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No: 7

School Newsletter

March 2017

Thank you to all parents who have attended or booked an appointment for parents' evening. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to look at your child's books before the appointment. This change was made as a result of your feedback to us.

If you have not been able to attend, we welcome you to contact the office or class teacher to arrange an alternative meeting.

Thank you to those parents who have already completed the parent questionnaires. Your feedback is very much valued. Some of you have had questionnaires sent to you and we would very much like to hear what you think.

Author Visits for World Book Day

On Friday 10th March 2017, we were lucky enough to have the author Gareth P. Jones and the illustrator Garry Parsons visit the school for the day to inspire us with their creative writing ideas.

The day started with a whole school assembly where Garry Parsons wowed us with his ability to draw anything – we set him the hardest challenges possible and he drew some fantastic cartoons for us to keep in school. Gareth Jones also showed us that he is a very talented man, by singing songs, telling jokes and playing the guitar and piano for us. He was very good at making up theme tunes for characters that we had developed.



They both then spent time signing copies of their many books and talking to us about their inspirations for their writing. Gareth wrote lots of funny comments in the books that he signed and Garry drew lots of cartoons for us in our books.

Finally, each class had a workshop with one of our visitors. Garry worked with Years 3 and 4, teaching us how to draw cartoons and getting us to design our own characters. Gareth worked with Years 5 and 6, setting us challenges to work out 'who dunnit?' in a mystery and planning our own stories in his style.

We are very grateful to both men for coming into school to inspire us to do more reading and to begin writing our own stories. Their enthusiasm and energy throughout the day was infectious and we all really enjoyed both the assemblies and their workshops.



If you didn't get a chance to purchase one of their books, have a look out for signed copies of them in your class library!



Super S.T.E.M Project

Over the last half term a group of children from years 4, 5 and 6 have been working on a S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) project in conjunction with Wildern school. During the project the children designed inventions to help solve everyday problems. Designs included: an I-Pad organiser, a nightlight and built in book stand, a 'find me' GPS disk, a used gum container and glasses with wipers. All groups presented to a room full of parents and science teachers. The judging panel comprised of members of Wildern staff and Steve Dorney from Southampton University. In an e-mail he said: "*That was a wonderful set of presentations, all of which were grounded in neat, realisable ideas. If you could pass on our thanks to school, parents and pupils for their commitment! We have a semi-permanent anxiety in engineering/science Universities that the next generation may not want to follow STEM pathways so it's fantastically reassuring to be invited to amazing events like last night and to be reminded of young people's creative spark.*"

Congratulations to all of the pupils who took part their designs were amazing! However special mention needs to go to Jack, Ellesse and Euan in Year 4 who won. The winning group will be presenting their design, a rotary washing line with inbuilt sensor umbrella, at the Southampton university Science Fair on Saturday. We wish them the very best of luck!



Red Nose Day!

On Friday 24th it is Red Nose Day. The school council would like to invite you to support this charity by dressing as you please on this day. You may wish to wear red from head-to-toe or accessorise your outfit with a red nose or red glasses. A donation of £1 will be collected in during registration.

Mothers Day Secret Shopping



With Mothers Day fast approaching the FJSA (Freegrounds Junior School Assosiation) will be holding two shopping afternoons for children to purchase gifts for their mum or step-mum. Children will be limited to 2 gifts only and each pre-wrapped gift will cost £3.50. If children wish to buy something for Mothers Day they will need to bring money in on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd March and they will be called out of class in the afternoon to make their purchases. A carrier bag may be advisable.

Year 5 Educational Visit

Last week, Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Southampton Art Gallery. In preparation for the trip the children used their geography skills to explore what Southampton was like using maps and photos. They then generated field work questions to investigate while they were in Southampton. Upon arrival all the children made careful observations about the area as well sketching what they could see.



Once inside the gallery, the children had a very interesting and informative guided tour of ten paintings depicting the Perseus greek myth by Edward Burne-Jones. The children also created their own wire sculpture of a winged sandal worn by Perseus as well as enjoying some time to explore the other wonderful pieces of art in the gallery. Mrs Hawkins was particularly excited to see work by Lowry, Andy Goldsworth and Lucian Freud!

Empire Cake Sale

Thank you to all of Empire for baking and bringing in cakes last week. Through your generosity and the sale of the cakes we raised £65.85. This will be put towards fundraising for the new Playtrail.



DIARY DATES

Wednesday, 22nd March - Mother's Day shopping event
Thursday, 23rd March - Mother's Day shopping event
Wednesday, 29th March - School Disco - £2 on the door
Friday, 31st March - Last Multi sports after school club

Monday, 3rd April - Last Chelsea football after school club
Wednesday, 5th April - Last Day of Term for children
Thursday, 6th April - Inset Day
Friday, 7th April - Inset Day



Thursday, 6th April - Sunday, 23rd April - Easter Holidays for children

The school website www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk
has a link to the calendar on the front page



Pippins out of school club

For all bookings and enquiries please call Michelle Brightwell on 07926433130
or email at m.brightwell@freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk

Registration and Booking forms are also available on the Freegrounds Junior School website
under the Pippins tab. www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk

Health & Safety

Please can we ask that young children are supervised by parents/carers on the playground at the end of the day whilst waiting for the children to come out of school?

Children should not be riding bicycles / scooters or playing in the trees and we do ask that they wait in the lower half of the playground.

School Lane

We have noticed an increasing amount of traffic coming along School Lane at the start and the end of the day and we are reminding parents that for the safety of our children this road should not be used for dropping off and picking up. We have notified our local P.C.S.O. team and requested that they patrol School Lane over the next few weeks.

There is a secure handle system on the school gates for the safety of our children. The school gates are locked between 8.40am until 9am and from 3.10pm until 3.40pm each day as children arrive and leave the school grounds. At all other times during the school day the gates must remain closed. Please do not use School Lane or enter through the gates by car before, during or after the school day.