



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

PEGASUS NEWS

SPRING TERM

ISSUE 8

FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2017

THE HEADMASTER WRITES...



I am very proud of Long Close School. I am proud of our staff and pupils, and I am proud of the examination results that our children achieve. And so I was a little taken aback this week to find out that the quality of education we provide has been brought into question as a result of our published KS2 SATs results and our lack of visibility on league tables. On further investigation into this parental concern I can see that raising the question is absolutely valid and I may not have got the messaging around our results as clear as it should be. For this, I apologise and take full responsibility. Let me take the opportunity of writing in this newsletter to address the concerns that were raised to

me directly, and to clarify some of the aims of our school.

One of the most thorough reviews a school can go through is that of an external inspection. For us our inspectorate was the Schools Inspectorate Service (SIS) and they use frameworks almost identical to Ofsted and measure us against the Independent Schools Standards Regulations (ISSRs). In order to judge the teaching and learning that takes place in the school, they look at all of the data that we have on our children including the work in their books, lesson observations and feedback from the children themselves. They look at progress and attainment data in all year groups through the school and in order to achieve an outstanding result, all of this data - from Nursery to Year 11 - has to show exceptional progress and attainment. The judgement of outstanding can only be gained by having great teaching, great systems and hugely committed teachers who consistently perform to very high standards. Since the inspection we have had one more lot of public examination data and our GCSE results once again were 50% A*-A and our SATs results were way ahead of national averages. Taken in isolation, and compared against some other schools, these results can appear to be behind some of our competitors. But this is where we need to look at the bigger picture. We are, and have been, year after year, way ahead of national averages whilst being committed to a holistic education. I am aware in some schools, with limited budgets and narrow judgements based solely on maths and English, their focus turns almost entirely to SATs examinations. The rest of the curriculum is squeezed to the point where music, sport, languages and the humanities suffer enormously. Whilst the school may have impressive results, I would question whether they are truly preparing the children for 'an education for life'. Furthermore, it is important to consider our intake with that of some of our competitors. Whilst we assess on entry from Year 3 upwards, we remain almost entirely comprehensive in our intake. We take people into all year groups at any stage of the school, and we publish results from all of our pupils. At GCSE level, many of our pupils did not pass the 11+ in Year 6 but we continue to have wonderful GCSE results. With very small cohorts, year on year, two pupils' results can swing percentage outcomes by 10% or more, and so we do get, and will continue to get, quite variable results year on year. This is a reflection on different cohorts and base-levels, as opposed to variances in teaching and learning. For example, in KS2 SATs, last year 87% of pupils reached the expected standard in maths compared to a national average of 70%, whereas in the previous year 44% reached level 6 and 100% reached the expected level, compared to 8% and 86% respectively. These results seem quite different but the same two fabulous teachers taught the final two year groups during this period and we know that both sets of results were excellent for those individual pupils. And we did all of this whilst focusing on producing fantastic, rounded children, who are well prepared for life-long learning.

As for league tables, I will have to address these next week as I will need another 600 words or so to explain their narrow focus and impact on schools over the last two decades. Have a lovely weekend and I hope the weather picks up!

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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

'All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small' were the words from the hymn that popped into my head as we enjoyed a day of marvellous hands on learning at the Hounslow Urban Farm on Wednesday. Many of you asked me why we didn't go to Odds Farm (which is also a super day out with children) and my reasoning for this was when planning an educational school visit, a lot of thought is put into how we are always trying to add to the children's learning experiences. The Early Years team were interested in all of the different types of animals that we were going to observe, handle and learn about at the Urban Farm. The farm did not disappoint as the children and grown ups were all engaged and fascinated by the information we received from the animal keepers. The children behaved beautifully, which enabled the well timetabled day to run like clock-work.

I must thank the Early Years staff for all of their efforts in updating Facebook and Firefly with some super photos from the day, which allowed you as parents and carers to feel a part of your children's experience. There was a lot of work that went on at home in the evening to get the photos and write ups to you. It was another proud day for me leading the visit as Head of the Early Years, with staff at the farm admiring your children's engagement throughout the day at such a young age. The children asked and answered some very relevant questions during the talks.

Staff updates

We have welcomed Mrs Sadhawani into our EYFS team this half term who is working as an assistant and lunchtime supervisor in the nursery.

