



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

PEGASUS NEWS

SPRING TERM

ISSUE 11

FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2017

THE HEADMASTER WRITES...



'When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping". To this day, especially in times of "disaster", I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realising that there are still so many helpers – so many caring people in this world'. *(Fred Rogers)*

I used this quote, from an expert in childhood, in my newsletter following the Paris attacks in November 2015. We have been informed for some time now that it was always a matter of 'when' not 'if' there would be another attack on London and so once again we, as adults, are left trying to explain our crazy world to our young children. Whilst the numbers of deaths is significantly less this time the feeling of terror is no less diminished and for all those involved it will have had life changing ramifications. It was whilst listening to the radio on the way to school on Thursday morning that I heard an interview with Brendan Cox, who was married to the MP Jo Cox, that I was reminded of the quote at the top of this page. I was hugely impressed by his strength and his desire to focus on the heroes that emerged from the tragedy that unfolded. By doing this we not only take heart that human nature can be a force for good but we also take the power away from the terrorists who crave notoriety and publicity for their atrocities. Earlier in the week I had been reflecting on the mixed emotions felt by large sectors of our UK population on hearing the news of the death of Martin McGuinness. Here was a man who was implicated in the direct and indirect murders of large numbers of people during the worst of the troubles in Northern Ireland. He had openly accepted that violence was the only way to further the cause of the IRA and made no apologies for this when interviewed by reporters in the 1980s. However, it is also accepted by most political commentators that he was instrumental in bringing about peace in Northern Ireland and that if it had not been for his past he may not have been able to lead his own followers along the road to peace. For many, he went from terrorist to peacemaker, and even shook hands with the Queen, who at one point he had considered the ultimate enemy. The BBC battled hard with finding the right balance when covering this story as they tried hard to be impartial and respect the fact that Martin McGuinness divides opinion on how he should be remembered. When Gerry Adams described him as having been a 'freedom fighter' at his funeral it reminded me that the same title had been given to Nelson Mandela during his struggles against apartheid but the regime at the time considered him to be a terrorist and as a consequence he spent a large part of his life in jail. To frame Martin McGuinness and Nelson Mandela in an article of this length is in danger of oversimplifying a very complex situation but a key point in both of their lives was that they were both able to forgive and others around them had to be prepared to forgive them. Without this forgiveness South Africa and Northern Ireland would not have developed to the peaceful societies they are today. Our world today is challenged by people who have no right to be called 'freedom fighters' and whose cowardly acts terrorise all corners of the globe. Whilst it can be challenging at times, there has never been a more important time to teach our children the importance of tolerance and respect for all cultures and faiths, to explore the power of forgiveness and to continue to 'look for the helpers' and heroes that emerge whenever our adult world forgets how to set the example for the future generations.

Inside this issue:

Early Year News	2
Prep School News	4
Senior School News	6
School Notices & Match Report	8
PTA News	9



AFTER SCHOOL CARE MOBILE NUMBERS

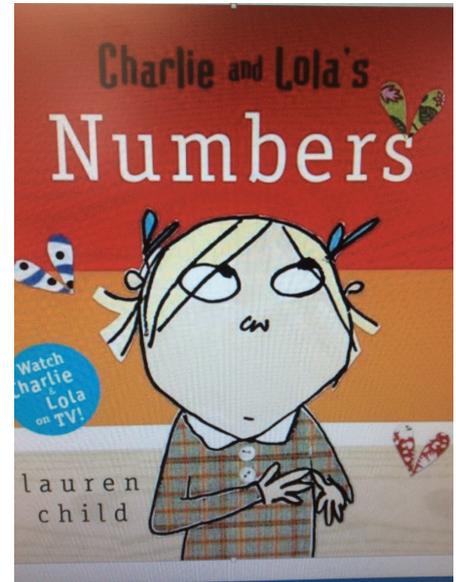
ASC team members can be contacted on the following numbers between 3.30pm and 6.00pm each day. If you are running late to collect your child from ASC, please give the staff on duty a quick call to let them know. Thank you!

