

Welcome



Welcome to the end of year newsletter for the faculties. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and as ever we welcome your feedback or any ideas you have for the future.

Highlight of the Year

Introduction of the house teams and house point system

- Three house team events: House Introduction morning, Chinese New Year and World Handshake Day
- Appointing a Sports Apprentice
- Anti-bullying week
- Sports day
- Appointing digital leaders
- Sports leader training
- Winning the Boys' football league

School Rules

Three school rules have also been introduced this year and they have become embedded in every aspect of school life:

- Be safe,
- Be kind,
- Be responsible.

House Teams

This year the faculty has introduced a House Team system across the school which all children and staff are a part of. We have hosted some fantastic events such as Chinese New year and World Handshake day. Children are thoroughly enjoying earning House points for demonstrating PRIDE in their learning.



PSHE-PE- Computing Faculty

Sports Day

Thank you for your feedback regarding sports day this year. Overall children enjoyed competing for their houses and taking part in the event. Next year, we will make some changes in order to improve the morning so that we can give more time to sprinting and competitive events while still maintaining the high level of activity and participation for the children. Sports day is an important part of the school calendar for everyone.

Sports Apprentice

The school has appointed a Sports Apprentice through Sporting Futures to develop sport provision even further. Our new sports leaders have been on training and will work alongside the Sports Apprentice to deliver clubs and support with competitions next year.



Theme days

Earlier in the year we took part in Anti-bullying week. The children in Key Stage 2 all taught the younger children a range of playground games. We also marked eSafety day in each class by completing a range of activities, learning an eSafety song. We are proud to now have Digital Leaders for Computing. These children will work alongside the teachers during lessons and meet regularly to perform specialist IT jobs.

Next Year...

There will be three house events to look forward to. We will take part in Anti-bully Week, Feeling Good Week and E-safety Day. We will also be involved in Sporting Futures events and Mr Sapsed has booked a place at the St Albans dance festival for the spring term.

Reasoning

Reasoning has been at the forefront of learning this year and has been embedded in almost every daily lesson. This is one of the priorities in the current curriculum and has allowed children to apply their skills in different contexts. It has enabled children to be more confident and fluent mathematicians.

Science Mark - PSQM

Science is a core subject and delivered weekly in our school. We have embarked on a programme to recognise this and improve the teaching and learning of science across all year groups - The Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM). We are aiming for the higher award at Gilt level.

For us to achieve it, a rigorous review of provision across the school is underway. We have started by creating six principles that underpin the delivery of science at Trotts Hill:

Principles of Teaching Science

We know that effective science learning occurs in our school when:

Children are all engaged in the topic and clearly perceive that science is 'fun'.

Children are curious, asking questions, and express awe and wonder at what they discover.

Creativity is encouraged. Learning is demonstrated in a variety of ways.

Ideas are communicated clearly, using scientific vocabulary, both orally and written.

Collaboration is a key part of the learning process and everyone is involved. Children are inspired to explore science further at home.

The children will be involved in the assessment too. Science Ambassadors, whose role it will be to ensure that the principles are being adhered to, will be appointed from KS2.

Maths-Science Faculty

Whole School Investigation



Have you got long fingers? Do you think you could flick further than a friend who has shorter fingers? Well, Trotts Hill pupils have some

news for you!

The entire school engaged in a maths and science day. From Reception to Year 6 the children were posed the following question: Do longer fingers flick furthest?

In each class, the children worked in groups to carry out their investigation. Support for planning the enquiry decreased for older pupils. Children in Reception used cubes to

measure whereas further up the school standard units of measurement were applied with increasing accuracy. Reception and KS1 children presented their results using computer software. In Year 5 and Year 6, the results were pooled and scatter graphs drawn to determine any relationship between the length of finger and the distance flicked.

The children looked critically at their own investigations and could identify improvements for next time.

So, what was our conclusion? Our results told us that the finger length made no difference at all. However, the children felt that their results weren't completely reliable and so recommended repeating the test. Therefore, the jury is still out!

