

NEWSLINE



North Primary School and Nursery

A Town Centre School with a Strong Community Ethos

January 2017
Issue 1

Spring Term in Full Swing



Winter Blues, Blue Monday? Not at North. The children and staff have been far too busy. The cold weather has even helped Key Stage 1 who spent the 11th and 13th enjoying a polar experience (see below).

Year 2 have started gymnastics lessons with PE Teacher Rachel Taylor from St. Helena (pictured right) in preparation for a gymnastics festival in a few weeks time. Rachel was really impressed with the children's concentration and performance during the first lessons held on the 12th. An encouraging start. Year 5 and 6 have started a new project. Our sports coach Mrs. Eves writes, "Over the next 6 weeks, year 5 is participating in a project being run by Colchester United. Coach Mark



(pictured above). It is called **Learn and Move** and involves the children taking part in a theory session and then putting what they have learnt into a practical lesson. The aims of the project are to introduce the concept of exercise; including the effect exercise has on the body and the social aspects of exercise. The first session yesterday focussed on why it is important to exercise and learning how to take their pulse. In the practical session they tried to raise their heart rate by doing lots of running games. It was a fun lesson and we are looking forward to next week." Sadly our first football fixture of the term was called off on Thursday because our opponents could not make it. The forecast was shocking and so the players were asked if they wanted to still have their football training at St. Helena. They were unanimous. So we all endured the freezing rain for an hour and a half and enjoyed every minute. What a great attitude.

A very successful **Monarchs' Week** was held in Key Stage 2. Mrs Skinner writes, "This is an annual event which allows the children to study a theme in history over a long period of time. Each year group studies a different British Monarch: Year 3 – Queen Elizabeth I. Year 4 – King James I. Year 5 – Queen Victoria. Year 6 – Queen Elizabeth II. The week began with the KS2 LSA team transforming our junior hall into a palace. Throughout the week the children have investigated and answered the following questions: When did this monarch reign? What would we have seen during the monarch's reign? Who might this monarch have been speaking to? What impact did this monarch have on the country and finally what is this monarch's legacy? They used a selection of 'historian' skills to research information about the events of each period such as the punishments given to criminals by the Tudors or the Court dances of James I. They analysed evidence and deduced facts from history by looking at paintings from each era such as the image of a governess from Victorian times and they carried out surveys to find out about changes in the history of listening to music in modern times. All of the children have a Monarchs' Week topic book where all of their work is recorded and remains with them throughout their time in Key Stage 2. Our week ended with a fantastic open afternoon where parents were invited into to come and find out what the children had been learning. A visitors' book captured the success of the week. For example, "I was really impressed by how much you have done in one week. The art was a good talking point for us." "The afternoon was amazing.

Loved looking at how hard everyone has been working. We took a walk through the palace and it was beautifully decorated."

Something completely different was taking place elsewhere in the school. Miss Jacobs writes, "Brrr! There was an icy chill coming from the Infant Hall this week as Key Stage 1 launched their new topic for the term and each class visited the hall for a polar experience. Everyone dressed for the event in their coats, hats, gloves and scarves before setting off to the chilly hall - windows open, heating off and a fan blowing cold air – creating a suitably cold atmosphere! Once inside the children visited a base camp with tents, sleeping bags and a camp fire, an area to try on snow boots, goggles, rucksacks and a sledge to ride on and a cave area with ropes 'for climbing' and 'caves' to explore. They tried some ice fishing and compared their own heights with those of polar animals – no one was as tall as a polar bear but some of us were as tall as an Emperor penguin. They also got to feel real ice and find out more about polar animals.

The experience ended with a virtual sleigh ride where we were pulled by 18 speedy huskies at 20mph before everyone warmed up with a hot chocolate and marshmallows. What a great start to our topic and a huge thanks to our marvellous team of LSA's who organised and prepared the whole event."

**North has a winning formula for learning:
enthusiasm+curiosity+engagement+effort+teamwork**





A Busy and Exciting Calendar of Events are Planned

The Spring term may be the shortest term but the NSA have held their first meeting and the creative juices have been flowing as they look to add to their repertoire of events. The Disco is booked for February 3rd and the annual quiz night will be held on March 3rd - this is the only event the NSA run that gives parents a night off from their children so do not miss it! Details of both events will be released nearer the time. The committee are exploring the idea of a Spring Craft Fair to coincide with Mothering Sunday. The NSA would welcome any suggestions you have to help make this a success.

Our half marathon team have been very good over Christmas and are training hard through the darkest and most dismal of months. Our runners do not have to pay for their places - which means all their sponsorship money goes to Free For All - because we provide a large number of volunteers to help marshal the event. There are a couple of places left on the team, if you are interested in running please speak to Mrs. Sancassani in the office.

Readathon - feedback please

Once a year we have a sponsored activity for the children. This year it was the readathon held in October. This event raised slightly less than £250 which is significantly less than in previous years when other activities have raised between £600 and £1000. Just 17 children returned sponsorship forms and money. Their achievement is remarkable and we are very grateful to their efforts.

Obviously we want to hold events that engage as many families as possible. The School Council are exploring ideas for future events but we would be very interested to hear parents' views on why the Readathon was not very well supported. Email the office with your views.

BAD WEATHER - DON'T RING THE SCHOOL!

We do everything we can to keep the school open in bad weather. We will only shut the school if enough staff cannot get to school. We need to keep our phone lines open so that we can keep in touch with the staff to find out who can make it to school safely, what time they will get to school and to receive updates on their journeys.

If we do have to shut the school we will post this information on our website and text you via parentmail.

PLEASE DO NOT RING THE SCHOOL .

The Colchester Community Poetry Project

In connection with EMMAUS and GO4 Café there is a poetry competition - entries from children and adults are welcome. The poems can be about anything to do with Colchester past, present or future. For further details or to submit your poem please contact Alice Goss on alice555uk@yahoo.com.

Can you finish this haiku. It needs a third line with just 5 syllables

North Primary School

Snow and ice will not beat us

DATES FOR TERM

Friday 3rd February	NSA School disco	
Thursday 9th February	Last day of half term	
Mon 20th February	Return to school	
Friday 3rd March	NSA QUIZ Night	7.00pm
Sunday 12th March	Colchester Half Marathon	
Friday 31st March	Last day of Spring Term	
Tuesday 18th April	First day of Summer Term	
Friday 26th May	Last day of half term	
Tuesday 6th June	Return to school	
Friday 21st July	End of school year	
Monday 4th September	Year 6 go to Weymouth	
Wednesday 6th September	Autumn Term begins	