



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

PEGASUS NEWS

END OF SPRING TERM

ISSUE 12

FRIDAY 31 MARCH 2017

THE HEADMASTER WRITES...



I always enjoy the end of term assemblies as they are a great opportunity for us to gather together as a whole school (Year 1 to Year 11) and celebrate individual and collective achievements this term. We had a wide-ranging awards ceremony with everything from the house debating competition winners to those who helped with Red Nose Day being celebrated. Unfortunately I was not able to attend the Nursery assembly on Thursday but I know that they too celebrated a term in which a huge amount has happened and many great things have been achieved. Whilst I am aware that the children, and their teachers, are exhausted by their efforts and will very much need a good rest

over the holidays, the Easter break will give me a great opportunity to sit back from the day-to-day challenges of running a school and to consider in more detail the ideas and suggestions from parents about how we can continue to improve Long Close School for the benefit of everyone who is part of the community. Next term we will be launching the full parent survey using the 'Voice of the Parent' system and I hope that all of you will take part in this in order to gain as wide a range of views as possible. The Parent Engagement Group (PEG) met recently, and although it is a much smaller group of parents, the quality of the conversation during these meetings always makes them very worthwhile. During that meeting there were three groups each discussing priorities for investment and extra-curricular activities that they would like to see. For two of these groups the priority was a sports' hall and for the third it was a wish to see more school trips. Other areas that were raised for discussion were classroom sizes, technology, Duke of Edinburgh, changing rooms, assembly hall, swimming pool, lockers, cookery classes, study area, investment in the senior school, science lab, scholarships, graphic design and coding, curriculum design at GCSE, links to local business and pedestrian crossings outside the school. With regards to extra-curricular activities there was a desire to see more performing arts, young enterprise, qualified coaches for main sports, life skills and character development, social media awareness, parent education, PTA networking, training and support and inter-Cognita school competitions. At the end of that meeting I was able to feedback to the parents who attended on many of the issues that were raised and let them know where I am at in the process of developing new school resources and opportunities for the children. What was encouraging to me, and hopefully to the parents as well, was that nearly everything that was raised has been considered or is actively been explored in order keep improving our offering. Today I have announced that we will be investing in an improvement to the classroom block that sits alongside the main building in order to both improve the classroom space for various year groups but also to create some designated space for the exclusive use of our senior pupils. Whilst this may not be the sports' hall that was at the top of each priority list this does not mean that we are not also looking at this opportunity as well. We currently enjoy a very good local reputation and the interest in Long Close school places has never been higher and if we can maintain this we will secure investment in many of the facilities that you, as parents, would like to see here for your children. We cannot click our fingers and respond to each wish, but I do consider every idea carefully, and recognise that a growing school needs investment in its facilities, its teachers, and its support staff. It is a journey which I want all within the community to have a say and so we have formal surveys of pupils, staff and parents feeding into our planning. Can I take this opportunity to thank you for you all for your continued support for the school and for your promotion of it within our local area? There is an exciting buzz around the school for those who work and learn here and our growth will present opportunities moving forwards. Please do continue to participate whenever there is a PEG meeting or 'Voice of the Parent' survey and also remember that my door is always open. Have a fabulous holiday and see you in the summer!

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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

As we have now come to the end of our action packed fun spring term in the Early Years I have a few reminders for you all regarding the Summer Term. The nursery and Reception children should come to school in their summer uniform after the Easter Holidays. (If the weather is really cold then we will allow a short 2 week change over period) The summer uniform list is available on the school website and there is a copy in your welcome packs. We are also starting Transition during the summer term and will be preparing the children for their next steps in their journeys through the Key Stages. As part of this we will have a change of early morning drop off routine for our Reception children and parents. Parents will drop their children off in the dining hall from 8am and not in the Reception classrooms, Mrs. Kaur will be in the dining hall to greet and register the children and care for them until 8.25am, they will then line up in the playground ready to be collected by their class teachers. All Reception children that do not attend early morning club should wait with their parents in the playground until 8.25am when they will line up and also be taken into the classroom by the class teachers. If you arrive with your child after this time you will go straight to the classroom to hand over your child to their teacher as usual. We are introducing this routine for the summer term so that the children and our parents are adjusted to it ready for September 17 when they join KS1. If you have any questions regarding this change please discuss with your class teachers. Thank you for your continued support at all of the events and for supporting your children's learning at home. At Long Close it is our parent partnership that makes the Early Years so special. We wish you a Happy Easter break and look forward to sharing lots of new learning and fun activities in the Summer term.

