



Newsletter

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Issue No 9 / 2013-14 Friday 14 February 2014

Acting Head of Dame Bradbury's - news from the Prep

Dear Parents

There is never a quiet time at Dame Bradbury's and the last two weeks have been no exception!

First, we are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Head, Mrs Tracy Handford, who will be joining us in January 2015 from St Hilda's Prep School for Girls, Hertfordshire. Mrs Handford will become a regular visitor to the school before she takes up her post, and is looking forward to working with every member of the community here at Dame B's. Your first opportunity to formally meet her will be on Tuesday 25 February, when we hope to see as many of you as possible; please do remember to reply to Miss Hitchcock if you would like to come.

Collaboration is a key theme of life at Dame Bradbury's and this was very much in evidence last Monday when all of our Year 5 and 6 pupils worked together with the pupils from the Stephen Perse Junior School in Cambridge. Year 6 spent the day as evacuees, with the Cambridge pupils being evacuated out of the city to the country. They all arrived here with luggage labels around their necks and ration books in hand. The day was spent listening to the sober declaration of war from Chamberlain, after which the children enjoyed making wartime toys, singing some of the traditional songs, climbing into the Anderson shelter and taking part in some strict 1940s-style PE.



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Meanwhile our Year 5 pupils were busy at the Junior School in Cambridge where they were investigating Tudor Ships and voyages. Their day started with an auction, where children needed to bid for key items that they wanted to take on their voyage. This involved making strategic decisions about how best to spend their money – some were more fortunate than others! Further humanities skills were introduced through the 'human photocopier' where children needed to reproduce ancient maps to use on their travels.



Both days were incredibly valuable learning experiences and we are looking forward to seeing what our Year 3 and 4 pupils produce later this month when it is their turn to get involved. Encouraging pupils to work together is something that happens on a daily basis in lessons too. Pupils frequently pool their ideas and their thinking and this enables them to make outstanding progress. For example, our Year 6 children have been collaborating on how to make conversion charts in Maths.



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Collaboration happens across all areas of the curriculum here at Dame B's. Another example comes from our Year 5 and 6 Science team who secured a place in the National Finals of the National Quiz Club Science Competition for Independent Schools. Earlier this week, the team travelled with Mrs Bullen-Smith through the floods to the Didcot in Oxfordshire. Here they faced very tough competition and extremely tricky questions, such as "What gas filled the ill-fated Hindenburg Airship in 1937?" (hydrogen). They each had a keypad on which to register their answers and so needed to collaborate when they were unsure and employ tactical voting. They did very well and managed to finish 10th nationally out of the 380 teams who entered. Our congratulations go to Mrs Bullen-Smith and her team: Adam, Georgia, Lily and Tilly.



I always think that one of the joys of playing a musical instrument is the joy of playing with others and this was especially obvious from our Gifted and Talented Music Day. Children from a wide range of local state and independent schools joined some of our Orchestra members for a day of collaborative work. They tackled pieces such as 'Pirates of the Caribbean' and 'The James Bond' theme tune, as well as performing 'A Young person's guide to the Orchestra' in a fabulous concert at the end of the day. Mr Jones, our Head of Music, said that he was very impressed with the efforts of the children, who worked together in an exemplary manner. A number of children wrote to Mr Jones to thank him after the event and one of them said, "I had so much fun playing together with other people from different schools."



Collaboration does not always have to happen on a grand scale and we are delighted when our children take the initiative to help others. Several members of our school community have recently been fund-raising for charities of their choice. Kate Wardley and Clara Middleton held a book and cake sale in Saffron Walden to support the charity 'Changing Faces' and together, the girls managed to raise just under £27. As I write, Isobel Duncan is holding a cake sale to support 'Jimmy's Night Shelter' - a lovely treat for Valentine's Day!

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The whole school have been collaborating to support "Switch off fortnight." This is an initiative introduced by Miss Terry to encourage all of our children to be more energy aware. The corridors have been a little darker, as children have been diligently turning the lights off in a bid to save electricity. I do hope you have been able to support your children with this at home too.



Collaboration at House Assemblies this week and members of the Switch Off Fortnight Team!



