

Headteacher Newsletter

April 2015



Welcome back to the first half of the Summer Term 2015. I am pleased to say that the children have continued to work hard and we have hosted some wonderful events for families which have been very well attended. In addition to this we have had visitors to the school as well as a residential visit for year 2 to Stibbington which they thoroughly enjoyed, more information is contained within this newsletter. Could I begin by saying that the school has agreed a target with Governors and the Local Authority of 97% attendance, currently we have a whole school percentage of 95.43 % therefore we ask that parents and pupils help us to achieve this target for 2014-15. This month we are proud of the children for taking part in many sports events including Gymnastics regional first place for team as well as cross country 7th out of 94 and also the Barry Minto tournament was well played by the Netball and Football teams.

This month we would like to announce purple light treats for all pupils at the end of term for all pupils who get their parents to write in their school learning journal about their views on what they have learned at school and also what they have been doing at home. Once again the class parent representatives meetings have been very successful and we have used your wonderful ideas and suggestions to take the school further forward. Your class representative will be sending you another update letter this month and also an impact report on the work of parents within the school. These meetings are one of the best forums for school development and I am really enjoying working with parents as are the senior leaders and teachers please keep talking to your class representatives so we can keep moving this outstanding school forward with all of your views and suggestions. We are a kind, thoughtful school which prides itself on relentless hard work and commitment to the children who remain at the heart of everything we do. We try hard to include parents fully in all aspects of their child's education and also within the life of the school. If you think we could do anything better or have any suggestions please tell us as we will endeavour to listen and use as many as possible.

Parents Evenings were well attended and we had some wonderful feedback from parents in the comments. I have included some here " Thank you for all the extra work and effort the staff put in to the school my child loves coming to school" and "The music provision is amazing" and "Thank you for all the extra things you do outside of the school day such as clubs, residential trips and visits and all of the sports and arts events" and " The staff no matter are always happy and take time to speak to children and parents my child loves the big hugs and chats with Mrs Martin"

We hosted our evenings for parents for the Aylmerton residential visit in the Summer Term which the children will take part in this term. The Reception children enjoyed a wonderful visit to Ferry Meadows which we have put onto the photo stream on the website front page for you to view. In addition to this the children in Year 5 took part in the big sing at the Broadway theatre. The Year 2 Mothers Day assembly was well attended and the parents commented on the hard work, songs, performance, artwork and gifts from the children. Pictures from this are in the Gallery on the website and in the photo stream. The Red Nose Day events took place and we are proud to say we raised £589.60 for this very worthwhile charity. The Health Promoting school committee held an Easter Bingo which was very well attended and enjoyed by families.

The school has continued to attend more building meetings to finalise the building plans. Unfortunately parents and residents will no longer be permitted to park in the school due to health and safety and lack of staff parking.

The school council enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Education Show where they spent a day looking at current practice and resources as well as selecting a few ideas to bring back to school. They will be hosting an assembly to show what they have found interesting during their visit.

The Community Cadets took part in a fantastic community event and local clean up and litter pick with our Local Councillor Marco S and our PCSO Umar

During the last week of term pupils took their music exams with the Associated Board of Music Grade 3 exams in piano and they were accredited with the highest grade 'Distinction'. Please see news feed for more information.

Easter school for year 6 pupils was well attended and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and also enjoyed a picnic lunch with the staff. Thank you to parents and pupils for supporting this event.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS

- The school achieved the Arts Mark Gold award
- Senior Leaders spoke at a National Conference on outstanding schools in Suffolk
- School Council visited the Education Show
- Pupils achieved distinction in music examinations with the Royal School of Music
- Pupils took part in a range of visits both local, regional and also residential
- Mothers Day assembly please see photo stream on website
- Reception visit to Ferry Meadows please see photo stream on website
- Easter Egg Competition please see pictures on website

EASTER EGG COMPETITION

We were pleased to hold a special Easter Egg competition this month. "Wow the entries were amazing and it took Judges most of the day to look at the eggs and decide the winners and runners up." Well done to all pupils for taking part and especially well done to those winning eggs.



APRIL UPDATE THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

This half term we will be doing our fifth set of observations of teaching and learning by the Headteachers and Senior Leadership Team as part of these observations parents will receive a small graded letter which will evidence their children's contribution to the letter and any actions if needed that parents can support us with. This term we will be producing an end of year report if you would like to add any comments to how you would like this to look please use the form on the back of this newsletter to put forward your ideas and I will endeavour to use as many as possible.

