



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

PEGASUS NEWS

SPRING TERM

ISSUE 10

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017

THE HEADMASTER WRITES...



“With small cohorts with mixed ability children our percentages will vary year on year, but at no point will we be looking to remove a child from our data because they ‘don’t fit in’ and we will never reduce our curriculum in order to raise our position in the league tables”. This is how I finished the newsletter last week and it struck me last night, as I listened to the wonderful (if rather warm) Prep School instrumental afternoon, that we certainly have a thriving music department and are fortunate that so many of our parents invest both their time and money supporting this hugely important part of their children’s education. The variety, both in terms of instruments and standards last night was superb, and the

length of the concert, whilst slightly longer than planned, was testament to the huge number of pupils who are now playing instruments or singing as part of a choir – we even had some dancers showing their performing arts skills! I have already had a conversation with Mrs Bingham about separating out the concert into different age brackets next year due to the numbers but what a lovely problem to have! And it is also important to remember that for many, this is the beginning of their musical journey and who knows where it may take them? In the Pavey household I have been through the considerable pain of listening to my own children learning to play the drums, the trumpet, the flute and the recorder, and I have been to my own fair share of concerts. The reward for some of this pain though is that I now get to go to some wonderful concerts, the standard of which would not be amiss in a professional concert. So hang in there parents – it will be worth it! And then today we have had the Year 5-8 Debating competition in which the students were putting forward their arguments either for or against a variety of topics, including whether or not homework should be scrapped, whether there is life on other planets and whether or not we should introduce the death penalty. The standard was very high and the experience is one that the children will not forget in a hurry. The learning that takes place through the preparation and delivery of these speeches is something that would not happen if we were limited to the classroom alone. The best speakers had done a lot of research and presented their arguments with great clarity and confidence. I will have to spend a little longer considering some of the arguments presented about homework as the winner used some excellent evidence arguing that the countries with some of the best scores in international league tables were the ones with less focus on homework (don’t worry, I am not going to go on about league tables here!). On Wednesday I was delighted to be able to referee two games of football against Claires Court junior school and we had fantastic matches in the sunshine, enjoyed by all. On Tuesday I was hugely disappointed to have missed the Year 1 Art Exhibition in which the children had used technology in new and innovative ways and the exhibition included workshops, not just displays. Whilst all of this has been going on at school, our Year 10 students have been away from school on work experience, looking ridiculously grown up in their business suits and ties.

And so passes another typical week at Long Close School. I feel confident that my assertion that we will not reduce our curriculum in order to raise our position in league tables has been evidenced by the activities that have made for such a fun and exciting week – and that is the point. We have a happy school where we deliberately design the curriculum to give children a variety of experiences that help them to be prepared for the challenges of the world ahead of them. We do still focus on the core curriculum and I am currently in discussions about tweaking the timetable next year in order to ensure that we are doing everything we can to maximise the use of classroom time for the core subjects – but this will not be at the expense of our broad curriculum and the reason for this is because it is so much fun and it leads to happy children!

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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 listened to and observed some wonderful learning experiences in the Early Years this week as the children have investigated the outdoor areas all around the school. We are so lucky to have so much space for our children to explore and play in outside. The teachers have been extremely secretive with you all this week on Firefly as they prepared some exciting crafts for their mummy's!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Monday afternoon at 2pm in the school hall for our Mothers Day Celebration and then treat you all to some fun in the nursery and reception classes with your children afterwards.

If your child does not attend nursery on this afternoon please discuss with your teachers a suitable drop off time so that they can take part in the afternoon with you.

Do not worry if you are unable to attend we will send your special gifts home to share with your children.

YELLOW ROOM

As the weather has been so lovely and warm this week the children in Yellow room have been busy exploring



the outdoor nature environment. They played with the diggers in the sand pit, scooping up sand and filling buckets. The children also discovered a slug slithering about. The children observed it very closely, some of them even plucked up the courage to touch it and used words like "scary, slimy, slow and small" to describe what they saw. We also have some Green Fingered Gardeners as they helped to clean up some dead leaves and weeds, turned the soil in our pots ready to plant our new pansies. We are looking forward to watering them and watching them grow, and hope that our slimy slug doesn't eat them! All the children have been practising songs and



rhymes and making special cards and gifts in preparation for our Mother's Day Concert on Monday 20th March.