The Theatre became a Greek marketplace, a banqueting hall, a temple for Athena and an Ancient Greek healing centre when Year 3 enjoyed Greek Day last week. The children spent the day bringing many aspects of Ancient Greek life alive through hands-on learning - creating a wax tablet, carving a masterpiece (they used soap, but it looks very like marble!), extracting oil from olives and finding out which herbs are used for a number of remedies. Their collaborative learning on the day was tremendous and Mrs West said, "The children needed to co-operate and communicate to create Greek tragedies and myths in a very short time. This culminated in a Greek festival with the children performing for one another. Their enthusiasm and absorption in their learning was tangible." Well done Year 3!



I do hope you and your children have a relaxing half term break – do keep reading and encouraging your children in the "Read for My School" competition.

With my best wishes

Debs White
Acting Head



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Peter Pan, Snow White and Jack and the (celery) Beanstalk were just some of the many characters seen in School this week when Reception and Nursery spent the day dressed as their favourite story characters as part of their 'once upon a time' topic. Mrs Pluck said, "The Early Years children had a wonderful day when everyone, including the staff, dressed up and had a fabulous parade in the Theatre. The fairytale and nursery rhyme quiz was a huge success; the children had clearly remembered the stories and rhymes very well. All the children helped to create a giant beanstalk back in the Reception classrooms afterwards. The Recepton children are enjoying the last few days of the topic and are completing their five rhyme challenge. We are all looking forward to our next topic, 'To Infinity and Beyond!'"



Year 2 have spent the last two weeks working on the RSPB Big Bird Watch Project. They have been learning about different British garden birds, their habitats and how to identify them. iPad research, chalk and clay artwork and a variety of practical tasks helped the children to build a better understanding of the birds that they would be spotting. Many of the pupils chose to further their learning by taking a tally survey of the birds in their own gardens. The activities culminated in a fantastic visit to Bridge End Gardens with Mrs Bicknell and the head gardener, Mark Ropner. The children learnt to use binoculars and spent time observing areas with bird feeders. Birds spotted included robins, mistle thrushes, coal tits and blackbirds.



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Year 1 have been very busy in the last couple of weeks! During their Maths sessions, they have worked collaboratively using the iPads.



They have tried to reduce the energy used in School by switching off lights and closing doors and have enjoyed the responsibility of being an energy monitor during Switch Off Fortnight. They have also focused on the weather in contrasting climates and how the weather affects the choices we make and the clothes we choose to wear. The children have enjoyed sorting a wide range of clothing items into suitcases bound for different holiday destinations - the children used a new app to design their own collage for each destination.



In Geography, the children have been learning about the weather in contrasting climates and they have focused on Ghana in West Africa. they created their own Adinkra symbols and then printed on fabric to make simple cotton outfits.



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Years 1 and 2 have exciting collaborative events planned with the children from the Stephen Perse Pre-prep during our Festival of Learning week after half term. On Monday 3 March, James Mayhew (children's author and illustrator) is coming to visit Year 2 and on Tuesday 4 March, Year 1 pupils will take part in a Puppet Show and Theatre Workshop. During the same week, Reception will be visiting the library at the Pre-prep in Cambridge: we are very much looking forward to seeing the plans for our own new library later this term.

iPad apps

iPad apps of the week have been 'Puppet Pals' and 'Explain Everything'. Year 2 created their own presentations about British garden birds on Explain Everything and Reception and Year 1 have been retelling familiar stories with Puppet Pals - do ask your children to explain to you how they work. We will let you know the key apps that we are using at School, as many of the pupils enjoy sharing these at home.

The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Play rehearsals have begun and we will be sending home lines to learn over half term - we would really appreciate it if you could help the children to rehearse their lines at home. We would also be very grateful for help from parents with costumes. If you would like to help, please email me on lorna.stranger@damebradburys.com. I am planning to hold a costume meeting on Wednesday 26 February at 9am in the Library, so please do come along to find out more.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very enjoyable half-term break.

