy beats at home!

Year 3 have discussed how the Stone Age people ate food without cooking until the end of the Mesolithic period. They understood how the Stone Age man developed and began to cook and grow their own food and improve their life styles. The children made bowls, tools and jewellery to represent their newly gained knowledge.

Children were in awe of the prehistoric animals that walked the earth and how they differed from those of today. They were relieved that the sabre tooth tiger, mammoth, dire wolf and giant beaver are now extinct. It has been a thought provoking and creative week. So much fun was had by all!

Year 4

What an egg-citing week this has been where we have travelled back in time to discover so many facts and information about pre- history. The week began with the surprising event of a giant egg being found in the Long Close School grounds. The children were mesmerised by this and have created newspaper reports, interviews and posters about what they saw. Year 4 have particularly enjoyed finding out facts about dinosaurs and sketching dinosaur images and fossils. You may have noticed a construction site next to 4R! The children have been busy creating a Stone Age settlement out of a variety of materials. This has also kept a number of them busy during playtime too! Following on from the assembly on Monday, the children were curious to find out even more about Pangaea. Did you know that 300 million years ago, Earth did not have seven continents but only one massive one called Pangaea? We ended the week with a fierce Stone Age tribal dance, which was composed by the children themselves. Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed the week and have earned a well deserved break next week.

Year 5

Year 5 had a fabulous week during Curriculum Collapse. The week was based on the book, A Pebble in my Pocket, which tells the story of the journey of a pebble through the ages. We started the week creating papier mache volcanos to represent the landscape of earth 450 million years ago. The children thoroughly enjoyed this messy experience. Following this, they wrote stories and poems using powerful, descriptive vocabulary inspired by the geographical impact of the river. In geography, the pupils studied Pangaea, a map of how the earth would have looked millions of years ago. During our DT and art lessons, they created 3D images of dragonflies using quilling. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the whole week!

Year 6

During Curriculum Collapse week, Year 6 began by contemplating the world of dinosaurs and then they debated the theories as to why they died out. The effects of a huge meteor hitting the Earth was the favourite. They then considered the question of evolution by learning about our first known ancestor, Ardipithecus ramidus, through to Homo erectus and then ourselves, Homo Sapians. Year 6 also learned about the work of Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. This took them to the world of Stone Age people and they were fascinated to learn how they lived and what the world they lived in was like. They even made stone age homes! Did you know that the 'old Stone Age' or Palaeolithic period lasted for almost 3 million years? Yet modern people have only been around for a few thousand years!

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY

YEAR 8 TRIP TO STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE

On Wednesday this week, our Year 8 pupils went to on an English trip to Strawberry Hill House, Horace Walpole's home, where gothic was created. They went on a tour of the house and every room was different, projecting a gothic atmosphere with shadows, darkness and candle light. In the latter part of the day, the pupils worked in groups to create their own gothic comics. They also managed to dress up and act out their gothic stories.

Despite being stuck in traffic for 3 hours on the way there, the students behaved very well and I personally would like to thank the Year 8's for their fantastic behaviour!

Mrs Amod, Head of English



SENIOR SCHOOL WORK SHOWCASE

A DAY IN SCHOOL

As soon as I walk through the metallic school gates
I look around trying to find my mates
The school bell rings so loudly
I walk to my classroom, ever so proudly
Next thing I know, I'm in Art
The teacher tells me, I need to make a start
Now, it is break
I need to stuff my face with cake
I got two cakes that cost two pounds
Now I can't go on the fields because they are out of bounds
In History, we were playing a game
After that performance, I should be in the Hall of Fame
Now, it's time for lunch
I need to queue up with this funny bunch
I go home early on the train
Why it is always raining?
I hear the noise on the window pane.

Tegh Banse, Year 7

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY

REVIEW OF SENIOR GIRLS' TRIP TO SEE THRILLER LIVE!

On Friday 3rd February, the Senior girls attended a live show performance of Thriller Live! at The Lyric Theatre in Piccadilly Circus. With a range of girls from Years 7-11 we experienced an outstanding performance, which 'thrilled' us all from beginning to end. We began our evening taking the trains into Piccadilly where we first stopped off at Pizza Express. We thoroughly enjoyed our meal and used it as a time to bring all the girls together. From there we moved onto entering the theatre and taking our seats. Throughout the two hours, we witnessed the cast capture every detail of the spirit of Michael Jackson as a performer - his music will forever and always remain timeless. Jackson's great pop music was performed by a live band and vocalists, supported by an astonishing dance company. A few particular favourites for the Long Close girls were, 'The way you make me feel', 'Bad' and, of course, 'Thriller' - all of which they had learnt previous dance routines to in past games lessons. On behalf of all of the Senior girls, we would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Collet and Miss Malocca for the time and effort they put into making this trip one to remember. We cannot show enough gratitude towards them. THANK YOU!!

By Yara Kakel & Ria Dhalla, Year 11



LONG CLOSE COMPETES IN LOCAL ROWING COMPETITION

Today, eight girls from Years 7-10 had a fantastic time representing the school at the Slough and Wexham rowing competition held at Langley Academy. After a long term of practice, we obtained great results including Darcy Booth finishing in 3rd place. All the girls worked extremely hard and competed in individual and group relays. Well done girls!

SPORTS FIXTURES FOR W/C 20 FEBRUARY 2017

Tues 21 Feb: U9 Netball v Brigidine (H)

Tues 21 Feb: U9AB Football v Dair House (A)

Wed 22 Feb: U11AB Football v Khalsa Primary (A)

Wed 22 Feb: U10&11 Netball v Eton End (H)

Wed 22 Feb: KS3 Badminton v Eden Girls 9A)

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 20 & 27 FEB 2017

Monday 20 February—Year 11 Mock GCSE Week

Thursday 23 February—Wellington College Prep School Choral Day

Monday 27 February—Year 6 Mock SATs Week

Tuesday 28 February—Years 1-4 Parents' Evening (16:00—19:30)

Wednesday 1 March—EYFS Trip (tbc)

Thursday 2 March—Year 6 Science Trip to Winchester Planetarium

Thursday 2 March—Senior Parents' Information Evening about GCSEs (18:00)

Friday 3 March—Open Morning (09:00-11:00)

RESTRICTED PARKING IN UPTON COURT CAR PARK

Please note that you should have received an email today regarding restricted parking in Upton Court car park on the following dates over the next four months.

Friday 24 February, Friday 3 March, Monday 6 March to Wednesday 8 March, Tuesday 2 May to Thursday 4 May, Thursday 11 May and Wednesday 24 May to Thursday 25 May.

If you have any queries about this, please contact Mrs Watts via the School Office.

PTA NEWS

It's here - the Year 1-6 disco is on this evening!



When: Friday 10th February

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

Where: Thames Valley Athletics Centre, Pococks Lane, Eton, SL4 6HN

Cost: £8 per ticket

Don't forget that there are tickets available on the door this evening if you haven't had a chance to pay and register already.

We hope you have a great half term!

Stay in contact with us:



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Click on the image to go to our page (CTRL and click)



Join our mailing list

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