GREEN ROOM

This week the children have been enjoying the beautiful sunshine in the garden and the nature area. They have been hunting for insects in the nature area and counting how many different insects they are able to find. The children took this learning back into the classroom where they used different containers and filled them with soil and sand burying different toy insects. They then used the binoculars and magnifying glasses to have a closer look. While exploring the garden the children found a sycamore tree seed that had begun to sprout a root although it was not planted. After some discussion about the seed and the root the children took it into the classroom for further inspection. The children decided that they would like to plant the seed and observe it over the forthcoming weeks to see if it grows. We had lots of fun at our pyjama party where we practiced the skills that we have learnt over past couple of weeks. The children demonstrated



their independence by undressing themselves and folding their clothes before getting into their pyjamas. We joined Red and Blue rooms in having some snacks and watching a short video about our bedtime routines. We

are looking forward to sharing all of our 'secret surprises' on Monday the 20th of March to celebrate our special Mummies during our Mother's Day celebration which starts at 2pm in the Hall.



THIS WEEK IN EARLY YEARS

RED AND BLUE ROOMS

Our new bright and beautiful flower shop role play area was officially opened this week and lots of customers have flocked in to order and purchase some colourful bouquets for their families, friends and mummies!

There has also been a discovery of some large eggs near the school pond as well as the arrival of some frogspawn which has sparked lots of interest and questioning from the children about how things evolve and grow. The children are looking forward to seeing which egg will hatch first through quite detailed observation!

The children have been extremely busy in Red and Blue rooms this week on some rather secret missions making some very special things in preparation for our Mother's Day Celebration on Monday, which starts at 2pm in the School hall.



We enjoyed having a much deserved 'pyjama party' on Thursday where we all relaxed in our cosy pyjamas listening to stories, thinking about our bedtime routines and practising our self-help skills by getting changed from our uniforms into our pyjamas! Not to forget the rather early midnight feast treats at our class sleeper!



RECEPTION

On Monday Reception celebrated Holi the Hindu festival of colours! We learnt the story of the festival and naturally became creative with lots of activities involving painting, exploring colour mixing with different mediums, and how we can mix colours to make new colours we looked at shades and made a Happy Holi card for our family.

In Numeracy learning this week children we are revisiting the days of the week, reciting the names and ordering them and will use language related to time such as yesterday, today and tomorrow. The children are also beginning to recognise o'clock times on analogue and digital clocks and match these to key events in their daily routine, we used the story of 'What time is it Mr. Wolf' to demonstrate this.

During our topic time the children have been busy preparing for the Mother's Day Celebration. We started the week finding out why and how Mother's Day is celebrated around the world, sharing plenty of stories about our own lovely Mummy's with each other and the amazing things they do for us. We listened to the story of 'How much I love you' and in our focus writing activities the children wrote about the different qualities of their Mummy's and things they can do for their Mum's to make their day extra special. The children have been hand-making presents for their Mums as well as making cards for Mother's day. Our celebration will be held in the hall at 2pm on Monday 20th March and thereafter Reception Mummy's are invited to a celebration tea-party back in the reception classrooms.

PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 1

Year 1



Year 1 Art Exhibition

Thank you to all the parents who joined us on Tuesday to celebrate their children's creative masterpieces from the term. It was wonderful to see the children getting involved in all the art workshops alongside their family members. The children were thrilled to share their hard work and have a go at augmented reality on the iPads, making Picasso style face pictures and creating a finger print Year 1 tree.



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

Year 1 (continued)

It was a very creative and colourful week in Year 1 this week! Firstly the children showcased their work at the exhibition on Monday and on Tuesday, they celebrated the colourful Hindu festival of Holi. They began by painting each other's faces with coloured powder before throwing handfuls high in the air! There were screams of delight and excitement as the paint covered every inch of the children's clothes and hair! The colours all mixed together and looked beautiful on the children's white tops. I think the highlight was probably when the children got to throw colours all over Miss Staniford and Mrs Hallett, who happily joined in with all the fun!



Year 2

With Year 1 busy showing off their art to their friends and families, Year 2 had the astro turf courts all to themselves this week during games and took the opportunity to have a mini football tournament! The boys were keen to take on the girls and vice versa and so Mrs Woodcraft and Miss Moss divided the year group into four teams with the final match being between the two boys' teams and the two girls' teams! Good fun was had by all and we hope to see a few more girls playing football during break times now!