Miss Wilson will sadly be leaving us soon as she takes a position in a school nearer to home. We wish her good luck in her new role and we will miss her.

We are recruiting a new assistant to replace Miss Wilson as I write and will advise you who Miss Wilson's replacement will be in due course.

YELLOW ROOM

For some of the children, our trip to Hounslow Urban Farm was their first experience of travelling by coach on an educational visit with the nursery and they were all very excited! When we arrived at the farm, our guide greeted us and introduced us to 'Winston and Harry Trotter' - two of their pigs. The children fed them and some of the children were very brave and had a go at stroking their bodies. We then found some muddy puddles and couldn't resist jumping in them like Peppa Pig!

We made our way to where the 'exotic' animals were being shown and we saw a giant millipede, snakes, cockroaches from Mexico, a tortoise, different types of lizards and even a scorpion! We went on a 'Farm Walk' where we were able to feed goats and sheep as we walked around the farm.

The children had a hands on experience with some friendly 'pests' - they saw a rabbit, hamster, a field mouse, gerbil, guinea pig and even a rat. They also had an opportunity to touch a duck, chicken, goose and turkey. We saw different types of owls flying indoors just above our heads in the barn!

After lunch we had lots of fun playing on the bouncy castles before a snooze on the coach on the way home!

GREEN ROOM

This week we have started our health and self-care topic. We started this topic by looking at dental hygiene. The children spoke about the importance of brushing their teeth and went through a step by step process of how to brush them effectively. They listened to a story about 'Going to the Dentist' that went through a step by step guide of what happens at the dentist. The children then spoke about their experiences of visiting the dentist. Together everybody then carefully counted their teeth and discovered they have 20 teeth!

The children celebrated Shrove Tuesday by decorating pancakes. They used a variety of toppings such as honey, jam, strawberries and bananas. The children developed their independence by using a spoon to scoop out the topping and then spread it onto their pancake. Miss Hamblin showed the children how to roll up their pancake and they then enjoyed eating them!

On Wednesday we visited Hounslow Urban Farm. The children thoroughly enjoyed petting, feeding and looking at all of the different animals. Many of the children were very brave and held a variety of different exotic animals. It was a fantastic day!

THIS WEEK IN EARLY YEARS

RED AND BLUE ROOMS

We introduced our theme of health and self-care to the children this week. The first part of our topic was all about germs and the importance of washing our hands. We learnt about important times when we need to wash our hands such as after we have been to the toilet, before cooking and after we have touched animals. This was perfect timing in preparation for our trip to the farm on Wednesday, where we had to wash our hands lots of times!



We had a fantastic day at Hounslow Urban Farm and were so pleased that all of the children from Red and Blue Rooms were able to attend. We had many amazing hands on experiences - from touching a fluffy chinchilla to a slippery snake, all of the children got involved with the experiences available to them. We met lots of different farm and exotic animals and the children were very brave as they touched and handled them.

Next week we look forward to exploring dental hygiene!



RECEPTION

Reception had a much anticipated trip this week to Hounslow Urban Farm and in preparation, our topic this week was 'Health & Hygiene'. As we were visiting the farm we thought it would be a good opportunity to talk about washing our hands and how easy it is for us to pick up and spread germs. The children heard the story of 'The Little Princess' who didn't want to wash her hands! She soon found out why she needed to and reluctantly washed her hands in the end! The children soon grasped the concept of how important it is to wash our hands well and when they need to do it.

On Wednesday it was trip day! The children were all buzzing with excitement and we left promptly at 930am, Wellington Boots in tow! We enjoyed a talk about the animals we find on a farm and we discussed the differences in the animals we saw - some were 'farm' animals and some were 'pests'. We talked about all the different things that some of the animals provide us with such as meat, feathers and eggs. Most of the children enjoyed touching the different animals and some were happy to watch and gaze in amazement at these wonderful creatures! We used up the last of our energy and played on the bouncy castles before giving our hands a final wash! And boarding our coach back to school. We had a super fun day!