Staff changes

We are saying goodbye to Mrs. Edwards this term, who has worked at Long Close School in the early years for the last 10 years. The children and staff said a special goodbye to Mrs. Edwards in assembly on Thursday. Mrs. Edwards is going to visit her daughter in Australia for a well deserved extended holiday over the Easter break.

YELLOW ROOM

The children have enjoyed sharing the stories of 'Spot's First Easter,' and 'Hen's Pen's,' this week as we talked about Easter and different patterned eggs during circle time. The children helped to count all of our toy Easter Eggs as they sorted them into different colours and sizes and put them into the baskets to carry around. We also played with our chick, lamb and bunny finger puppets, singing number rhymes as we placed them onto our fingers.

Our rhyme of the week had to be the 'Sleeping Bunnies' action song as the children pretended to sleep and then jumped up and tried very hard to hop like little bunnies! We have also been very creative using glue, colourful tissue paper and stickers to decorate their own Easter Buckets and have used them to collect all the hidden eggs around the nursery playground and garden during their Easter Egg Hunt.

GREEN ROOM

This week the children have been excited as they awaited in anticipation for our PTA Easter egg hunt! In preparation the children decorated their basket that they used to collect their Easter eggs in. They worked very hard to make snips in paper to represent grass; the children then stuck this around the bottom of the basket. The children then decorated the top of their basket with Easter themed stickers using their fine motor skills to peel the back off. They looked superb! Have lovely Easter break! It was very interesting to observe and listen to the children's opinions and ideas.



THIS WEEK IN EARLY YEARS

RED AND BLUE ROOMS



The children shared some very special moments with their mummies on Monday during our Mother's Day celebrations. After their amazing performance on stage to tell their mummies how much they loved them the children returned to our nursery where they shared some yummy treats with their mummies and proudly gave their mummies the special presents they had made for them. They also had fun having their picture taken with their mummy in our bright and beautiful role-play flower shop. This week we have also been discussing all the seasonal changes that Spring brings, such as the very unpredictable weather that the children have



experienced first hands this week! The children thought that Spring is 'when flowers grow' so we decided to go on a walk around the school grounds to search for signs of Spring. The children concluded that Spring had arrived indeed after finding daffodils and buds on shrubs and trees. The children have also used their imagination this week getting involved in some lovely role-play scenarios. Pretending to be mummies having babies in their tummies, going on a boat trip around the world on their ship and re-enacting parts of their favourite Frozen movie. Plenty of box office Oscar winning drama in the Red and Blue Room!

RECEPTION

This week Reception have continued their Easter theme and started the week by sharing with their peer's news about the special places they visit with their friends and family. We had a variety of places mentioned, some children said a Mosque, others had a Mandir or Gurdwara, where as some had a particular park as their special place. The children then looked closer at the Church as this was a special place for Christians to visit, who will be preparing for Easter over the next few weeks. We looked at pictures of the inside and outside of a church and thought about what we knew and what we wanted to find out. On Wednesday the children got the opportunity to ask their questions to Father Allistar, when they visited St. Lawrence's Church, the oldest listed building in Slough. On arrival at the church we were greeted by Mr and Mrs James. They both took us into the Church for a tour, pointing out all of the features including the pulpit, alter and not forgetting the font. The font was one of our favourite features as whilst we were there, Father Allistar asked us to help sing a song, as we were singing, he splashed water all over us which made us laugh! We also learnt some history about the Church. We found out Sir William Herschel is buried there. We saw a model showing us how huge his telescope was, which he used to discover the planet Pluto. We also enjoyed doing some brass rubbings of the beautiful pictures on the Church wall. We listened to the Easter story told by Mrs James. She used little eggs which had various objects inside, each to do with the special parts of the story. Reception had a wonderful time visiting the church, a big thank you to Father Allistar and Mr and Mrs James, for giving us so much of their time, making this trip so special! The rest of the week Reception spent time busy with Easter activities.

The children particularly enjoyed the Easter egg competition and Easter egg hunt organised by the PTA. We finished the week with an Easter celebration of our own with egg and spoon races, egg rolling competitions, as well as making Easter nests and not forgetting eating some most enjoyable hot cross buns! Congratulations to all of the Prize Winners from the PTA 'Decorate an Egg' competition. Mrs. Harris put on her Easter bonnet for our Easter assembly and then started to try and decide which eggs were 'eggstra' special winners! It was such a hard job choosing the winners that she had to make sure all of the children enjoyed a special 'Easter Bunny sweet treat' after the presentation in assembly to reward the children for their wonderful decorated eggs, thank you to everyone for supporting this activity.