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

EARLY YEARS UPDATE BY MRS HARRIS

YELLOW ROOM

The children in the Yellow Room have explored shape, colours and counting this week. The children helped to count all of the nursery children in the Yellow room each morning during our carpet time each day. We read the story of 'Charlie and Lola's Numbers,' this which has led us to start to use our fingers to help count the numbers on the pages in the story. We then sang the number rhyme '1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a Fish Alive...' using our fingers to match the correct number in the rhyme. We started to decorate some Easter Egg pictures during our adult guided activities using circles and zigzag patterns, we also counted the dots we marked on the oval eggs. Discussing the different colours we were using encouraged the children to independently name the different colours of paint they chose.



GREEN ROOM

This week excitement filled the nursery as the children prepared for their mother's day celebration. The children practised their show and then put the finishing touches to their gifts. It was then time to show the mummy's how hard the children had been working.

The children all joined together in the hall and put on a fantastic show for everybody! They were amazing. The mummy's then joined the children back at nursery where they were invited to play alongside the children and speak to other parents. It was an amazing afternoon enjoyed by all!

We have been focusing on maths this week where the children have been demonstrating their knowledge of shapes, patterns and numbers. The children have been using language such as more, less, heavy and light. They went on a hunt around the classroom finding objects that they think will be heavier than the object on the table. 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

The highlight of this week was our Mother's day performance. All of the children in EYFS put on a fantastic performance. They displayed confidence when singing and doing the actions to all the rhymes and songs that they had learnt, as well as Reception giving a great performance of 'Old MacDonald had a farm,' accompanied by chime bars.

Reception were superb at reciting their special mother's day poem. The children spoke clearly, enjoying all the actions and blowing a little kiss to their mummies in the audience. Back in the classrooms we enjoyed a special tea with our mummies. The table was decorated with a special message that the children had wrote about their mummies, daffodils and a delicious cupcake. The children then got busy with their mums engaged in activities, making bracelets, painting flowers and buying flowers from our flower shop.

All the children had a picture taken with their mummy in our special Mother's tea room and all our mummies got a chance to admire the children's art work, where their portraits had been displayed.

To end the celebration we watched special messages that had been recorded by the children for their mummies telling them why they love them so much. All the mummies also got a little gift bag to take home, full of goodies made by the children.

The rest of the week the children were introduced to our topic of Spring and Easter. The children thought about all of the signs we see around us showing us that spring is here. Easter is also part of this time of year, a special time in the Christian calendar. The children learnt about the Easter story and why Jesus is so important for Christians. We continued the rest of the week looking at new life, exploring our tadpoles, watching baby chicks hatch and observing our beanstalks, which are getting quite tall! Reception are really looking forward to all the exciting activities planned for our Easter inspired week to come.



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 1

Year 1

On Monday in assembly the children were informed all about Comic Relief by the Long Close Seniors. They watched a video about children less fortunate than themselves and were told about how they could help by getting involved in today's fun events!

Also on Monday 1H tuned in to see 5 minutes of the 24 hours that Sara Cox danced for which was inspiring as she raised money for the charity. Mrs Hallett and Miss Staniford decided that it would be fun for the children if they did something similar and got sponsored for their efforts. They chose to dance for Comic Relief all day without stopping. The classes had a wonderful time picking out their favourite tracks for them to dance to and were very good at keeping them on track throughout the day! Thank you to all the parents who sponsored us, we really do appreciate your support and generous donations for the charity. The teachers and children had a fabulous time joining in with all the sporting activities as well as making red nose sandwiches this afternoon.

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 Rayaan Salman
1S Nyra Seth
2M Krishav Sundar
3I Nadia Shenawy
3R Saaheb Basi

4M Arjun Bange
4R Josh Gajree
5B Dauood Saba
5C Chidambaram Malladi
6F Jeevan Sidhu
6O Arran Lad



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 2

Year 3

It's been a busy week in Year 3! With Easter coming up, the children have enjoyed familiarising themselves with the events that led to the crucifixion and now realise the reason why we have Easter eggs is because we are celebrating Jesus' new life.

In Maths, Year 3 have enjoyed using the diamond method for doubling where numbers had to be partitioned then added together to find the answer. In English, the children were excited about giving directions using imperative verbs, making their way to Hamleys and to other exciting stores using their maps of London. The production rehearsals are coming along and the children have had a busy week singing their hearts out. They were very excited to receive their t-shirts and can't wait to show them off Friday evening!