We have a huge amount organised already for the rest of this term. We are beginning work with new parents for the Reception classes next year with many tours already taken place or planned and early this term parents will be told their allocated school during next half term we will have home visits, sessions in school and parents meetings. More information will follow.

We will be hosting an evening for Parents for pupils in Year 5 who will be going to London on the residential visit this term to explain the itinerary and other important organisational information.

We will meet with the Parent Representatives on 17th April which I am looking forward to. In addition to this we have a wonderful visit planned for Year 1 to Duxford.

Year 3 will be going on their residential visit to Aylmerton in the week beginning April 20th which they are all really excited about and they have the opportunity to take part in outdoor pursuits and team games as well as studying a contrasting beach locality which includes observing seals in their real life habitat.

Year 2 have an amazing visit from the Raptor foundation to inspire their work on Wildlife where they see a variety of Birds of Prey as well as learn more about their topic on life cycles and nocturnal animals.

We will be celebrating St George's Day by spending time looking at British Values and many different activities will be planned by the teachers for pupils to take part in which should deepen their understanding. Please see the website for our policies and links to British Values.

Year 4 will take part in a Tri Golf event on the 27th April which the pupils have loved in the past and will all need to have their PE kits in school. In addition on this day we will have a special assembly from the first response team about their work.

The local police will be supporting the school with a special assembly about school rules and the law beyond the school which is to promote further our work on behaviour and conduct within and beyond the school.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

We are currently up to date with all the pupils achievements from the March newsletter.

PUNCTUAL ATTENDANCE

We are currently up to date with all the pupils details from the



Photographs taken by Oliver's Photography—A parent at our school

INSIDE STORY— FOOD FOR LIFE

The FFLP (Food for life partnership) has been commissioned by the public health team at Peterborough City Council as part of their Healthy Schools Programme to encourage schools to develop a positive food culture and help them to achieve an award which we as a school will work hard on to achieve.

Ofsted have confirmed that it is now their intention to include school food in the new inspection framework and will be tasked with also making a judgement about the quality of the food the school produces...which we already know is outstanding thanks to Mrs Green and her wonderful catering team who work incredibly hard to cook a variety of fresh and wonderful meals daily. We have had some wonderful feedback about the quality of the meals and range, the pupils and parents love the new cold milk and extension of desserts. We will be inviting parents by class to have a school lunch with their child and teacher during this term and more information will follow.

We have a wonderful link for you to have a look at work that has taken place in this area and if you would like to be a part of gaining this award you might like to take part in the Healthy School Committee please see Mrs Afford or the School Office Staff for more information.

For inspiration please visit the link provided here:

www.foodforlife.org.uk/what-is-food-for-life/case-studies

Also there is a free cooking app you can download (Cook school app which has recipes linked by age, seasons, skill and ingredients as well as providing you with useful skills such as using knives safely.)

[Www.focusonfoodcookschoo.co.uk](http://www.focusonfoodcookschoo.co.uk)



BIRTHDAYS

Sian A, Sophie A, Michal B,

Jeydon B, Keeley B, Alicia B, Edward B, Daniel B, Emilia B, Rebekah K, Ryan C, Benjamin C, Maddison C, Dasher D, Morgan D, Grace D, Harry G, Ashleen H, Chelsea L, Levi M, Willow M, Enija M, Lewis M, Alessia M, Jack O, Su S, Tegan S, Lucas S-R, Kirtsen S, Linnie S, Konrad S, Owain S, Caitlin T, Fatou T, Charlie U, Tyler V, Joe W, George W, Riley W, Martyna W

Mathletics Winners

Shyla J

Faith E

House Winners

KS1 Robins

KS2 Canaries



Easter Egg Competition Best Ever !

Pupils and families produced decorated eggs of the highest quality the school has ever seen and judging this year was very hard for Governors and Staff . Well done to prize winners :) Here are some pictures with many more on the website photo stream.



The Easter Bunny visits the School

We were very fortunate this year that the Easter Bunny was able to visit the school and leave eggs hidden for the children to find with prizes and chocolate for pupils . They thoroughly enjoyed the day and here are a few pictures of the event. For more see the school photo-stream



AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS BENNETT SENIOR ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER

Mrs Bennett joined the school 15 years ago as prior to this she had been teaching for over 25 years in this country and also in Cyprus.

