

LGJS
The Review
2013~2014



A Warm WELCOME



It has been a very busy 12 months since I started as Head of Leicester Grammar Junior School. My aim at the beginning of the year was to experience and observe all aspects of life at LGJS, getting to know the children, staff and parents. It has been great fun and I have witnessed so many fantastic things happening here. Visiting the classrooms, going with the children to the theatre and to see them on their residential trips, as well as running a lunchtime club has been revealing and rewarding. It has helped me to understand the amazing opportunities that the children have, and made me realise they are very lucky children to have their lives enriched with so many different experiences. Personal favourites include all of the children planting a tree in November, the cycle pursuit race on Sports' Day and the Infant String Concert in June. I now have completed the year, thank you to everyone, for helping me to settle so well. Having seen the year run full cycle, it is now time to look to see what we can tweak and adjust, to make the learning for the children even better. I look forward to the year ahead.

*Enjoy the Review!
Kind regards,
Cm Rigby*





School Community, School Council, Playground Pals, Junior Road Safety Officers and Year 6 Volunteers

Many children show their spirit of citizenship by putting themselves forward for voluntary positions in school. This year, our School Councillors were: Jacob Inchley, Riana Pathmanathan, Sophie Levy, Aryan Mavani, Henrietta Mingay, Shiven Arora, Clara Richards and Joshua Green.

School Council this year has been very busy, organising such fun-filled events as Onesie Wednesday, Red Nose Day, Sport Relief and Daffodil Yellow Day. They have

also acted upon suggestions from class mates which have resulted in the girls being allowed to wear ear covering headbands for sport in winter (and very smart they look, too!). Also, Mr Rennie kindly organised a girls' football club after a contingent of girls' approached School Council with the request.

At a grass roots level, we have the Playground Pals, a group of peer supporters who cheerfully keep an eye on other children at playtimes, helping out with friendship problems or loneliness. They help the teachers to make sure that everyone is happy at playtimes and are easily identifiable by their sunshine yellow badges.

This year, for the first time, we have introduced the role of Junior Road Safety Officer and Roshni Francis and Adam Liu did a great job, running a Road Safety Club for Years 3 and 4 – a lively bunch who enjoyed every minute!

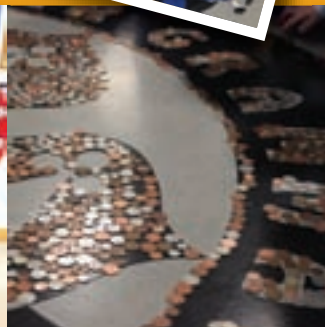
It is now a tradition in Leicester Grammar Junior School that Year 6 children are given the opportunity to volunteer their help to children and teachers in other year groups at break and lunch times. This is very successful and this comment from Mrs Williamson sums up one of her volunteers:

"Gabriel Samanta has been so polite and helpful over this year. During the class time he has supported some of my maths group and has encouraged them to try their hardest.

He has been wonderful."

Whether as a volunteer, School Councillor, Road Safety Officer or volunteer, every child in Year 6 has given generously of their free time, which makes us very proud.

Well done to all!





Clubs



Our extensive Extra Curricular Programme is literally bursting at the seams each term. We have a broad and balanced range of clubs available to all pupils.

Playground pals and road safety club have both been a big hit this year. Our science club is great fun with pupils doing experiments in the senior labs. There are Art and Craft Clubs for all year groups, sewing club, Eco Group, Gardening Club, Cooking Club, Christian Union, Maths Challenge, IT Club, a huge variety of Music Groups, Ballet, French Club, Mandarin Club and we even offer a Ukulele club! With the large demand for Girls Football, the PE Department introduced Junior Girls Football with coaches from Leicester City and now our girls are playing football every Monday. Water activities remains a popular club with water polo, synchronised swimming, relays, diving, and generally having fun in the pool.

The usual activities have continued throughout the year, including hockey, netball, rounders, rugby, football and cricket. We have over 60 pupils who attend the Cross Country Club and also enjoy orienteering. The Tennis Club continues to thrive, and we are really looking forward to developing our link with Leicestershire Lawn Tennis Club next year. Gymnastics continues to be popular, with over 150 pupils joining and taking part in the clubs over the year. Year 1 and 2 pupils enjoy taking part in multi sports clubs all year and play a variety of sports including hockey, cricket, tennis and fun team games.