In RS, Year 2 are learning about the Christian festival of Easter. So far the children have learnt about Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent. This week we have been looking more closely at the Christian symbol of the cross and how we can find it on hot cross buns. The children learnt that Christians eat these on Good Friday, which is the Friday just before Easter Sunday, to remember what happened to Jesus. However Year 2 just could not wait until Good Friday to sample some and so luckily Mrs Woodcraft and Miss Moss brought some in for the children to try. They produced some very mixed reactions! Some loved them, others were not so keen! A bit like marmite!



PEGASUS CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the most recent Pegasus certificate winners:

- 1H Amrit Chahal
- 1S Ronav Virmani
- All of Year 2!
- 3I Paramjot Bhamra
- 3R Kartik Selvaraj
- 4M Mishal Choudry
- 4R Kismut Badesha
- 5B Umar Syed
- 5C Aaron Lall
- 6F Kiran Anand
- 6O Khurshid Ahmad



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 2

Year 3

Year 3 have become efficient at using the counting up method for subtracting 3 digit numbers and are beginning to use them for problem solving. In science, the children thoroughly enjoyed investigating which type of magnets are the strongest by testing how many paper clips could be picked in a chain.

In history, the pupils fully embraced the roles of different characters during the Roman invasion, especially the Celtic queen Boudicca. They acted out different scenes of the rebellion against the Romans during AD61. What a lot of dramatic talent we have in our year!

We had an enjoyable but sad farewell party for Kartik. We were happy to hear that he arrived safely in Abu Dhabi and we wish him all the very best wishes at his new school.

Year 4

Rehearsals are going full steam ahead in Year 4. The singing is wonderful and the majority of the children have learned their lines. It would be fantastic if parents could practice with their child over the weekend, not only the words but also on projecting their voices as there are a number of quiet children who cannot be heard from the stage. We do hope you will be able to come along and watch the production, Go for Gold on Friday 23rd at 4.15pm. In Maths, both classes have been continuing to develop their problem solving skills and have completed revision of the topics we have covered this term. Everyone has enjoyed the solids and liquids science topic and the experiments that we have carried out. They were amazed to see the salt that was left behind from the salt water solution!

Year 5

After a warm and sunny week, Year 5 have been studying the water cycle. The children now understand the processes of condensation and evaporation and how they play a part in the water that reaches our homes. As part of the British Science Week, the children created a poster on the theme of 'Change' which will be judged by the Science National Board early next month. Next week, we will be creating mind maps to reinforce this learning. In History, we have rounded up our Tudor topic by learning about the explorers and the Civil War. We are very excited to be starting the new Ancient Greek topic. The pupils will look at where Greece is located on a world map and will compare the modern country to the ancient one. The classes will be introduced to the timeline and will explore the first events in the period. In Geography we are continuing to look at the effects of tropical storms on the people of St Lucia. The children have used a variety of tools in DT to create their moving toy using wood, cardboard and doweling. Apostrophes have been a major focus of our grammar work where pupils were identifying their use in contractions and for possession. Great excitement surrounded the selection of the house teams for the Debating Competition which took place on Friday. Unfortunately, not all groups were able to participate, but the children all enjoyed preparing arguments in teams and they all worked very hard carrying out research and using all the newly acquired knowledge in their speeches. Well done for all the hard work Year 5!

Year 6

Year 6 have been busy in ICT considering the technology they use in the home and what they enjoy using. In DT they have begun designing battery powered clocks which they will make from wood. They have begun the topic of World War II in history and have learnt about how the war started and the key leaders involved.

NB: For details of today's Debating Competition for Years 5-8, please make sure you read next week's news-letter!

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE UPDATE

After visiting or contacting all of the employers who have kindly taken on our students for the week, I am really pleased to say how impressive our students have been!

Each and every one of our Year 10's had settled into their jobs and had gained some extremely valuable experience from their week out. Whether it has been working with different people, meeting customers, dealing with IT or becoming more independent by travelling to and from work by themselves, our students have once again shown how superb they can be when given a challenge.

We are safe in the knowledge that there are some great budding solicitors, bankers, teachers, mechanics and much more among our senior school pupils! More to follow next week once the pupils are back at school.

Mr Powell

SENIOR SCHOOL WORK SHOWCASE

The Weather by Rohan Sharma

The blazing sun slept on the azure coloured sky, sending rays on to the world below. The mist decided to make an appearance, covering the houses and offices like a veil. The people that are walking steadily along, are caressed by the rain drops that have been sent from the clouds. Unhappy with what's going on, the sun decides to take charge of the sky and stretch its banana skin body that cause the clouds to move away.