Mrs Bennett leads work on Pastoral and Special Educational Needs specifically speech and language of which she is a specialist as well as overseeing the day to day organisation of teaching and learning alongside Mrs Martin with a particular specialism in KS1 and EYFS.

An Interview with Mrs Bennett

What is your favourite thing about Southfields Primary School ?

The emphasis on the children and the motto one big happy family and the way everyone helps each other.

What was your favourite subject at school ?
Art and English

What are your interests and hobbies outside of school ? Reading in the bath, walking the dog.

What is your favourite dinner ? Anything with Seafood and I love 'Moules et Frites'

What was your favourite toy when you were little? A teddy bear which I gave away to a jumble sale, he growled. I am sad I gave that away now...moral of the story never give away your favourite toy no matter how old you are.

Do you have any children ? Two, a boy and a girl both grown up

Do you have any brothers and sisters? Yes a twin sister and an older sister too .

MORE TO FIND OUT ABOUT MRS BENNETT

My favourite colour is blue ironically as the school colour is blue too. My Star sign is Libra and my favourite season Autumn because of the colours and leaves.

I think the best feeling in the world is a hug. My favourite book when I was little was 'The Famous Five' and 'The secret seven' I wanted to be George (We have these books in school if you want to read her favourite books.)

I used to love to watch Bill and Ben the Flowerpot Men on TV when I was little and I loved the film Wizard of Oz as it has good memories for me.

The first record was a 78 vinyl which was called 'Woody Woody Pecker' that you had to manually wind up which we used to do to change the speed it went and my twin sister and I used to giggle as we did this . As I grew into a teenager I loved Ride a White Swan by Mark Bolan. And also Fleetwood Mac—Albatros

Animal—Tiger

Scared of—Heights

Heritage—British

Allergy—Penicillin



ST GEORGES DAY

St George's Day in England remembers St George, England's patron saint. The anniversary of his death, which is on April 23, is seen as England's national day. According to legend, he was a soldier in the Roman army who killed a dragon and saved a princess.

St George was born sometime around the year 280 in what is now Turkey. He was a soldier and rose up through the ranks of the Roman army, eventually becoming a personal guard to the Emperor Diocletian. He was executed for being a Christian on April 23, 303, and is buried in the town of Lod in Israel.

St George is most widely known for slaying a dragon. According to legend, the only well in the town of Silene was guarded by a dragon. In order to get water, the inhabitants of the town had to offer a human sacrifice every day to the dragon. The person to be sacrificed was chosen by lots. On the day that St George was visiting, a princess had been selected to be sacrificed. However, he killed the dragon, saved the princess and gave the people of Silene access to water. In gratitude, they converted to Christianity. It is thought that the dragon represents a certain type of pagan belief that included the sacrifice of human beings.

St George's Day was once celebrated as widely as Christmas. But the celebrations waned by the end of the 18th century after England had united with Scotland on May 1, 1707. In recent times, there has been a push, involving campaigns and petitions, to make the day a public holiday in England.

Watch a short Film about St George and the Dragon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUFSW6jBN9s&safe=active>

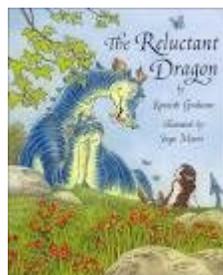


Saint George travelled to Libya. When he arrived there he found it had a large pond, almost as big as a lake, where a ferocious dragon lived. The dragon was terrorising the country and, every day, the people had been feeding the dragon a sheep to appease it.

When the sheep had all gone, the dragon had demanded that the people sacrifice a young maiden to him each day. Saint George found that all the young girls had now been killed and only the King of Egypt's daughter was left. Unless a knight could be found to slay the dragon, the princess would be sacrificed the next day.

The King of Egypt had promised his daughter's hand in marriage to the knight who could overcome the terrible dragon. Saint George was determined to save the princess, and the next day he rode out to the lake. When he arrived, he found the princess there, waiting to be fed to the dragon. Saint George sent her home to the palace and approached the dragon's cave. When the dragon heard Saint George's horse approaching, he came out of his cave and reared at him. The dragon was huge and its roar sounded like thunder, but Saint George was not afraid. He struck the monster with his spear, but the dragon's scales were so hard that the spear simply broke into pieces.