There really is something for everyone at LGJS.

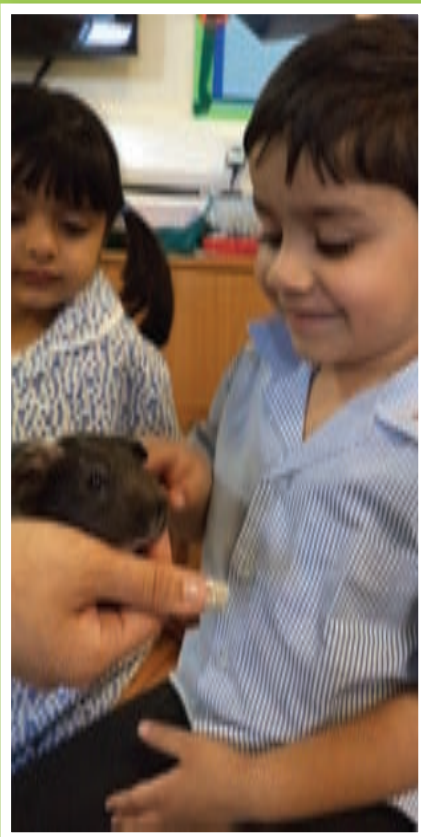


‘Playground Pals and Road Safety Club have both been big hits this year’



Kinders

‘Exploring
extensive
school
grounds’





Kinders have spent a happy year learning together and growing together through work and play. As always, Kinders have spent much of the year out and about exploring the extensive school grounds and even ventured as far afield as Beacon Hill, where many children had their first experience of pond dipping. One of the highlights for the children was catching a newt and being able to study it at close quarters. The success of the cycling programme in the junior department led to the purchase of some two-wheeled bikes for the Foundation Stage play area and Kinders have spent many happy hours learning to balance and pedal with surprisingly good results.

Forest School and Outdoor Adventures have continued to play an important part

in the Kinders curriculum. The children have enjoyed making mud pies, swishing through long grass, balancing on fallen trees and learning about seasonal change.

Throughout the year the children have hosted fundraising activities for MacMillan, starting with a very successful cake sale and coffee afternoon in September and culminating in a dress up and dance extravaganza in June. We also found time to don our Christmas jumpers and raise some money for the NSPCC along the way.

The children have adapted to school life extremely well and have gained much confidence during the year. They have come a long way since they first ventured onto the stage to sing in the Harvest Assembly. They have delighted parents by all taking part in the Foundation Stage Nativity at Christmas and finished the year

by singing and dancing in their farm themed class assembly.

Kinders have enjoyed listening to many visiting speakers this year, ranging from a Doctor who taught us how to apply bandages, a nurse who reminded us about the importance of healthy eating and hand hygiene, Pets at Home who brought some cuddly (and not so cuddly!) pets for us to care for and we think the Easter Bunny might have paid a visit too! Although not all of us saw the Easter Bunny, we found lots of eggs that he had dropped and one or two children saw him running across the school playing fields as he left the site.

It has been a fun filled, action packed year which has provided a firm foundation for the children to build on as they move into Reception.

Reception





Wow! What an exciting year Reception have had! When a giant egg was found in the foyer, Reception pupils proved highly imaginative in deciding what was going to hatch from it. Reception M then had some real chicken eggs...and later 8 fluffy baby chicks appeared!

We had a fun Mr Men day where we got very messy when we all visited each other's classes for our activities.

This year we have supported numerous charities by having a coffee and cake sale and recently held a dress up and dance day where we raised over £200!

We have enjoyed watching the forest change throughout the seasons as we

have visited our forest school site, taking part in a wide variety of woodland activities and crafts.

Everyone had a lovely day at Beacon Hill Country Park, with pond dipping, going on a bear hunt and looking for objects that you wouldn't normally find in the countryside within a beautiful labyrinth – there was even a crocodile!

Each class did a class assembly linked to a topic



we had been learning about. The children enjoyed them and performed brilliantly to the rest of the Infants and their parents.

