



'The Phoenix'- Whitehouse News



Special Edition: The Queen's 90th Birthday

April 2016

Principal's Scribble...

Dear Parent,

The **celebration of the Queen's birthday** was a real highlight of the month. I believe the pupils had a great day and will remember the celebrations for years to come.

We are preparing for our **end of year assessments**. These will help us write pupils' end of year reports in June. Please try for 100% attendance in May. It makes all the difference!

This month we offered places to all our new nursery and Year 1 children. **I wish these families every happiness and success in the years ahead.**

In early May all our Year 7 pupils will be told of their new post-primary schools. **I expect pupils to get into a range of secondary and grammar schools. I wish them every success in their new schools.**

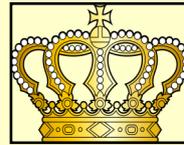
Our P.T.A. are working very hard in getting ready for our **Summer Fair**. It will be held on Friday 3rd June from 5pm to 7pm. Please plan to come along and support all their efforts.

Finally, I would like to congratulate **Miss Blain** who has been recommended as our new Vice Principal. I would also like to wish **Mr Harris** well who has been selected as our new permanent Year 6 teacher and P.E. coordinator.

Yours sincerely,

F. Bailie

Celebrating the Queen's Birthday



There was great excitement in our school on Thursday 21st April as we celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday.

During the morning all the pupils attended a very interesting assembly to learn about the Queen's life, family and achievements.

Throughout the rest of the day each class spent time learning about the Queen and completing some fun curricular activities. For example, Year 3 and Year 6 'Buddy Classes' enjoyed a fun filled day of party games in the sunshine. In the nursery, the children made and decorated their very own crowns and had a royal picnic.

The school's canteen very kindly entered into the spirit with a delicious royal themed menu. The school hall was turned into an old fashioned street party to celebrate the day.

Finally, the non-uniform day was also a great success. Pupils participated in this very creatively. There were a wide range of royal costumes, princesses and pupils dressed in their smartest outfits.

The children really did have a super day and helped us play our part in this historic event.



"Learning to Live"

Year 5 Room 10 - A Step Back In Time!



Year 5 had great day learning all about the Stone Age. We hope you enjoy reading about our workshop and all the things we learned.

We learnt all about the Stone Age. My favourite was challenge number 9 because it was all about aiming. We tried to hit a wild boar! (Carter Gill)

I didn't know that they used flint to make weapons. I didn't know they used wheat to make flour. I didn't know that fire kept the wolves away! I didn't know they moved houses a lot! I did not know they discovered bronze! (Katie McClean)

During the Stone Age they used flint to craft their tools and a special rubbing stone to grind wheat to make flour. The most important people got their own burial tomb. Since they didn't have money they had to trade for more valuable items. Cave drawings were drawn in charcoal. They weaved clothes and wove animal skins and when they skinned an animal they used a scraper to wipe away the guts. They shot birds and other small animals with arrows. Spears were used to kill larger animals like wild boar which was a favourite on the menu! (Reece Cox)



At the workshop we weaved sticks to make a wall, used stones to make a tomb, drew axe heads, fish hooks and knives and threw axes at a pretend boar! At the treasure hunt we had to find objects around the room. We only had pictures to help us. We used clay to make a pot. The clay was cold! We used rocks to crush wheat to make bread and cooked it on a fire. Finally we made axes. It was fun.

(Tara Quinn)

We were shown how to make fire and knives using stone and we were told how the whole of Ireland froze. Their fires had rocks round them to stop them from spreading and they stayed lit all night to keep wolves away. They used their knives to take the fur off animals and used it to stay warm. They made axes out of stone. (Flynn Roscoe)

Stone Age people used a scraper to get all the fat off the skin of a deer. They rubbed pieces of wood together to make fire. They found Bronze and traded with it. They would not waste water to put out a fire. They made their houses from sticks. They knew if mushrooms were poisonous. They lit a fire to keep wolves away. They used a woollen loom to make their clothes. They buried important people in tombs. (Devon Hunter)

At first I thought the Stone Age was boring but after the workshop it actually is pretty interesting! I learnt that they used axes to cut down trees and we got to make a pretend axe. Flint was used to light a fire. We toasted bread that was made out of wheat. Stone Age people drew pictures on the walls but not even scientists could figure out what the pictures meant. They made clothes by weaving different materials together. I learnt a lot about the Stone Age. (Megan Stewart)

We learned that people used to make weapons out of flint stone and that people would make charcoal and draw pictures on cave walls. They used to put a fire out by smothering it with the soil that they dug when digging a pit for the fire. (Rosey Benson)

My favourite part of the day was dressing up. I got to make an axe using tape, paper, feathers, paint and ribbon. We got to make a fire outside. I found this part really interesting. I enjoyed learning about the Stone Age and my mum and dad liked listening to me telling them all about it.