Thunder, Thunder by Avinash Naidoo

Thunder belched like a constipated lion roaring. Lightning crackled as streaks of electricity lit up the barrier of darkness overlooking our village. The sky was spitting rain eventually turning it into hail that was pelting large targets beneath. It was like rapid gunfire deadly bullets propelled at speeds faster than a human eye can see, piercing any object in its path. The howling wind yelled echoing through the hollow in the trees; as well as passing through the branches. Brittle, like bones desperately holding onto the leaves that turn to sludge on the ground.

Trudging through the land of white, snow accumulating, building up to my knees. Flakes of ice racing to earth.

The Horrors of Greenville Street by Tegh Banse

On a dark gloomy night the big trees were withering around and the dim street lights shining on the cold and sullen pavements. I trotted down the pavements surrounded by a sinister feeling. It was like travelling through a man's worst nightmare. I felt I was in a deadly game of hunter vs prey...

Running for my life in the direction of my house, then suddenly... a man popped up in front of me with a knife, no doubt I feared the worst. I slid under the killer's legs and forgot the word as I slammed the door, gobsmacked with what I had witnessed.



SCHOOL NOTICES AND MATCH REPORT

ALWAYS GROWING HOLIDAY CLUB AT LONG CLOSE OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

Only two weeks 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

SCHOOL EVENTS FOR W/C 20 MARCH 2017

Mon 20 March—EYFS Mother's Day Celebration

*Tues 21 March—PTA Mother's Day Present Room
(see PTA section for more details)*

Tues 21 March—House Matches

Wed 22 March—House Matches

*Thurs 23 March— Reception Parents' Evening
(1545-1830)*

*Fri 24 March—Years 3 & 4 Production of 'Go for
Gold'*

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>

There was a real feeling of excitement as the U11Bs took the field in the warm sunshine to play two games against sides from Claires Court Junior school on Wednesday afternoon. Just to make things a little more competitive, we decided to play up the slope for the duration of these two games, which consisted of one half only (of 25 minutes). The first game was a fiercely fought contest and the deadlock was only broken when Mannat fired in a shot from around 20 yards that beat the keeper for pace as it rocketed into the back of the net. Claires Court drew level with a very well worked goal of their own only for Long Close to take the lead after a great counter-attack and a cool finish from Aariz. Great defence once again was in evidence and Jeevan and Aryan kept out wave after wave of attack and Jack put up his normal fierce resistance, with Kalim running the ball very effectively out of defence and setting up the strikers with excellent service. This first game finished with a well-deserved 2-1 victory. Immediately after this we started our second game but this time we found it a little easier to pick our way through their defence. Mehul found his shooting boots, scoring an absolute screamer on his way to a hat-trick, and Arran scored an excellent brace himself. There was another goal from Aariz as well as a well taken goal by Ibrahim, that concluded the game at 7-0. This was an excellent all-round performance and the boys thoroughly enjoyed their fun in the sun! *Mr Pavey*

SPORTS FIXTURES FOR W/C 20 MARCH 2017

Monday 20 March—U16 Football v Thorpe House - CANCELLED

Wed 22 March—U11 Football Tournament at Dair House (A)

**Wed 22 March—U16 Football v Claires Court at Phoenix
Sports Club (A)**

PTA NEWS

We hope the children have been saving their pocket money for the mother's day present room which is next Tuesday. The children need to bring in either £3 or £5 to buy a gift from a wide selection (sorry no clues on what they are as we don't want to spoil the surprise!) and if they would like to buy a card then those are 50p each.



PTA MOTHER'S DAY PRESENT ROOM TUESDAY, 21ST MARCH, 2017

It's almost here! A fabulous range of presents are wrapped and waiting for the children to come and choose one for their wonderful mums!

Presents for £3 or £5
Cards for 50p

The children always have great fun so don't miss out!

Present room will be in the school office as follows:
before school: 8:10am - 8:30am
breaktimes and lunchtimes
after school: 3:15pm - 4:30pm

EYFS will be taken by their teachers in the morning to choose their gifts or they are welcome to come to the office



LOOK OUT for the jar in the office from Monday!

As part of our planned Easter activities there will be a jar in the school office full of eggs. You can take a guess at the number of eggs in the jar for your chance to win a share! It's only 50p a go and you can enter multiple times (each extra guess is another 50p).

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