We also took part in an art project, each child creating a woven CD to go on a giant tree which is situated outside Kinders.

The children are all looking forward to doing more exciting things in Year 1!



“This year we have supported numerous charities by having a coffee and cake sale and recently held a dress up and dance day where we raised over £200!”

ART

Inspired by nature, their surroundings, their teachers, history and artists, LGJS pupils continue to produce wonderful art.

Junk
Modelling

pastels



Van Gogh



Breughel



working with
clay



Alberto Giacometti





Andy Warhol



Georgia O'Keeffe



printing



collage



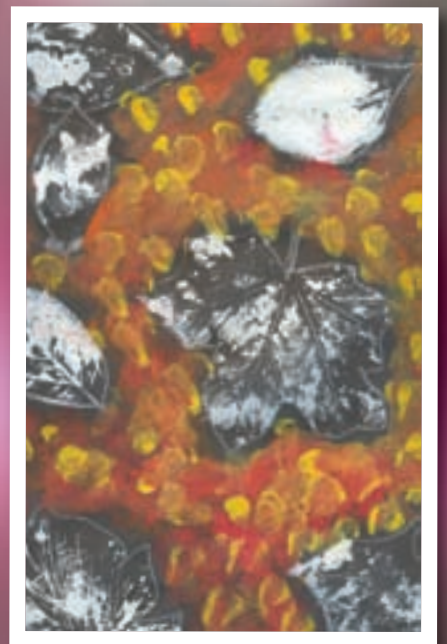
Orla Kiely

sketching

painting



Henry Moore





Year 1

‘Early in the Advent Term, children and parents spent a weekend foraging in hedgerows, looking for lots of natural artefacts’





Time flies when you're having fun! We've had a super year and the children have really blossomed in the classroom and through extra-curricular activities. It has been filled with achievements. Early in the Advent Term, children and parents spent a weekend foraging in hedgerows, looking for lots of natural artefacts. This was to contribute to our Art entry for the Gameskeepers' Trust Hedgerow Life competition. Well done to the children and parents in Year 1 as this was highly commended by the judges!

In the Lent Term, Year 1 were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be architects for a day, as part of their 'Houses and Homes' topic. The children were inspired by different kinds and styles of houses, which resulted in them designing the exterior and interior of their own fantasy houses. Superman wardrobes and helicopter landing pads were a common design feature in their planning! These children obviously have high hopes for their future homes!

Outside of the classroom the children have also had great successes, including Multi-Sports club, Art and Puzzle clubs, Infant Strings, Gymnastics clubs and Sports Week, culminating in a steeplechase that all pupils participated in. All of these have undoubtedly contributed to enriching the children's experiences in Year 1 – a fun-filled exciting year!





'A real treat this year was the chance to learn about life in African countries including Cameroon and South Africa'

Year 2





Year 2 welcomed two new team members this year. Mrs Batchelor as a class teacher and Mrs Corlett as an additional classroom assistant.

The children have worked, played and created an enormous amount of display topic and written work over the course of the year. One of the favourite memories of the year has to be our World War II day. The children were sent to the new destination of Buckminster Village Estate, as evacuees. Follow up work included writing postcards and practical sessions following a 1940s recipe.

Another history trip was to the ancient Egyptian Gallery at New Walk Museum where the children were lucky enough to be able to handle and learn about genuine ancient Egyptian artefacts.

As part of our History topic on Florence Nightingale, Nurse Julia gave us a talk about the differences and similarities between nursing in Florence's day and the present. She showed us some of the modern equipment used today but also demonstrated techniques introduced by Florence Nightingale that are still used today.