Year 4

Hooray the day of our production has arrived! All the children were filled with excitement following our morning performance to the Prep School. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and have worked so hard recently to learn their lines, perfect their dance moves and speak loudly to an audience. Although this has been assessment week, the children have also been busy developing their story writing to include more descriptive detail. In RS, the children have been empathetic towards our current topic and there has been wonderful discussions, involving the last few hours in Jesus' life. Everyone is looking forward to our medieval castles day on Monday. Don't forget to wear your costume as we will be going back in time!

Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy week! In Science, the children rounded off the topic looking at common examples of condensation and understanding the link between gasses, liquids and solids. They explained the effects of evaporation of water on Earth and discussed what happens to the salt in the sea. In a RS, a focus was made on the Lord's Prayer and its meaning. After that, pupils were introduced to the religion of Islam where they explored their main views and now they will begin to make links between all 5 main religions. In History, the new topic of Ancient Greece has proven to be very exciting and the students have shown some great geographical knowledge of the existing countries in Europe. The classes used atlases and globes to locate and label countries in our continent in order to make comparisons between ancient and present Greece. In English, work has continued on persuasive writing and pupils wrote letters to Mr Pavey on how to improve the school and speeches on whether the internet should be banned for children. The pupils have proven to have mastered the skill of writing to persuade and have really made an impression with their pieces!

Year 6

Year 6 have continued to study hard in preparation for their SATs practising their methods and strategies; being sure that they are completing timed papers within the allocated time. No one can fault their focus at the moment. Rehearsals for Oliver are progressing very nicely and we are all in for a treat when the performance is ready to show, there are so many members of staff singing along to the tunes, it feels as if there is a parallel performance being rehearsed as well.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS BY MRS BINGHAM

The music department has been so busy over the last few weeks that there has barely been time to write it all up for the newsletter! Pupils from every year group from Yellow Room in Nursery to Year 11 have been taking part in musical events this half term; from the Senior Concert to the Mother's Day EYFS Celebration on Monday!

As always I am blown away by the commitment shown by the pupils and the support from parents in facilitating their participation in these events that happen outside the school day. A full write up of all these events will follow in the end of term newsletter next week.

We have spaces on woodwind for lessons next term (flute, clarinet and saxophone) as well as drums and violin so do please get in touch if you would like your son or daughter to have lessons!

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY

Year 9

The year 9 class went to Windsor theatre yesterday, to watch Jane Austen's 'Northanger Abbey'. They thoroughly enjoyed their time and behaved impeccably.



Year 10

Year 10 returned to school this week after completing their week away at their respective work placements. All the students came back full of stories and great excitement about what they had achieved. Some of the feedback from the employers was outstanding and really shows how great our students are. Employers commented on how keen our students were, how they took the initiative to ask for help and advice, how they became valuable members of the team in such a short space of time, how well dressed and presented they were and how many will be missed!

Some of our students came away with offers to return at a later date to further their work experience and develop skills in other areas of their business.

Once again, this has proved to be an extremely valuable learning experience for our students and one hopefully will stand by the Year 10's as they look at life after GCSE's.

I was so impressed by the commitment and dedication of our pupils when I visited them last week and extremely pleased that they have all returned with such great feedback and such valuable life experiences.

Once again - really well done Year 10!

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY (continued)**SENIOR SCHOOL WORK SHOWCASE****Aya Kakel—Yr. 9**

Heavy black shade had been overwhelming the sky for many hours, intensifying in colour with each long, drawn out minute that passed. The only visibility of my surroundings that I had was from the tiny spark of light created by my lantern. This delicate flame was keeping me company- and offering me a source of comfort in the back of the rickety, jolting carriage. The flicker of the flame somewhat entranced me, the slight warmth produced by it drawing me in, studying the flame and its beauty. I had never been one to be afraid of the dark; the still of night was a beautiful contrast to the lively daytime. Nightmares were things created and concocted within the mind. The idea of fear was simply a product of an over-active imagination, and I had been instructed to suppress the idea of any impossible creatures created in the darkness of my room. My childhood years seemed to be a distant memory, despite the reality only being a few years prior. A lot had changed since then; I had grown up too fast, and tragedy had fallen upon me that had aged me beyond my years.