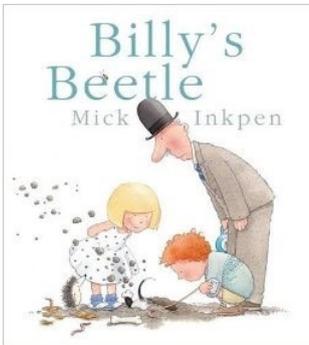
We still had time to fit in our numeracy topic of money where the children have begun to learning about value of money, what our money looks like and using money in our role-play Charity Shop. We celebrated Pancake Day and learnt about the story behind it, plus we also celebrated World Book Day by looking at and reading some of the most popular children's books around today and acting out some of the stories. (Photos below are from the Yellow and Green Rooms).



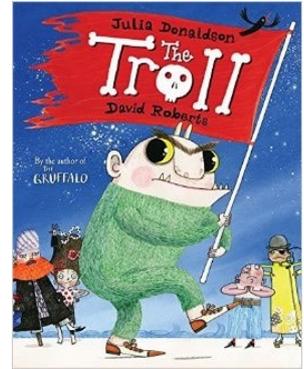
PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 1

Year 1



This week in Year 1 the teachers were very excited to teach using something they love - pizza! The children learnt the names of different fractions and talked about how much a half and a quarter actually is. We discussed how we could share a whole pizza for a family of four and two people. On Thursday afternoon, the children were given slices of bread which they cut into half and then quarters thus reinforcing their understanding through a practical experience.



Also this week, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday by designing pancake toppings and we began to construct houses in our DT lesson. To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, the children in 1S listened to the story 'Billy's Beetle' whilst Miss Staniford read 'The Trolls' to her class before everyone had a go at writing a book review. On Friday the children filmed each other on the iPads, reading their work and talking about their favourite characters and parts of the story. It really has been another busy week for us!

Year 2

There has been much excitement in Year 2 this week as the children have been preparing for their assembly next Monday. The children have been busy using their creative ideas, designing their own masks and using a wide range of arts and crafts to decorate it with.

All of the children have learnt their lines off by heart and have been projecting their voices using their best story teller voices. They cannot wait to perform to you all and we look forward to seeing you on Monday morning! Well done Year 2, Mrs Woodcraft and Miss Moss are extremely proud of you all!



PEGASUS CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the most recent Pegasus certificate winners:

- 1H Minal Sharif
- 1S Maina Verma
- 2M Jeevan Gosal
- 2W Riya Khurl
- 3I Ramini Choudhary
- 3R Yuvraj Samra
- 4M Sara Butt
- 4R Bilal Bah
- 5B Alisha Chaudry
- 5C Raheim Wahedally
- 6F Alman Aamir
- 6O Aariz Mujib



PREP SCHOOL NEWS BY MS FIELD

KEY STAGE 2

Year 3

It has been another action-packed week in Year 3, beginning with the children getting stuck into the enthralling myth of Perseus and Medusa in English. The children were very pleased to discover that Perseus' bravery overcame the evil of the gorgons, and he achieved his quest of returning to the King alive with Medusa's head! This resulted in some wonderfully rich creative writing which the children should be very proud of! In maths, the children have conquered column addition, which they can all now use to start to solve worded problems quickly and efficiently. As a background to the Romans, Year 3 have begun to learn about the Celts who were living in Britain at the time of the Roman invasion. The Celtic tribes were fierce and brave and the children are particularly interested to find out more about strong leader Boudicca, the warrior queen of the Iceni tribe. The highlight of the week was completing our colourful papier-mache hot air balloons. This was a challenging project but well worth the perseverance and we were very impressed with their amazing results. Well done Year 3!

Year 4

Miss Malocca and Mrs Rees have been delighted with the children's application to their work as we approach the end of term tests - well done! In history, we have been exploring what the Vikings would have worn. Did you know that a man's Viking tunic was also called a kirtle? It has been fascinating to see how the Vikings fastened their clothing without buttons or zips. In science, both classes have been investigating the different properties of solids and liquids and discovering that the volume of a liquid does not change even when it is poured into different containers. Several children have not been completing their MyMaths homework, which is set on a weekly basis and this is impacting on their classwork. Please can you ensure that your child catches up with their MyMaths tasks over the weekend.