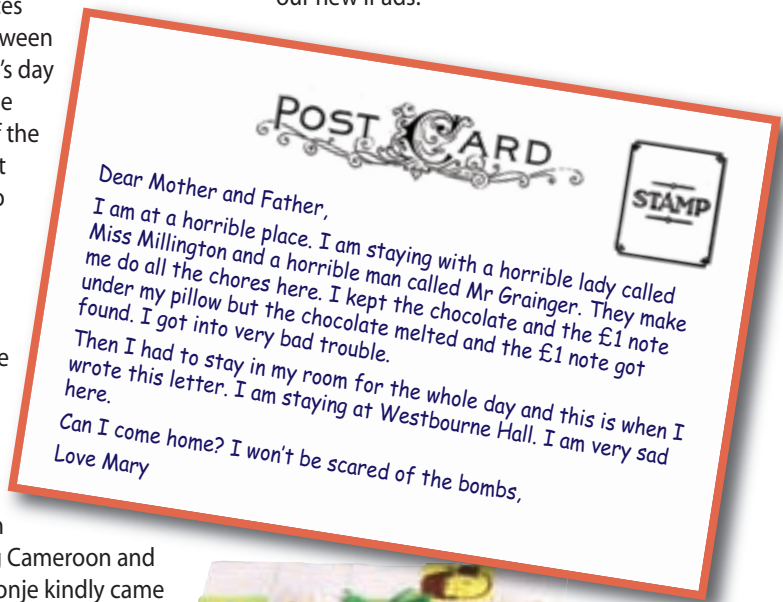
A real treat this year was the chance to learn about life in African countries including Cameroon and South Africa. Mrs Konje kindly came to talk to the children about her



experiences and brought with her a huge variety of resources including traditional costumes and plantain to sample.

Other highlights of the school year include helping to create an Easter cross for the Infant Easter service, class assemblies on the subjects of Time, Ancient Egypt and celebrating Mother's Day and of course our Infant Nativity including the memorable song, "The Christmas Number One".

It has been lovely to see the children enjoying all their learning opportunities, including the opportunity to work with our new iPads!





Sport

We had a fantastic year in the PE Department and are so proud of all the hard work the children have put into making this a year to remember.

Our Foundation Stage children have been working really hard in gymnastics and dance, exploring different movements and improving their basic strength, flexibility and coordination. They thoroughly enjoyed showing off their skills to all the mums and dads at Sports Day.

The Year 1 and 2 pupils have also been working well in gymnastics and dance and have begun to show a good basic understanding of games such as football and tennis.

The Juniors have all completed a cycling unit during the PE Curriculum, thanks to

the help and support of Dean Hughes from British Cycling. **Cycling** has continued all year and once again proven a huge success amongst all the Junior pupils. All the Junior pupils were able to be involved in skill sessions and track racing. We are delighted with our fantastic new peloton of bikes, courtesy of The Friends of LGJS. These bikes and helmets will allow us to take cycling one step further.

Triathlons are currently featuring high on our hit list! We organised, for the first time, a Year 5 Triathlon Day. Every child in the year group took part in the three disciplines throughout the day. It was an extremely enjoyable day.

We were thrilled with the turn out for each of the Cross Country runs at Prestwold Hall during the Advent Term. Due to the

fantastic team spirit, commitment of all our team and the energy and talent of our pupils we were once again crowned the Leicestershire **Cross Country** League winners. We were again the most represented team there by far, with each month over 90 pupils taking part – amazing! Without the fantastic support of the parents this would not be possible. - Thank you.'

Orienteering has featured highly both during the curriculum and extra curricular. Making the most of our wonderful grounds, the Junior pupils have all experienced using a map to navigate their way around the school. Some children even managed to qualify and compete at the British School Orienteering Championships. We were even more





thrilled when Charlie Rennie came in first, gaining the title of the Under 10 Great British Orienteering Champion.

We have completed yet another year of competitive **Gymnastics**, winning 3 team gold medals and going through to the County Finals again at Uppingham. The take up for Gym Club has been overwhelming again this year. Every child who attended the club had the opportunity to participate in a gym competition at school. It was a great opportunity for parents to see how their child has been getting on and the progress that had been made, both in curriculum time and in the club.

We have been very successful in the **swimming** pool competing against other Independent schools. We entered the Leicestershire and Rutland Distict competition this year and came 2nd place. We are looking forward to next year already and seeing more rising stars in the swimming pool. The children

from Year 2 upwards continue to swim every week in our great swimming pool.

With our extensive **fixture** calendar we have been able to prove ourselves against all the local Independent schools in all areas including Rugby, Football, Hockey, Netball, Tennis, Athletics, Swimming, Cricket and Cross Country, Triathlon, Gymnastics. Our U10 Hockey Team won the LGJS Hockey Tournament again and our U11 Team qualified through to the Regional Finals in March as winners and went onto come 4th overall. Well done! With our extremely close link to Leicester Ladies Hockey Club we expect our teams to go from strength to strength.