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 1

Year 1



The Spring Term has flown by in Year 1! The children have had so many exciting experiences including our trip to Windsor Castle and spending time preparing for the very successful Art Exhibition. Celebrating Chinese New Year with a dragon dance and filming weather reports we also amongst the highlights. Curriculum Collapse week provided the children with the opportunity to explore different materials and learn all about the Stone Age. It has been a fanatic term, nevertheless we look forward to sunnier days and even more fun learning experiences!



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 1

Year 2

Today Year 2 were lucky enough to be visited by a real life doctor - Dr Sothynathan. Dr Sothynathan is Anjana's mother in 2W and she explained that she is a special kind of doctor called a General Practitioner (GP). Dr Sothynathan brought in all kinds of interesting tools that she used regularly as a GP and she also told us lots of fascinating facts. Did you know, for example, that the heart will beat around 3 BILLION times in a human's life?! Anjana, Mrs Woodcraft and Miss Moss all had the opportunity to be 'examined' by Dr Sothynathan, as you can see from the photos! We would also like to take his opportunity to thank Riya's mum who came in to read again to Year 2 on Friday. If you would like to pay Year 2 a visit, please let either Mrs Woodcraft or Miss Moss know, as we would be delighted to see you! What a fantastic time we have had in Black Park! How lucky we are to have this amazing forest so close to our school! Under the guidance of the Black Park rangers, we learnt how to make dens using the natural materials found within the forest and the children soon set to work building their own. Mrs Woodcraft and Miss Moss were extremely impressed with the children's teamwork and so were the rangers, who also complemented the children on their excellent behaviour! Well done Year 2! This was followed by marshmallow toasting around a campfire which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children and then lunch under the canopy of the forest or in the children's dens. After lunch the children had the opportunity to play in and around their dens and then there was just about time for ice creams before we had to get the coach home! Wow what a term! Year 2 began the term travelling back to pre historic times and studying dinosaurs and what life may have been like during this period. The children thoroughly enjoyed becoming palaeontologists, investigating fossils and studying different dinosaur species. Year 2 then set to work on their superhero assembly on growth mindset and promoting a positive YES I CAN ATTITUDE! I am sure that you will all agree that the children excelled themselves, what superheroes! We ended the term with a fabulous trip to Black Park which enabled the children to think independently and creatively, problem solve and to work as part of a team in a natural environment. The ice creams at the end were an extra added yummy bonus! Mrs Woodcraft and Miss Moss would like to thank all of the Year 2 visitors this term. Mrs Khurl for sharing stories with the children, Mrs Sothynathan for discussing life as a GP and Mrs Gandhum for sharing health and growth facts in relation to humans and bringing in her adorable baby daughter Amarith. What a fantastic term Year 2!



PEGASUS CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the most recent Pegasus certificate winners:

All of Year 1	4M Laiba Majid
2M Ayman Mehmood	4R Holly Hunter
2W Elina Wason	5B Dhiran Sharma
2W Ammiel Meer	5C Anisha Naidoo
3I Sivakami Malladi	6F Iseoluwa Shittu
3R Aidan Larkin	6O Daania Iqbal



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 2

Year 3

We started the Spring term looking forward to our Ancient Egyptian workshop and it didn't disappoint! We learnt so much and the hands on experience really added to our knowledge gained over the academic year so far. We had to put this era in context when we fully embraced our curriculum collapse week based on the Stone Age. It was a week full of wonderful and exciting art activities looking closely at cave paintings and the way of life of the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.



We thoroughly enjoyed practising and performing for all the parents in the Year 4 musical production of 'Go for Gold'. Weren't the children absolutely fabulous!

To round off the term, we have looked closely at the story of Easter and produced some wonderful D.T. and Art pieces to represent New Life.

We wish you all a fantastic Easter break and we look forward to seeing you next term.



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 2

Year 4

Our history lessons have been great fun, as we have explored the life and times of the Vikings. The children have gained so much new knowledge about the types of ships the Vikings used, how they lived and what Viking village life was like. Did you know that recent DNA testing has revealed that Mrs Rees is 21% Viking! In Art, the children have looked carefully at a variety of pop art pictures and have created their own pieces of work in the same style. In Curriculum Collapse Week, the children took part in a number of art related activities including sketching of fossils, paint techniques and cave painting.

DT lessons have explored a range of embroidery stitches and the children created some lovely final pieces of work, including bookmarks. Christianity has been the theme of our RS lessons this term. There have been a number of thoughtful discussions about the life and times of Jesus Christ and how he died and rose again. The children have loved taking part in a number of science investigations. One particular favourite was when pupils were given a range of materials to separate. This group activity provoked endless discussions about the different ways items could be separated and finally ended with demonstrating how evaporation could be used to separate salt water.