Saint George fell from his horse but did not give up. Instead, he rushed at the dragon and used his sword to slay it under its wing where there were no scales. The dragon fell dead at Saint George's feet.



SCHOLASTIC

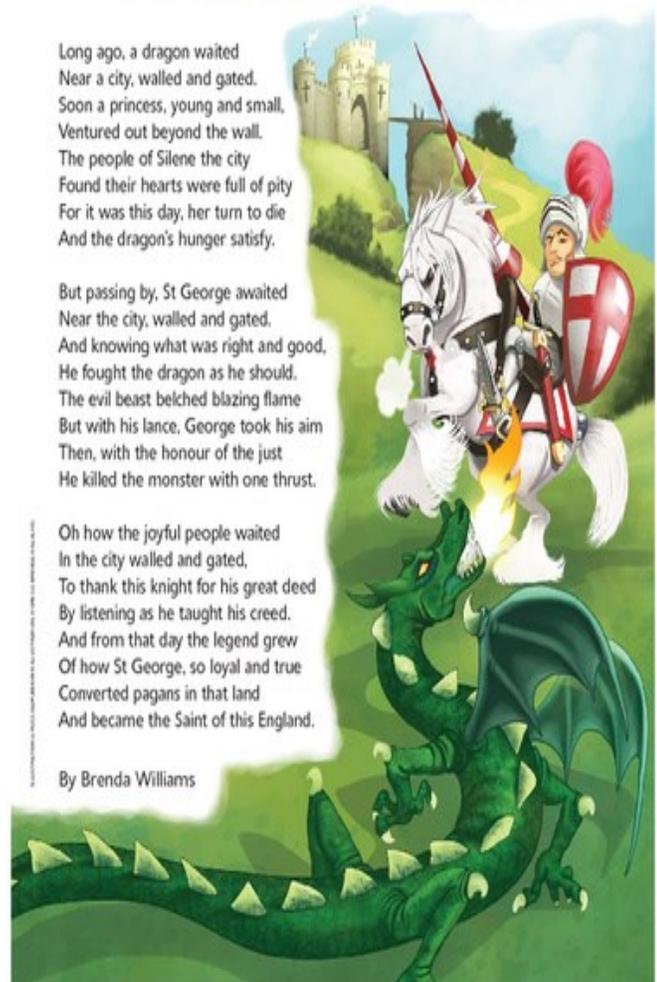
The Legend of St George

Long ago, a dragon waited
Near a city, walled and gated.
Soon a princess, young and small,
Ventured out beyond the wall.
The people of Silene the city
Found their hearts were full of pity
For it was this day, her turn to die
And the dragon's hunger satisfy.

But passing by, St George awaited
Near the city, walled and gated,
And knowing what was right and good,
He fought the dragon as he should.
The evil beast belched blazing flame
But with his lance, George took his aim
Then, with the honour of the just
He killed the monster with one thrust.

Oh how the joyful people waited
In the city walled and gated,
To thank this knight for his great deed
By listening as he taught his creed.
And from that day the legend grew
Of how St George, so loyal and true
Converted pagans in that land
And became the Saint of this England.

By Brenda Williams



PHOTOCOPIABLE 1

www.scholastic.co.uk/juniorexplore

ATPL 2014

Junior

PARENT BOX FOR COMMENTS TO THE HEAD

KS2 data Year 6 compared to National for 2014

Pink= School

GHASP

Level 4 91% Level 5 82 %
Level 6 4 % (School with Mena removed)

Reading

Level 4 96 % Level 5 69%
(School with Mena removed)

Writing

Level 4 93% Level 5 36 %
(School with Mena removed)

Mathematics

Level 4 96% Level 5 44 %
Level 6 18 % (School with Mena removed)

KS1 Year 2 school and Raise 2014 – Unvalidated

Reading L1 100% L2c+ 89%
L2b+ 84% L2a+65 L3 40%

Writing L1 96%
L2c+ 87% L2b+ 76%
L2a+49 L3 37% (27%)

Mathematics L1 100% L2+ 98%
L2b 85% L2a+60 L3 40%

Year 1 Phonics (School calculated and Raise 2014)

75 % school compared to 74% National

Please add your comments here for the Headteacher or if your comments are private please return in an envelop marked 'Headteacher comment return' These are essential if we are to remain outstanding if you feel we could do anything better or have any ideas then please write to me. Also if you love something or have enjoyed something please tell us so we keep doing it :)