We continued throughout the year with our sports assemblies at the end of each term. We enjoyed dance displays, gymnastic routines, teachers v pupils speed bounce, cycling demonstrations, a rugby haka and much much more. We always enjoy our **Sports Assemblies** at the end of each term. It gives us the chance to congratulate all the pupils in the school on their achievements both inside and outside of school and gives pupils the opportunity to demonstrate and talk about what they do.

The highlight of the year as always has to be **Sports Week**, including 3 sports days, Steeplechase for Year 1-6, Year 6 Biathlon, Year 3 and 4 tennis masterclass with coaches from Leicestershire Lawn Tennis Club and the new introduction to Year 5 Triathlon. It was a week full of energy, fun, competition and mass participation. Even the parents got involved with the annual parents Tug O War.

Seeing every pupil in the school participate in various activities and trying their best with a huge smile on their face makes the hard work all worthwhile. Well done everyone!

Thank you to all the pupils, staff and parents for making this a fantastic year of Sport at LGJS.



Year 3



Year 3 have had a very active year with trips out and lots of practical class based activities.

Our first trip of the year involved a visit to Chedworth, a Roman Villa in the Cotswolds. The children were taken back in time to learn all about what life might have been like there. They investigated the hypocaust system and imagined spending time in the bathhouse. They dressed up as Roman slaves and used a pestle and mortar to prepare a cure for a cold. There was lots of pounding of herbs and spices involved!

In our D.T/Science topic on 'Healthy Eating' we learned about the different food groups and how to combine them into delicious sandwiches.

During the Lent Term we learned about perspective by creating collages in the style of Breughel's Hunters in the Snow.

Everyone wrapped up warmly for further visits to Forest School, thank goodness for the camp fire!

We started the Trinity Term with a visit to West Stow, an Anglo Saxon village. We discovered what it would have been like to have lived there.

We were bang up to date with our Art work which looked at designs by Orla Kiely. We did lots of colourful printing and collages. We also painted lilies in the style of Georgia O Keefe.

Our visit to the Buddhist Centre, at Kelmars, was a peaceful experience involving meditation, acting and making mandalas.

Year 3 had their first camping experience with a night under canvas, at school. A lot of fun was had by all, but not a lot of sleep!

We brought our Geography topic, on Mexico, to a close by celebrating Mexico Day. We wore Mexican colours, had art and craft sessions and sampled traditional dips, nachos and tortillas.





‘The children dressed up as Roman slaves and used a pestle and mortar to prepare a cure for a cold. There was lots of pounding of herbs and spices involved!’





Year 4

‘Although the teachers didn’t get much sleep on our first camping trip, they were delighted to have to wake the children at 7am each morning!’



We have all enjoyed our DT projects this year. Before Christmas we combined the knowledge we had gained about electricity in Science with our DT skills and created lanterns. The darkened classrooms looked very atmospheric with only the light from our lanterns shining.



Residential Trip in May when we camped at Stanley Head Outdoor Centre in Staffordshire. Although the teachers didn't get much sleep on our first camping trip, they were delighted to have to wake the children at 7 am each morning!



During the Trinity term we planned, designed and learnt how to make moving parts for a book we had written. We had great fun showing our 'moving books' to some of the younger children in the school. Due to the generosity of the friends we were able to have a night camping in the school grounds in our very own school tents. As it was March, the teachers were all very concerned about the cold, but the children spent a snug night under canvas. This was good preparation for our

Learning new skills is always exciting particularly when it involves the computer. Making things move on the screen by writing code (programming) and creating animations has been great fun. We're looking forward to developing these skills over the next few years. Class assemblies and our production of 'Troy Story' have been highlights for us this year. Poetry, Europe and The Aztecs were the subjects of our assemblies and we enjoyed sharing what we had learnt with the school and our families...and who could forget our giant 'wooden' horse?! An exciting and full year, as ever!