Curriculum Collapse was another successful and interesting week for Year 4. The children still remember the dance they performed in assembly and it was wonderful to spend time focusing, in greater detail, on a particular time in history. There is a fantastic display in the lunch hall of some of the work the children completed during this week. Please feel free to have a look at our work! Everyone enjoyed taking part in our recent production of Go for Gold. The songs were brilliant and the children worked really hard to learn their lines and dance routines. They were so proud to perform their show to a packed out audience Friday 24th March.

On Monday 27th March, we were particularly fortunate to have a visit from 'History off the page'. This visit was planned to hook the children into our summer term topic of Castles. The day started off with a variety of workshops for the children to take part in, to learn trades. All children were totally focused as they tried candle making, leather work, weaving, pasty making and the apothecary workshop. It was lovely for the children to try out many different activities and the drama was a particular hit, where the children prepared for an attack on their castle! In the afternoon, the children prepared for a banquet where everyone took part in a variety of entertainments and were served their food by servitors. We were especially grateful to the kitchen manager for helping us sample a variety of foods that could have been eaten in medieval times. A huge thank you to the wonderful parents who took time off to help us out on the day. These were Mrs Bange, Mrs Wason, Mr Iqbal and Mrs Bhaji. Without you this day would not have been such a success.

The children have worked extremely hard this term and we wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 2

Year 5

This term the focus in Senior Girls Games has been dance inspired by a legend, Michael Jackson. The trip to the theatre was enlightening and allowed the students to gain a deeper knowledge of moves and characteristics of this epic performer. Through our dance lessons at East Berkshire College dance studio, the girls explored story telling, rhythm, synchronisation and choreographed a range of group performances. To wrap up the unit, the girls created their own dance routine, choosing music, costumes and props which they performed during the last session of the term. The girls showed creativity and excellent collaboration skills and their confidence shined through it. During the first part of the Spring Term, the girls took part in a range of rowing sessions in preparation for the annual competition at Langley Academy. This resulted in a fantastic outcome where a number of the participants earned podium place positions with all students achieving personal bests. After the half term, the girls were introduced to Yoga which they found quite challenging at first. Their flexibility was put to the test, however, by the end of the 5 weeks, most girls showed some extraordinary core strength and were able to hold solid planks for an impressive amount of time. In conclusion, the girls thoroughly enjoyed the array of sports this term and they raised the bar even higher ready for the summer term.



Year 6

Mock SATS

In Year 6, we took on the first step towards our SATS; by doing our mocks. It was challenging but it really helped many of us to realise what sort of things were coming up in the future. The results built up many people's confidence in that they could get great results in the final tests.

Wellington College

Some pupils from various years went to a Choral Day at Wellington College. We all had a great time and were really honoured to have the opportunity to sing in front of the Countess of Wessex and her family.

Trip to the Winchester Science Centre

Year 6 went on an educational but fun school trip to the Winchester Science Centre. We did many fun activities whilst we were there. We got to experience the wonders of the Planetarium. We were also given full reign of the centre and everyone tried a variety of different activities.

Boys football tournament

The under 11's football team took part in a tournament at Dair House and played very well. They came reached semi-finals.

Trip to the O2

Some choir pupils had the experience of a lifetime when they performed at the O2 Arena. They had a lot of fun and would definitely recommend going to other people.

All in all it was a great term for Year 6!

by Poppy Collyer & Jack Ettridge, Prep School Head Girl and Head Boy



HOUSE DEBATING COMPETITION 2017



On Friday 17th March, we held a Debating Competition for pupils in Years 5 to 8. This was the grand final, as preliminary rounds had already taken place in English lessons. The final consisted of the strongest teams in Years 5 & 6 and individuals in Years 7 & 8. The quality of speaking skills across the year groups was superb.

Year 5 opened with the motion, 'Junk food should be banned for children', followed by Year 6 with, 'Life really does exist on other planets'. The teams worked extremely hard arguing for or against and the quality of their arguments was very impressive.

Years 7 and 8 then went on to consider the motions: 'Is homework beneficial to pupils?' and 'Should we introduce the death penalty in England?'. The pupils worked independently and all put very strong cases either 'for' or 'against' these very emotive subjects.

The judges; Mr Pavey, Mr Dunford, and Mrs Rees were impressed with all the individual speakers and year groups and found it a difficult task to decide on the winners.

The winners were:

- In Year 5 arguing 'For' and representing Phoenix: Jasmine Bath, Parri Gohil, Husna Mahmood & Meera Thaper
- In Year 6 arguing 'Against' and representing Griffin: Nishi Bosamia, Ria Flora, Layla Suleiman
- In Year 7 arguing 'Against' and representing Unicorn: Khyan Speding
- In Year 8 arguing 'Against' and representing Griffin: Avneet Bains
- Jack Ettridge in 6O was commended for his excellent presentation

Well done to all those that participated and congratulations to the winners!