Writing Project

Not only is maths an integral part of science but English is too. After all, if a scientist can't communicate their knowledge, how will people understand what their discoveries are. We want our young scientists to be confidently speaking and writing using scientific language. There is a project underway in school to improve the use of English skills in science. Speaking frames are being introduced that will help our children to discuss concepts more deeply, questioning each other and expressing thoughts with greater clarity.

Music Mark

In the spring term, the arts faculty were proud to receive the Music Mark for high quality provision of music across the school. We were delighted to receive this award. It was awarded based on the provision given to the children. Following our Music Mark award and as part of our 50th anniversary, we will be recording a school CD.



Arts Mark

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the Arts mark Silver from the Schools Arts Council, England. The provision of drama, art and music is strong and our commitment as a school has been recognised. This year the children participated in wonderful dance festivals at the Gordon Craig and Barclay School. The choir also sang at Tesco to support our fundraising efforts. Children showcased their dancing and singing in our lovely Summer Fayre. Children have enjoyed participating in our new drama club, art club and choir! Dance club is always a popular choice!



Drama Club

Mr Driver who has a background in the arts, very kindly volunteered to start a drama club for key stage 2. The children were very enthusiastic and showcased their work in our celebration evening. We look forward to working with Mr Driver in the future.

The Arts Faculty

Arts Evening

In March we held our first Celebration of the arts Evening! Throughout the day every child shared a piece of artwork to parents. In the evening, dance club, choir, Year 5 and 2 all showcased their amazing talent. Everyone who attended was bursting with pride! It was a very special evening watching the children perform different songs (even in French!), dancing with props and partners, as well as reciting poetry. The children clearly enjoyed the opportunity to perform. We look forward to hosting a similar event in the future.



Choir at Tesco's

As part of a fundraising initiative, choir dressed up in their Christmas hats and sang jolly Christmas songs at Tesco extra in the town centre. The children enjoyed singing to the community.



Creative Crew

We are excited to announce that from September each year group will have two representatives from the school to support the arts faculty. Their role will give a voice to children about the arts.

Next Year

We have many events planned for next year. Here is a flavour of what is in store:

- 10th October recording new CD
- Celebration evening linked to our 50 years celebration.
- Christmas cards in autumn term.
- Choir fundraisers
- 02 Young voices 02

We look forward to another exciting year.

Data

Results in English across the school are excellent this year as reported recently. We have achieved above the National average in reading, writing, phonics and SPAG across the school. Well done to all the children involved and thank you to parents for their ongoing support too.

Geography Day

A selection of children from Year 4 joined others from The Leys and Round Diamond to investigate the regeneration of The Oval. The children visited The Oval and carried out surveys with members of the public then returned to school to present their findings.

Eco Warriors

Mrs Chumbley has introduced an Eco Warriors group for children in Years 2 to 5. They have started working towards achieving an Eco Schools Bronze Award. They will be involved in planting the seeds which parents have kindly donated. We look forward to seeing the seeds bloom in the spring.

Staff Development

A visiting advisor from Teach in Herts has been working with all staff and introduced new assessment frameworks in English for all year groups. Staff have used these for moderation and the faculty team have supported this. Through staff and team meetings we have also introduced grammar walls in each classroom.

World Book Day/Diversity Day

All of the children enjoyed exploring our selection of Diversity books. Each class chose a book and completed activities based on it for World Book Day. As part of our house events, the children made pictures of themselves to show that everyone is different and everyone is equal.

Trips and Visits

There have been a number of Geography and History linked educational visits this year including:

- Year 1: Knebworth House
- Year 2: Affinity Water
- Year 3: Celtic Harmony/Roman Baths
- Year 4: Stevenage Museum
- Year 5: Affinity Water
- Year 6: Stevenage Museum

English- Humanities Faculty

Book Fair

We held a very successful book fair which raised much needed funds for the school. The children loved browsing the books and choosing their own to buy. The faculty decided to purchase atlases for the younger children in Early Years and KS1 using the money raised.



Next Year ...

We will be celebrating the school's 50th anniversary. In addition, we will be commemorating the 100 year anniversary since the end of World War I.