(Kailey Francey)

At the Early Man workshop I learnt that cavemen used 9 different weapons for protection and hunting. I really liked the boar hunt game where you had to throw axes at the boar. I also liked the dress up point. It was quite fun because we got to dress up as cavemen and hold their weapons. At the wattle and daub game I had to twist the sticks around poles to make a wall. The axe making was fun. We got to dab our fingers in red paint and put it along the edge of the axe and pretend it was blood! I think the workshop was really exciting. I enjoyed it 100%.

(Thomas Irwin)

I learned that they made tools with their hands, they wore skin from all kinds of animals, they crushed seeds to make bread and they worked with different types of stones. (Nathan Houston)

We all dressed up as cavemen from the Stone Age. We also made our own bowls, we drew a diagram of weapons and we lit a fire outside school. In the Stone Age they made flour on a grinding stone, they used flint to make weapons and they made houses with their bare hands. Bronze was the most popular ore to trade with. (Lewis Calvert)



We really enjoyed the day.



Our Early Man Workshop.P.5. Room 9.



Making Wattle
and Daub
fences.



We got to throw a
cardboard axe at
the hairy mam-
moth!



We went "wild"
dressing up as Meso-
lithic people!



Look at our clay pots.



We all made an
Early Man axe,
scary!

What we learnt:

Ross- I didn't know that they put decorations, like feathers, onto their axes.

Rhyane-I found out they crushed wheat on a big Quorn stone and then made bread from it.

Harry I-I liked the dressing up, it was really fun. I used the bat to wallop Thomas!

Ellie- Making the axe was fun and creative. I pretended to hit Robbie with mine.

Adam-I never knew that the whole of Ireland was frozen over with ice during the ice-age.

Freddie- It was interesting to find out they made clothes from animal fur.

Evie- I liked finding out how they made their houses from sticks and covered them with cow poo and blood to make it hard and waterproof.

Harry S-I didn't know they made clay pots and we got to make them too.

Imogen- I loved learning about how they made their own clothes!

Grace-I liked dressing up in the different costumes.

Lacey-It was cool making the axes!

Diary Dates



April

28th - Year 4 visit Parliament Buildings as part of their Northern Ireland topic.

29th - Key Stage 2 pupils participate in a Michael Morpurgo 'Author Bash' day.

29th - Schools ends for a week's holiday. Dinners are being served and children leave at their normal times.

MAY

2nd - 6th - May Holiday Week!

9th - Welcome back to school!

10th - Y.7 Mrs Watson's class Victorian Experience at Sentry Hill from 9.15am to 2pm.

13th May - Y.7 Mrs Richmond's class Victorian Experience at Sentry Hill from 9.15am to 2pm.

16th May - Year 1 to Year 6 assessments begin!

19th - Year 5 Shared Education Science Fair and magical science show.

23rd - Nursery induction meeting for new parents at 1.15pm in the main hall. To facilitate this the nursery pupils will finish at 12.30pm.

24th - Year 1 induction meeting for new parents at 9.15am in the main hall.

30th - May bank holiday!

JUNE

3rd - School Summer Fair from 5pm to 7pm. School ends at 1pm/1.15pm and 1.30pm to allow for set up of the campus.

7th - Sports Day (weather permitting!)

13th to 17th - Half Price Book Fair

16th - Reports issued!

24th - Year 7 Leavers' Celebrations

Pastoral Care Team



Dear Parent,

As you are aware we have a very successful Pastoral Care Team. Due to a maternity and an illness, we have had to reorganise our team. This term our interim Pastoral Care Team will be as follows:

Team Leader: Mrs R Watson

Assistant Leader: Miss C Hasson (Nursery to Y.4)

Assistant Leader: Mr G Harris (Y.5 to Y.7)

While our team has changed our commitment to provide great care to our families remains the same.