WORK SHOWCASE

The Ghost Attic

As I enter the dark, gloomy attic the horrible aroma instantly surrounds me & I hold my breath as if the air was poisonous gas. I saw nothing but my own reflection in a moonlit mirror. I was wearing my pyjamas but in the mirror I was wearing what I wore yesterday. I looked down at myself to see if I was wearing my pyjamas or not. When I looked up I saw a quick, nimble figure move through the shadows. I turned. Slowly. Behind me was a girl with a face as white as snow and her hair looked as if she'd been electrocuted. Her 'white' dress was covered in patches of blood and it was ripped as if a tiger had done it. She waited for me to move, her mouth drooling with blood. My heart was beating so fast that I thought it would explode at any moment. I ran to my room, pulled the covers over and switched on my torch. I cried myself to sleep. I was never going to the attic at midnight EVER again!

Vidhi Nimish Pankhania—Yr 7

Squirrel's New House

The mighty oak looms tall,
Welcoming the meek squirrel,
He whispers, "Fine fruit, lush leaves and thick boughs,
What more could thee wish for in thy new house?"
The squirrel replied "I need knotholes,
To nestle in the winter,
The knothole ridden aspen grove,
Is my preferred humble abode".

By Malvika Kaujalgi—Yr 5

SCHOOL NOTICES

ALWAYS GROWING HOLIDAY CLUB AT LONG CLOSE OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

Only one week to go until the start of the Easter holidays!

Always Growing will be operating their usual holiday club at Long Close School this Easter from 8am to 6pm on the 3rd to 13th April and 18th to 21st April. 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 book online at: <http://alwaysgrowing.co.uk/booking/>

If you have any questions at all or any trouble with our 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

**HAPPY EASTER FROM
LONG CLOSE SCHOOL.**
We hope you enjoy your holidays
and look forward to the start of the
Summer Term.



MISS MOSS IS RUNNING THE LONDON MARATHON!

Our very own Year 2 teacher, Miss Moss, will be running the London Marathon for Alzheimer's Research UK this year despite a recent injury setback. If anyone would like to support Miss Moss by giving a donation, here are the details of her fundraising page. We know that she will be very grateful for your support. Good luck from us all, Miss Moss!

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SarahMoss4>



RED NOSE DAY

Well done to everyone who helped
raise **£739.18!!!**

Having analysed the activity in Red Nose Day through the ticket collection, it can be concluded that Year 3 where the most active in joining in in the games, however there was a decline as the age group ascended. Overall, we can state that our target market was the junior part of the school as they had an activity rate of 69% of the tickets brought. *'Business Club'*



PTA NEWS

PTA News Friday 31st March 2017

We hope everyone had a wonderful Mother's Day weekend and enjoyed the lovely surprises the children bought from the present room last week. The spring term has certainly whizzed past us all too quickly and we must say that without your support, we wouldn't have been able to achieve the successes we did during the PTA events this term; Spring Disco, Mother's Day present room and Easter activities.



Summer fayre news!

We know it feels like a while away but we wanted to share the latest on the plans for the fayre which will be on **Saturday 10th of June**.

In keeping with the sporting events happening over summer, such as Royal Ascot, Wimbledon and Formula 1, we thought we will also jump on the sporting bandwagon and have themed the summer fayre **"LCS Sports Carnival 2017"!!** Lots of exciting activities have been planned which we'll reveal after the Easter holidays. All we can share now is.....**EXPECT SOMETHING DIFFERENT!**

In preparation for the summer fayre, we would like to ask your support in the following areas:

Addresses for Frost estate signboards to advertise the summer fayre

Donations for the Headmaster's tombola stall

Donations for raffle prizes

Old but clean children costumes (e.g. superheroes, princesses, etc.)

On the first item above, the local Frost estate agency has agreed to help us advertise the summer fayre with their signboards but we need addresses where they can put up the boards. If you know of anyone living along Langley Road, Upton Court Road and Lascelles Road who are happy to have these boards outside their home, please let us know by 9th April.

We'll send out more information about collecting the donation items after the Easter holidays but please keep all of this in mind during your spring cleans over the Easter holiday.

Thank you so much for your continued support and we wish you all a lovely and happy Easter.

Stay in contact with us:



Join the PTA Facebook page



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



Congratulations to Harrison Jones who guessed the lucky number and took home a jar of chocolate eggs!