Music

This has been another busy and exciting time for the Performing Arts at LGJS. Pupils have given some excellent musical performances within the school and the community. Again we celebrated our Harvest and Easter services within school and at our local Church, St Cuthbert's. Christmas was marked with three productions. The Foundation Stage presented 'Prickly Hay' – a nativity Hoe-Down set in the stable. Key Stage 1 gave a presentation of 'What Does

Christmas Mean to You.' The children took on the roles of teachers and notable cameo characters. Together they explored the true meaning of the Christmas story. The Junior pupils presented their Christingle Service with music and readings in Leicester Cathedral. 'Troy Story', presented by Year 4, was a delightful re-telling of a classic tale. It was packed with memorable characters, amusing dialogue and catchy songs. Year 6 concluded their year with a musical

presentation of 'Let Loose.' As the audience joined the children on their week's residential visit they were transported through a catalogue of unforgettable experiences! Our three music concerts featured the orchestra, choir, a wide range of instrumental ensembles and soloists and a concert given by the Infant Strings. We were fortunate to hold our Summer Concert outside in the school grounds on a glorious, sunny June evening.





‘LGJS pupils have given some excellent musical performances within the school and the community’





Year 5

What is justice? Should children work? What was life like in the Indus Valley? Should I really jump into this freezing cold lake? How do you thread a needle? These are just some of the questions Year 5 have tackled through the course of this year's activities.

Children have been encouraged to be independent learners as they researched and created memory boxes for a famous Victorian figure, thought about beliefs and values on RE day and designed tasty biscuits linked to the Commonwealth Games. Children went home with lots of water saving tips after a visit from Severn Trent, decided to raise money for Water Aid after learning about water shortages in developing countries and put their geographical skills to the test on a practical river study.

Year 5 teachers were extremely proud of the determination and effort shown by every child in the year group, when they took part in our first ever Triathlon Day. Whatever their swimming, running, or cycling ability, every child surprised themselves with their achievements!

Once again, our residential trip to Cornbury Park was a fantastic finale to our year. The children faced new challenges, strengthened their friendships, and embraced life in the great outdoors!



'Once again, our residential trip to Cornbury Park was a fantastic finale to our year. The children faced new challenges, strengthened their friendships, and embraced life in the great outdoors!'



Year 6



And so farewell Year 6...it's been a year of many highs, and very few lows. It's been a year where we have introduced a Shakespeare evening.

Three interpretations of three different Shakespeare plays: with nerf guns in 'Romeo and Juliet', Trinculo, the drunkard jester in 'The Tempest' and Avraj as Macbeth, attacking half the audience with his sword!!

This year we have planted trees for the first time in an attempt to address green issues and in one assembly Year 6 pupils gave a stark reminder of how fragile our planet is. We created our very own hedgerow as part of an art exhibition.



Inspired by our Olympians and Mr Rennie himself, Year 6 pupils were the first pupils to race bikes at Sports Day - it was exhilarating, exciting and slightly painful for one pupil!

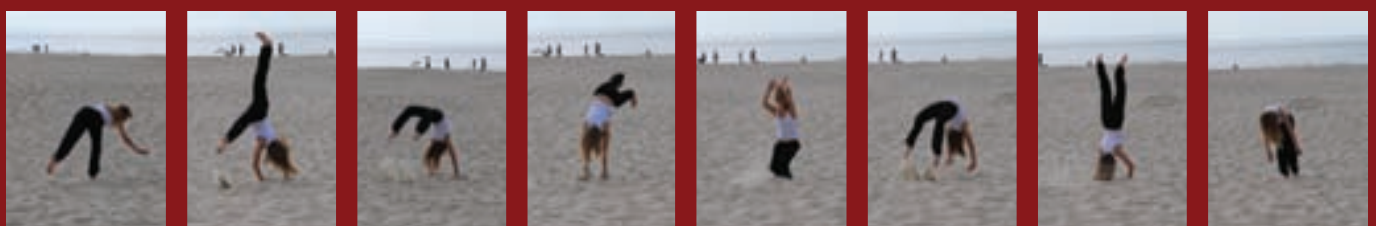
Another first came in IT as we developed new presentation skills in Prezi and developed new skills in Corel Draw.

We've enjoyed trips to the Warning Zone, to the theatre and of course, to France. This summer we were "Let Loose" in the drama studio...we all knew those LGJS pupils would, in the end, outshine the Toffington College lot!!