Having your say!



Since February 2016 we have been working towards reviewing our school development plan for the forthcoming three years.

On Friday 29th April, Miss Blain will be joined by Deborah Baillie, the chairperson of the Board of Governors, to host parent groups.

The purpose of these parent 'focus groups' is to get your views on our schools' progress and future direction. All this information will help shape our plans for the next few years.

Please return your booking form and get involved. In September 2016 we will launch our next three year plan. Your contribution could make all the difference. So come along

Are you losing out on a free school uniform and school dinners?

Last year we lost around £20,000!
This year it could be even more!

A pupil is entitled to free school meals and a uniform grant if:

- the parent/guardian is in receipt of Income Support, Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance, or if a pupil claims Income Support in their own name; or,
- the parent/guardian is in receipt of Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit and has an annual taxable income of £16,190 or less; or,
- he/she has a statement of special educational needs and is designated to require a special diet; or
- the parent is in receipt of the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit; or
- he/she is the child of an asylum seeker supported by the Home Office National Asylum Support Service (NASS).

Some people do not apply. Even if you do not want meals you are losing out on £35.75 per child for uniforms.

In addition, the school also loses out on funding. We did a study of one year group and found that eight parents were not claiming free meals. Based on this survey, assuming this is typical of each year group, we are losing around £20,000 per year, which could be used very well in our school.

Please contact our school office or ring the Education Authority Meals and Uniforms office on 0282566 2571 for an application form if you are eligible.

Education cuts are looking to be very serious over the next three years. We need to get every penny of budget available to us. To miss out on over £20,000 of funding will have serious consequences for our school. Please apply!

Attendance & Punctuality



It is our aim to keep school attendance levels at 97% or above. With assessments continuing right up to the end of term we ask that you ensure your child attends school every day.

An attendance of 95% is seen as only 'satisfactory' on reports. It is important that we aim for high attendance and punctuality as they have strong links with high achievement.

If your child has attendance below 90% from aged 4 to 16 they will have missed more than a year of their education!

Punctuality is crucial. Many children who arrive late are missing valuable learning and teaching time. Make sure your child is in class for 9am so that they do not miss out.

Nut Free Zone



In school we have several children who will have a severe and life threatening reaction if exposed to nuts. We therefore are a nut free school and ask all parents to carefully check that breaks and lunches do not contain any nuts. Thank you for your support.

Blueprint 2020

September 2015/16 sees the third year of our dynamic six year school development strategy. This innovative and far ranging plan will bring our school to the next level in terms of learning and services to our community.

In this section we want to share some of our key strategic goals for the year ahead and then focus in on a few of the key innovations. Over the next year we will regularly report on what has been achieved and the new projects that we develop.

Strategic Leadership

- Introduce 'A Catalyst of Change'. This is a 3 year Shared Education Project which aims to foster outdoor learning, S.T.E.M and community partnership.
- Create a new school development plan for 2016 - 2019.

Learning & Teaching

- Develop the way we teach and learn phonics, spelling and handwriting.
- Continue to enhance pupils' achievements in mathematics.
- Use our iPads, laptops and computers more effectively to support learning.
- In the Nursery encourage better use of our campus to enrich pupils' learning.

Ethos

- Put our 3 year Wellbeing Plan into practice.
- Encourage the work of our School Council as we work towards a Green Flag.

April Update

- Probably the most fundamental achievement was our completion of **leadership training for all our curricular leaders**. We have an excellent team of coordinators and we have been working hard to be as productive and efficient as possible.
- Our Key Stage 2 teachers also developed their knowledge of **reciprocal reading**. This is a reading teaching strategy that helps to enhance pupils' comprehension and teamwork skills.
- We are also developing our '**Author Bashes**' in Key Stage 2. It is our intention that each term all our Year 5 to 7 pupils will study an author and then participate in a house competition table quiz. This month we have planned a Michael Morpurgo table quiz on Friday 29th April.
- The curricular teams have been studying pupils' and parental feedback to help draw up our next **School Development Plan for 2016 to 2019**.