I had been anxiously awaiting the arrival at my uncle's house since embarking upon the long journey at the first glimmer of morning sun. I had never met nor heard of this distant uncle, nevertheless I was now to be forced into this stranger's care. Part of me felt apprehensive, the other half filled with intrigue about where this twisted adventure would lead me. If this visit had occurred under happier circumstances, perhaps better feelings might have been at hand. In fact, my presence would mark a reminder of the grim occurrences that had taken place all too recently. For a brief moment sadness consumed me; I was absorbed with a sense of remorse. My heart beat fiercely against its constricting prison of a ribcage, threatening to break free at any given moment. For a split second, air seemed to have escaped my lungs, leaving me feeling faint and gasping for breath.

The carriage jolted me brutally from my thoughts, allowing me to regain my senses and recover my composure. The driver was a reasonably small man who was dressed in full brown attire, with the exception of a pair of black gloves. Throughout the long journey he had only uttered a few abrupt and harshly whispered words, which came about from my futile attempts to initiate conversation. Despite being a summer night, the air had an eerie chill. A thick shield of fog clung to the narrow dirt road, as though crouching in anticipation; an army of trees surrounded the area, peering over the lone path menacingly. The carriage crashing like thunder pierced the still atmosphere of the August night. A faint outline interrupted the cloak of blackness that consumed the sky, although I was unable to decipher what it could be. My eyes strained to concentrate and focus on the shape in front of me. Minutes passed and the formation was still unclear. I closed my eyes, defeated from the aching caused by deep concentration, leaving my mind to wander and conjure up different possibilities. What I envisioned was somewhat unusual; I pictured a wall that stretched all the way to the furthest reaches of the sky, and extending as far as the eye could see in width. Unable to go around this wall, we would be forced to turn back and go to the place I used to call home, returning to my old life and better times. Gripped within this vision, reality suddenly pulled me back in with the clearer visibility of the form; it was an old manor the size of a castle. We were now entering through the immense iron gates into a courtyard area with cobble flooring that made the carriage tremble.

SCHOOL NOTICES AND MATCH REPORT

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

SCHOOL EVENTS FOR W/C 27 MARCH 2017

*Mon 27 March—Year 4 History Off the Page
Castles Day*

Wed 29 March—U16 Football v Shiplake (A)

Fri 31 March—END OF TERM

PTA Easter Egg Hunt (Nursery—Yr2)

Please note: No Clubs, Prep or ASC. Sibling cover will only operate from 1530-1600.

All pupils in nursery to be collected by 1530.

All pupils in Yrs. 3-11 to be collected by 1600.

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>



DRUM LESSONS ARE NOW TAKING PLACE AT LONG CLOSE SCHOOL EVERY THURSDAY DURING TERM TIME!

Music Tuition Forms are available from the School Office. Drum lessons are taught by Mr Andy Clements in conjunction with the **Rockschool/RSL graded awards syllabus.**

Year 5 are going to have a drum taster session on Thursday 30th March at 9.40am in the Music Room, and taster sessions for other year groups will be organised for after the Easter Holidays!

SPORTS FIXTURES FOR W/C 27 MARCH 2017

Wednesday 29 March—U16 Football v Shiplake (A)

PTA NEWS

Today has seen a lot of fun activities going on at school all in the name of charity, it's great to see the children having fun for such a good cause. Don't miss out on all the Red Nose day fun on television this evening from 7pm on BBC1.



On the subject of charity – the mother's day present room was a great success this week, and has raised **£300** towards the PTA fundraising efforts. Don't forget, every penny goes back into the school to enhance our children's experience so we really value the support we have from the LCS community of parents and carers.

Next week is the early years Easter egg hunt – details have been sent in school bags but if for any reason you don't have the information please drop us an email. And don't forget that the children are in with a chance of winning their share of chocolate from the jar in the office! To enter the competition they just need to take a guess at the number of eggs in the jar, it's only 50p a go and multiple entries are allowed.

PTA MOTHER'S DAY PRESENT ROOM

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone that supported the PTA Mother's Day Present Room this year, from wrapping presents and volunteering your time, to giving your children money to buy some presents.

The day was a huge success and raised an amazing £300! The children were presented with a large selection of presents, many of which were sold out by lunchtime!

We wish all LCS Mums a very Happy Mother's Day!



We would like to invite all Year 2 parents, grandparents, guardians, family and friends to help with the first, Year-hosted Tuck Shop on Thursday 30th March. You can help by:

* Donating some tasty goodies: cakes, biscuits or sweets (home made or shop bought).

And/or

* Manning the shop for a stint between 3.30pm and 4.30pm

Stay in contact with us:



Join the PTA Facebook page



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