As for the lows...why did Pokemon cards return?



‘And so
farewell
Year 6...’



Library

It's been another busy and exciting year in the library. We have held two book fairs with great support from pupils and parents alike. We sold nearly £3000 worth of books, giving the school 60% in commission. One pupil at the book fair grabbed a great book bargain, spending £5.98 on books in our bargain book section and taking £35.94 worth of books home!

World Book Day was another bright and colourful day with pupils and staff dressing up as their favourite book character. There was a World Book Day word search with three of our pupils winning £10 in book vouchers.

The year 6 pupils entered their Library Logs into an end of year competition, and went on a special Senior School library visit. Well done to Vivek and Priya for winning the competition and receiving book vouchers as a prize.

This year the library has bought four new tablets to use in clubs and book change sessions. They have proved to be very popular, alongside the ten new computers which have been invaluable for research. Many pupils were also fortunate enough to have their favourite cookery books signed by "Great British Bake off" winner Frances Quinn.

A big thank you must go to the Year 6 librarians for their constant hard work and support, making the library a sleek, efficient department.

Starting in September we'll have a selection of new books, both fiction and non-fiction, more DVDs and CDs...and an eager group of new librarians.

Happy Reading!



‘Year 6 consolidated their lab skills this year, carrying out a range of practical investigations and experiments’



Science



What an exciting year in Science! Year 3 were able to take part in Science Club and we investigated chromatography, helicopters, balloon rockets, and of course their favourite, slime. Year 4 pupils started their specialist science lessons with Mrs Green and had great fun building circuits, learning about the skeleton with Bony Bob and researching different organisms and their habitats. All the Year 4 pupils gave presentations at the end of the year and produced some highly entertaining and informative work, including a visit from a couple of slimy squid!

Year 5 travelled up to the Senior School for the first time to use the laboratories and were able to learn how to use a

Bunsen Burner and take their Bunsen Burner license – everyone passed with flying colours! They also took part in a project based on sending a manned voyage to Mars. There were some fantastic presentations which included music, films, amazing models of geodesic domes, a self-designed app and a six foot rocket made from champagne boxes!

Year 6 consolidated their lab skills this year, carrying out a range of practical investigations and experiments. This included investigating what makes a good nappy and how to make a rainbow from white light. The most fun was had during the eyeball dissection – there was an awful lot to ‘see’ with some very nice lenses on show!



• The Friends



‘If you haven’t tried our Quiz & Curry Night yet then perhaps you could consider joining a team for next year’s quiz as it’s a great chance to meet other parents, eat, drink and relax’



This year has been as busy as ever for The Friends with our emphasis very firmly on fun. In November 250 of us were treated to a dazzling display of Indian drumming, singing and dancing before enjoying a fabulous 3-course curry at our Diwali Celebration Evening; the dance floor was packed and the atmosphere amazing. The Diwali evening raised £1094 for Wishes4Kids. Our Christmas Fayre was a lovely opportunity for everyone to come together and, as usual, the support we received from staff, children and parents was overwhelming. The stalls were really inventive with challenges such as 'Peg the

Washing Out', 'Beat the Buzzer' and the 'Cream Cracker Challenge'. The afternoon was made even more special with live festive music beautifully performed by our talented teachers.

The Quiz and Curry night was as popular as ever; if you haven't yet tried it out then perhaps you could consider joining a team for next year's quiz as it's a great chance to meet other parents, eat, drink, relax (and tear your hair out at all those things you 'knew' the moment you heard the answer...).

Our total profits for this year were £8917. We supported the Year 6 leaving party and

also provided a first aid course for Year 5 children. Our biggest purchase this year has been the fleet of school bikes which have already been put to fantastic use with some dramatic race events.

As usual we bought several items for the playground including the wonderful big clock (how did we ever manage without one?) and some fantastic construction toys. Our new gazebo stretched its legs for the first time at Sports Day this year and promises to be a really well-used purchase. Finally we bought a new digital camera so that staff are able to capture all those precious moments...

As always, our huge thanks go to all the staff and parents who have supported us this year; all help is tremendously appreciated so please don't hesitate to join The Friends – a warm welcome awaits you.





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