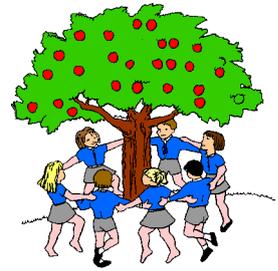


SPEEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
Celebrating 150 years: 15 October 1862 – 15 October 2012

Parents Newsletter

Headteacher: Mrs. Denise Nayna March 2014



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Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Bailey and his family. He has joined Mrs Hayman's Reception class. We expect Hugo to be joined in YN by six friends from Speen Pre-school after Easter. Then Year One will move into Mrs Lidington's class. However the only other change to teaching groups will be for Y1, who will be having more maths lessons with Year Two.

Security

The safety of the staff, children and visitors is taken very seriously by the governors. Please ensure that the gates are kept closed. The cloakroom doors are kept locked during the school day so parents are asked not to unlock them, but to leave by the front door.

Assessment

Parents were informed of the excellent results of standardised reading and spelling tests at parents evenings this month. Children are continually being assessed in order that the teachers can plan for the next steps in their learning. Also there are Statutory assessments for each year group. FS have the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Year One will do the Phonic check in June. Year Two are assessed using end of KS1 statutory tests in May but the assessment period continues from January to the end of June.

NEWS

This half term has been packed with exciting activities



for the children. We began on 25th February with a whole school trip to **Waddesdon Manor.**

The children had a very exciting time, being the only visitors on the day, except for the crew filming *Frankenstein*. The day involved climbing the spiral staircase up the tower to see Baron Ferdinand's favourite Fairy tale in paintings - *Sleeping Beauty*. After acting out the story we visited the exotic birds in the aviary followed by lunch and a writing activity in the Stables education centre.

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As you can see Jeni Fairey continues to work on the pond area which, thanks to PTA funding and her strenuous efforts is already providing a range of habitats. Thanks to the kind generosity of parents and villagers, who donated plants, the gardening club have filled the beds with spring flowers and the log piles and bird feeders are already attracting wildlife

As we prepared for Lent, the children celebrated **Shrove Tuesday** in style dressed as chefs. Many thanks to the parents who delivered a delicious pancake desert followed by games in the playground.



Parents are invited to see how their children have progressed over the past two terms of Karate coaching. Thursday 27th March 9:00 to 9:30am.

On March 5th parents came to see a short performance of



Speen cheerleaders. The routines were very challenging but the children from reception to Year Two rose to the challenge and performed them with great enthusiasm and skill. The lifts were particularly impressive.

Funding for the coaching came from the Sports Premium.

congratulated the winners of the speaking competition who each received an Usborne anthology. They were, Tommy in Year Two, Emma in Year One and Emily in the Foundation Stage class. It was heartening to see all the children summoning their confidence to stand up in front of staff and children to speak. Well done, everyone!



Thanks to parents, led by Libby Luckett and Katie Abdelmoula the children had a great time raising money for this worthy cause. They took part in fun team races and watched the teachers attempt a chocolate egg and spoon race which was gracefully won by Mrs Chandler. Over £380 was raised.



Grand opening of new classroom extension: Friday 7th March

Sir Stuart Hampson, The High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, cut the ribbon to open our new KS1 area. Rev. James Tomkins performed the blessing and we were joined by Lesley Nickol from the Oxford diocese who managed the financing of the project. Parents, governors and members of the village participated in a very moving service led by Year 2 who wrote the prayers and read from the Holy Bible. Thank you to all the parents who came and those who provided refreshments. Mrs Lidington and KS1 are very pleased to have so much more space.



As part of the Sport partnership, on March 18th, Y2 attended a **Basketball tournament** at Princes Risborough School. The children were put into different teams for a series of skill competitions. Amelia and Edward were in the winning team. Thank you to the parents who again transported and supported the children.

Speen School World Book Day

This year we celebrated world book day with an Usborne book fair, a sponsored read and a speaking competition. The school hoped to raise enough money to replenish the school library now that the KS1 extension is complete. Parents purchased so much that our target was exceeded and the staff have chosen books to the value nearly £600. THANK YOU. The children seemed to enjoy spending the day in their favourite book character costumes and we

The PTA **Safari Supper** on Saturday March 22nd was a triumph and rightly a highlight of the village calendar. It is always great fun to meet new and old friends around the village. Speen parents are highly proficient hosts and the disco back at the school provided some memorable images! Thanks to Helen Davies.

Governors are very pleased with the response to the parent's survey-still time to return them this week.

Don't forget:

- All library books should be returned this week.**
- March 24th** An elite athlete and WheelPower Ambassador will bring the 2014 Paralympic Torch.
- Friday March 28th** Energize 7:00pm. Tickets available now from Wycombe Swan Theatre 2:30 pm Mother's assembly- all welcome
- Saturday March 29th** Energize matinee 2:00pm Tickets available now
- Thursday April 3rd** KS1 visit to Chiltern Open Air Museum. Parent helpers are needed for this trip.
- Friday April 4th** End of Term Service 9:15am St. John's Church Lacey. All welcome.
- Last day of term. School closes at 2:00pm
- April 22nd** School closed for in-service training
- April 23rd** First day of Summer term

Denise Nayna