Year 5

In science this week, the children have planned their own investigation on evaporation. The pupils worked together and discussed fair test, variables, prediction and the equipment that they would use for this experiment. Then they executed their plan and recorded their results using a table, which they then represented in a graph. Some of them even carried out their own experiments at home! History has been exciting this week as the children learnt who succeeded Henry VIII. Poor Edward, 'The Boy King', was not lucky as he was a sickly child who died at the age of 16, being forced to change the will by Lady Jane. They were amazed to discover that Lady Jane Grey reigned for only 9 days and was then executed by Mary II! No wonder she was labelled as 'Bloody Mary'! A big emphasis has been made this week on persuasive writing in preparation for the 'Debating Competition in two weeks' time. The pupils focused on writing a persuasive text about why everyone should learn to swim. They were encouraged to use a range of persuasive language, openers and conjunctions in order to make their piece more appealing. Mrs Collet and Mrs Barnes are very pleased with the results and are looking forward to continuing this work next week where they will be preparing persuasive letters.

Year 6



Year 6 enjoyed a super trip to the Winchester Science Museum. Their investigative skills were expertly tested in a 'Destination Space' workshop. All investigations were aimed at giving a flavour of the considerations that need to be made when planning to send an astronaut into space. The pupils even tried out a robotic arm which is based on the Canada arm model. The pupils had enormous fun trying out the various science games in the main part of the museum, which extended their knowledge across biology, physics and chemistry. After an exhausting morning the children were truly wowed when they visited the Planetarium, which took them on an amazing journey through the universe. Year 6, Mrs Collet and Ms Field thought this was an excellent trip and we really do recommend a visit with your family during one of the holidays!

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS BY MR MCCARTHY

YEAR 11 ENGLISH TRIP TO LONDON

Last Friday, I took our Year 11 students to the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster to listen to famous poets read a range of poetry to GCSE pupils. The poets included the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage - who was made a CBE - as well as the legendary John Agard. Examiners were available to advise pupils on how to answer poetry questions for the new GCSE specification. Our pupils were very privileged to meet Carol Ann Duffy and ask her questions about her poetry. It was a fantastic day!

By Mrs Amod



SENIOR SCHOOL WORK SHOWCASE

GROWING UP

It seems for the future I am prepared,
but the thought of commitment is getting me scared.
These feelings I feel, they're different, they're new...
being loved and adored is the reason my confidence grew.
I feel like their love is helping me cope,
I'm worried if they leave me I can't stand on my own.
I'm forgetting my family, the child I used to be...
hurting them by fighting for the one I want to see.
Taking bigger steps every chance I get
is making me worry that I'll look back with regret.
Young by age, matured in the mind...
the little girl they want back is hard to find.

Aamina Aamir, Year 9

MATCH REPORTS

U9AB FOOTBALL V OLDFIELD PRIMARY

On Tuesday, the U9 football teams played their final games of the term with the A team looking to complete the term without losing a game. Last week, both A and B teams played Dair House and were victorious with very pleasing and confident displays. This week we travelled to Oldfield Primary who always provide a very good test for our teams. The B team had to work extremely hard against a good team who were confident on the ball. Our boys battled for the whole match and never gave up. Despite losing the game, the boys learnt a great deal and thoroughly enjoyed the match.

The A team came up against a group that were also undefeated and who had won a cup competition already this season. The game started very evenly but Oldfield soon took control with an unstoppable shot and fantastic goal. We soon realised that we needed to dig our heels in and battle against some exceptional players. We managed to grow in confidence over the first half and grabbed a poacher's equaliser after the keeper fumbled the ball. We then started to take the game to Oldfield and managed to take the lead before half time. In the second half, Oldfield pulled level but we managed to score two late goals to win the match. Reedh pulled off two amazing late saves to help us on our way. Goal scorers were Josh, Jeevan and Arya x2.

The Oldfield coach was full of praise for Long Close saying we were the strongest team they had played this year and that we worked so hard to break up the game in midfield that his striker had so few chances. This was an outstanding performance from our team, which means they finish the term by winning all their games! Well done to all boys who have represented the Under 9 teams this term!

By Mr Powell

U11 NETBALL V ST BERNARD'S

On Wednesday 1st March, the U11 netball team played against St Bernard's. The match started well with Natasha Sleep and Nishi Bosamia getting the ball up to Poppy Collyer who managed to score some excellent goals in the first few minutes. Kirandeep Jhammat and Ria Flora defended the opposition's shots well, which gave the team an advantage.

In the second half of the game, Long Close took over the game as Daania Iqbal got hold of the ball on many occasions. This helped Saalihah Rana shoot some more goals, making the final score 11-1 to Long Close.

Keep it up girls!

Man of the match was Nishi Bosamia.

