

NEWSLINE

North Primary School and Nursery
A Town Centre School with a Strong Community Ethos

November 2016
Issue 2



In assembly on the 7th I told the children the true story of a family whose children once attended North but are now living in their home country, Syria. I also read the story that the children themselves wrote about their situation (below). I have changed their names to protect their identity. I am sure you will agree that it is a story both heart-warming and sad, desperately sad. The family are still in touch with people in Colchester. The family came to Colchester because the mother was going to study for a PhD at Essex University. This took 5 years. When she received confirmation that she had passed her PhD, the Syrian government informed her that the family had a week to sort out their affairs and return to Syria immediately. Since their return in 2011 the country has been destroyed by civil war. The awful scenes we see on the TV news is their daily reality – but they just keep trying to live a normal life. If you wish to learn more about this family visit https://www.gofundme.com/a-tear-and-a-smile-help-to-syria-2ubuka2c?pc=em_db_co2876_v1. Going on this website you will see the names of many young people [pictured overleaf] who grew up with Jack and Jill at North who have not forgotten their friends. It fills me with great pride that the values of compassion and community that we nurture live deep within our former pupils.

A Tear and A Smile

My name is Jack and my name is Jill and we want to tell you a little fairytale.

Once upon a time, a boy and a girl landed on a faraway country where people used to speak a different language but act nicely and gently, especially with children. The sister and brother lived in Colchester and had the chance to go to North Primary School.

Jack, the 5-year-old boy, was very scared on his first day at school. Sadly and strangely, he did not know at that time that those tears and sobs were going to be the beginning of his most enjoyable days and happiest memories. School was fun especially with PE, music, swimming, good friends and great teachers. Football was his best sport not forgetting athletics, and cricket.

Jill, now 18 years old, remembers Colchester and North school with such euphoria and tears mixed with love and happiness. She can never forget her victorious netball matches, dancing and nearly all other sports activities.

February, 2011, the year that our tears dropped for leaving a country we have always loved and returning to our country of birth. Our confused emotions on that 5 hour plane trip were disturbing, we left Heathrow airport leaving a part of our hearts there in that country where we learned to love life and to keep looking forward. Our first couples of months in school in Syria were very hard; studying in a new language, getting new friends and living in a new society, not only that but also missing our best friends in England. However, what kept us going was our determination and hope that everything was going to get better.

On top of everything came a bestial and endless war to end our dreams of a happy and successful future. Day by day we wake up to bad news and terrible stories of death and injuries of people we know. This merciless war targeted everything in our life: our peace, our souls, dreams, hopes, and our chance of having a high education. We have to sacrifice a lot of life's necessities and happiness. The only thing we can do is learning in these bad circumstances, which can sometimes turn very boring. No more sports, no more shopping or holidays or even simple picnics. Studying has become very difficult with a mind full of fears and worries.

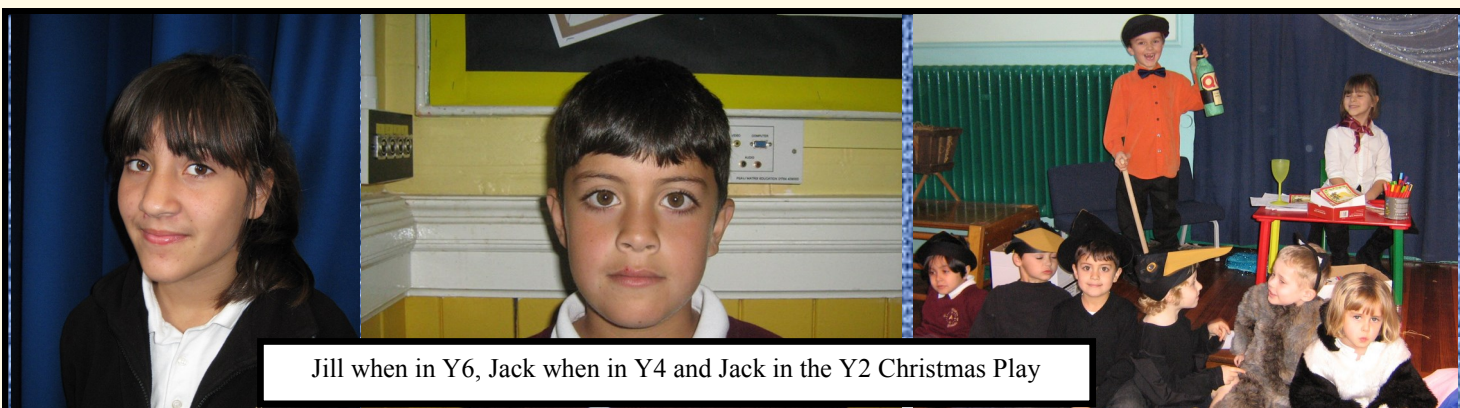
What a huge difference between our two lives!?

Watching Jack suffering from alopecia (patches of hair loss) keeps our family in such a sad and desperate feeling of pain and hopelessness. He has not taken off his cap, winter and summer, since it started with him in July 2012. Doctors said this alopecia came from fear and feelings of insecurity. We pray he will recover and get his confidence back.

Our youngest member in the family, 4-year old John, keeps talking about England imagining he was there with us and making up his own adventures there. We hope he can have the same opportunity we had of living a wonderful childhood.

Our only great wish is to go back to our second home, England, where we have a real chance of life and a successful future.

With love from Syria
Jack and Jill



Jill when in Y6, Jack when in Y4 and Jack in the Y2 Christmas Play

Reception Admissions 2017

Essex County Council are start accepting applications for children to be admitted in Reception in September 2017, from 14th November 2016. Please note the deadline for applications is 15th January 2017. If you are applying for a child to start Reception in September 2017, please come along to our special Open Evening on Thursday 1st December at 6.00pm or 8.00pm . As well as meeting Mr Garnett, you will be able to meet the Foundation Stage Leader who will present a film made by the current Reception children. The school special needs co-ordinator will be available to answer questions too. Please note, the evening will be for parents and carers only and you are asked to arrive promptly for your choice of session. Parking will be available in the lower playground, accessed via Victoria Chase.

Please contact the school office to book a place on one of the two time slots.

Open Lessons, Stay and Learn

Tuesday 8th November	Year 1	9.10am
Tuesday 8th November	Reception - Squirrels	9.10am
Wednesday 9th November	Year 6	2.00pm
Wednesday 9th November	Reception - Badgers	9.10am
Thursday 10th November	Year 2	9.10am
Friday 11th November	Reception - Hedgehogs	9.10am
Tuesday 15th November	Year 3	9.10am
Wednesday 16th November	Year 5	2.00pm
Thursday 17th November	Year 4	9.10am

DATES FOR TERM

Wednesday 16th November	Individual and sibling school photographs	
Friday 18th November	NSA Bingo Night	6.00pm
Thursday 24th November	Parent Consultation Evening	
Thursday 1st December	Year 3 Christmas Play	Afternoon
Thursday 1st December	Parents Meeting for September 2017 starters	6.00pm and 8.00pm
Friday 2nd December	Christmas Bazaar	6.00pm
Tuesday 6th December	Year 4 Christmas Play	Afternoon
Friday 9th December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Play	Morning and afternoon
Tuesday 13th December	Reception Christmas Play	
Tuesday 20th December	Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert	
Wednesday 21st December	Last day of term	
Thurs 5th January 2017	First day of Spring Term	
Thursday 9th February	Last day of half term	
Mon 20th February	Return to school	
Friday 31st March	Last day of Spring Term	
Tuesday 18th April	First day of Summer Term	