Best wishes

Lorna Stranger
Head of Pre-prep



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Sports Notices

Football

Dame B's U11 A team v King's Ely: lost 1-5

"In a game where Dame B's never gave up, they were beaten by a well organised King's Ely team who ran away with a comfortable 5-1 victory. MOM - Matthew Hayes for his ferocious tackling and never say die attitude in defence." Mr Evans

Dame B's U 11 B team v King's Ely: lost 1-3

"A tight game where both teams battled hard. MOM - Tom Parry for his boundless energy and willingness to get on and play the ball simply." Mr Evans

Dame B's U 11 C team v King's Ely: won 1-0

"A great game to watch where both sides battled hard until the end. Merlin Hancox slotted the winning goal for Dame B's resulting in a 1-0 victory. MOM - Darwin Crick, a fantastic performance in goal preventing King's from managing equalise." Mr Evans

Dame B's U11 D team v King's Ely: lost 2-4

"Another entertaining game for all involved. Isaac Baillie scored both Dame B's goals but MOM was Jacob Marks who was in inspired form between the posts. Without a number of excellent saves, the scoreline could have been very different." Mr Evans.

PTA Quiz Night - Friday 28 February

Tickets are selling fast, but there are still some remaining for the PTA Quiz Night on Friday 28 February at 7.30pm. Make up a team of six, or come along and make new friends on the night - it is always great fun! Tickets cost £10 and include a fish and chip supper (or vegetarian or chicken alternative). Tickets can be purchased from members of the PTA who will be in the Vestibule after half term from 8.15am.

Banana recipes please!

Mr Wright is on the look out for banana recipes to try out with the leftover bananas at School - please speak to him if you have a good recipe - he would love to hear from you!



An image from Form 5E's entertaining Valentine's Assembly this morning - 'Blind Date' was great fun!

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Diary Dates

- Mon 24 Feb Spring term resumes
Team photos - don't forget your kit!
- Tues 25 Feb 7.30am-5.00pm Year 6 to The Times
9.30-10.30am Big Gym - open event
- Weds 26 Feb 8.45am-3.00pm Year 1 to Ely Cathedral
9.30am-4.30pm USSP Hockey Tournament - U 11 A and B teams
9.45-11.45am U8 and U9 Tag Rugby Festival (Katherine Semar)
10.30-12.10 Year 2 Town Walk
2.30pm U11 A and B Netball v The Meadows (Home)
- Thurs 27 Feb Year 3 and 4 collaboration day with Stephen Perse Junior School
- Fri 28 Feb Bradbury House Charity Event
1.30-2.30pm Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst to visit Year 6
3.45-4.15pm U11 Hockey A team v Henham & Ugley (NFGS)
4.40-5.10pm U11 Hockey B team v Takeley (NFGS)
- Sat 1 Mar 11.00am-3.00pm U9 Rugby Tournament (Barnardiston Hall)
- Mon 3 Mar **Whole School Learning Festival Week**
8.40am Year 1 to Rowley Woods
9.00am Nursery Grandparents' Stay and Play
Visit from Freshwater Theatre to Nursery and Reception
Collaborative event - James Mayhew visit to Pre-prep
- Tues 4 Mar Collaborative event - Norwich Puppet Theatre visit to Years 1, 2 and 3
9.00am Nursery Grandparents' Stay and Play
- Weds 5 Mar 9.00am Nursery Grandparents' Stay and Play
9.00am-3.20pm StarDome visit
9.30am-12 noon School in Action Open Morning
2.30-4.30pm U11 A & B teams Netball v Friends' (A)
3.45-4.45pm U11 A & B teams Football v St Thomas More
- Thurs 6 Mar NO SWIMMING
World Book Day
9.00am Nursery Grandparents' Stay and Play
8.45-11.00am Microbiology workshop with The Wellcome Trust
9.00-10.30am Reception to Year 2 Grandparents: story-sharing

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- Fri 7 Mar** Collaborative event: UV Puppet Workshop
8.45am Year 5 Form Assembly
12 noon Teddy Bears' Picnic Lunch - Nursery to Year 2
1.30-2.30pm SOS Children's Villages workshop - Year 5
4.15-4.45pm U11 Hockey B team v Newport (NFGS)
5.35-6.00pm U11 Hockey B team v St Thomas More (NFGS)
- Sat 8 Mar** 9.30am-12.30pm Open Morning - whole School

Foundation newsletters

To view this week's newsletters from the other parts of the Foundation click on the images below:

6th Form newsletter



Junior School newsletter



Pre-prep newsletter



Senior School newsletter



Senior School newsletter

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