

## SPRING NEWSLETTER

1<sup>st</sup> April 2010

Dear Parents,

Another term comes to an end and we can reflect on all the things that have taken place in the last few weeks. Starting of course with the completion of the resurfacing of the playground. After 4 years waiting for the work to start and the estimated 4 or 5 weeks' work which ran into 17 weeks we at last have a safe surface for the children. Those of you who have seen it will agree that there has been considerable fundamental work undertaken to ensure that drainage and space is greatly improved. Sadly we had to lose those beautiful trees which were unfortunately sucking out too much moisture. Whilst we plan to replace them, rather further away to discourage future problems, we also now have good space to install some adventure equipment.

Unfortunately the climbing frame we had could only be used by a few children at a time (and only Key Stage 1) as well as needing focused adult supervision in order to comply with Health and Safety regulations. The Friends of School had funded its original installation, so the FOS decided to sell it and achieved a handsome price of £300 and a pig!!! They plan to put the money towards the adventure equipment which will be able to be used by all the children and in far greater numbers. As for the pig .....they are planning a Pig Roast BBQ in the summer. More news to follow!

The themed week this year focused on "Classical Literature". The children thoroughly enjoyed abandoning the usual timetable and curriculum, for all their activities linked to the books they were studying. There was so much creative artwork, poetry, model making etc inspired by the books it resulted in a most impressive Sharing Assembly where the different classes showed off and enlightened the rest of the school. Year 3 looked particularly menacing in their pirate get ups as the motley crew from Treasure Island. The children were also spellbound by the M&M theatre group's performance of Oliver Twist.

I hope you have all visited the VLE site. So far we have had some very positive feedback from both children and parents. We will be "growing" the site slowly and surely and appreciate the encouragement we have received.

On the sport front Newton Longville continues to have lots of successes. The Year 5/6 team of dancers won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Dance Competition at Cottesloe School and are now into the Aylesbury Vale finals to be held in May. The intrepid cross country runners braved the usual inclement weather running at Wing, again gaining some very impressive places resulting in medals. Excellent representation and success was also achieved by Year 4 at Quick Sticks hockey, Year 1 and 2 at Athletics and today Year 5 are competing in a Badminton tournament.

The four JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers) from Years 5 and 6 won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in a Bucks County competition to name a Road Safety Mascot. They came up with ALLF which stands for Always Look L ---- First. They have won a visit to a Fire Station for themselves and tickets for 45 children to visit the County Museum and participate in a workshop. Watch out for the press release which will follow a session with photographer and journalist as soon as we return after the Easter break.

Congratulations to Mrs Stone who is currently in France. She was selected as a member of a Buckinghamshire group of teachers who are leading the teaching of French in primary schools. She has enjoyed a week of intensive French classes (including homework) in Montpellier and is now completing a week teaching in a French school. The course and visit, including all expenses, has been fully funded by the British Council.

Our School Council are being very proactive in ideas. Their Toy Fair raised £306 of which half is on its way to Kanlungan in the Philippines. This year we have been asked if we would be happy for the money to be spent on buying some clothes for the children. These street children only have what they stand up in, no change of clothing and often no underwear. Whilst £153 may seem very little to us, in Manila it will be able to make some considerable purchase. The group from St. Mary's which is going out over Easter to help the Project will be bringing back pictures of the mattresses that were purchased with the money the School Council raised last year.

The School Council has also organised a Blue Bag collection and they will be sending out the bags to you on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April for return to school and collection on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Again this is a way of raising some more funds. Please save all the fruits of your Easter sort outs to pop into the bags. The children on the School Council will be delighted to have your support.

Talking of fund raising many of you will be aware that the first 50/50 Club prize of £51 was won by Mr Tony Hardy. There will be a further draw at the end of April. We have already had more members join, so hopefully there will be an even greater prize pot. If you wish to join the club then there is still time. As well as a chance of winnings the other 50% of monies raised goes towards the School Fund which is used to enrich experiences for the children.

The Resources Group continue to make amazing things for our children, from hobby horses for Foundation, to banners to use at tournaments, to cushions for reading corners, as well as curriculum resources. If there are any more crafty arty parents who would be willing to contribute time or materials this would be very much appreciated.

Finally, may I remind you that, we have a post box just outside the office. All your letters are taken from there first thing in the morning by Mrs Pearce or Mrs Maiberger. Leaving them on the desk in the office is far riskier as they can get covered and only re-emerge much later. Also we need to honour the voluntary one way system for cars, and please please park sensibly. We now have neighbours ringing the police with complaints about the lack of consideration to their drive entrances, parking on pavements etc.

I end with wishes of a happy holiday over Easter,

Yours sincerely,  
Krys Kuzminska

**STOP PRESS** - Our Year 5 Badminton Team won - and by a considerable margin! Congratulations to all and a big thank you to the parents that assisted with transport and those that came to support the children. And lastly but not leastly(!), thank you to Miss MacIlwaine and Mrs Fisher for taking the helm in Mrs Stone's absence.