By Saalihah Rana (Captain)

U11AB FOOTBALL V OLDFIELD PRIMARY

On 1 March, the U11s A Football team played a daring match against Oldfield Primary school. The game started off with Oldfield gaining more possession than Long Close with many opportunities to score, but luckily with George Sil's great defending and Palash Rajput's brilliant saves, we managed to keep the score a tie. Later on in the game, Oldfield managed to get past our defence and score a cracking goal.

Soon the 2nd half kicked off and Long Close managed to gain a bit of possession with Khurshid Ahmad's brilliant attacking, which lasted most of the game. Soon after, the opposition managed to take over ground. Palash managed to save most of the shots but the opposition managed to score two more goals.

Good work lads—keep it up! Man of the match was Palash Rajput.

By Arran Lad (Captain)

We have had some really good games against Oldfield over the last few years and this was no exception. The wind was blowing hard towards our goal in the first half and as a consequence, nearly all of the play was in our own half. Clearing the ball from our own goal mouth area was quite a challenge despite the best efforts of Kalim, Aryan, Jeevan and Ibrahim and this eventually led to Oldfield scoring a goal shortly before half time. Chances for our forwards were few and far between but there was great energy and enthusiasm from Aariz, Mannat, Aaron and Mehl (Captain for the day) and nearly everyone helped out at the back as we 'parked the bus' in our own area and made it almost impossible for them to score. However, the main reason for Oldfield only scoring one more goal in the second half was the amazing heroics of our goalkeeper, Jack. Repeatedly he fended off fierce shots and dived at the feet of the attackers. Jack was a clear winner of the man-of-the-match award but all the boys could be very proud of their efforts. Final score 0-2.

By Mr Pavey

SCHOOL NOTICES AND SPORTS FIXTURES

LONDON MARATHON

We have at least two of the Long Close community looking to run the London Marathon on 23rd April, which is amazing!

Mrs Suman (mother of Keira in Year 7) will be raising money for Cancer Research UK and donations can be made on the following page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Simerita-Khuttan-Suman>
Miss Moss (Year 2 teacher) is also hoping to take part but she is waiting for clearance to continue after a slight knee injury. We will let you know her fundraising details if she is able to run.

SCHOOL EVENTS FOR W/C 6 MARCH 2017

Monday 6 March —Year 2 Assembly

Tuesday 7 March —Yrs 5-8 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:00)

Wednesday 8 March—Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle

Thursday 9 March—Parent Engagement Group meeting (see note below)

Friday 10 March—Senior School Instrumental Afternoon (16:15-17:00)

PARENT ENGAGEMENT GROUP MEETING—THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2017, 18:00-19:30

Thank you very much to those parents who have already signed up to attend the next Parent Engagement Group meeting. We still have a few places available so please sign up if you would like your voice to be heard in relation to priorities for investment and development of extra-curricular activities.

If you would like to attend, you can sign up by sending an email to Mrs Sophie Watts (sophie.watts@longcloseschool.co.uk).

SPORTS FIXTURES FOR W/C 6 MARCH 2017

Tuesday 7 March—U9 Netball v Dair House (H)

Wednesday 8 March—U11AB Football v St Mary's Henley (H)

Wednesday 8 March—U10 & U11 Netball v Dair House (A)

Thursday 9 March—U13 Football v Claires Court (H)

PTA NEWS

We have reached March already, which means lots to look forward to this month! The PTA have been busy planning two great events for March.



COMING SOON...

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

Children will have the opportunity to select
and purchase gifts for their Mothers.

There will be a fab range of gifts for the children to purchase, all priced at either £3 or £5.

PLUS!

The very 'egg-citing' Early Years—Year 2 Easter Egg Hunt – Friday 31 March.
More information will be shared on both events very soon.

Long Close Summer Fayre 2017

We have a date for the summer fayre so please put this in your diaries – Saturday 10th of June. With such a big event we have to start planning early. We are really keen to invite external stall holders to come along and run a stall at the summer fayre. If you have a small business that you would like to showcase, or have friends or family that would like to come along to promote their business please get in touch. Examples of some of the previous external stalls are below -

1. Mendhi designs
2. Jewellery
3. Children's books
4. Clothes or accessories
5. Mini beauty treatments

We are open to other ideas! Email us on longcloseschoolpta@gmail.com

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