

# NEWSLINE



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

March 2017  
Issue 2

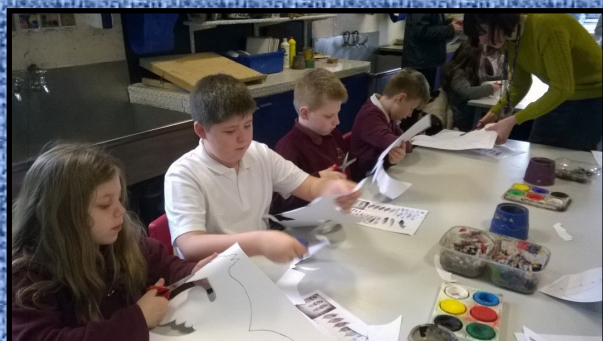
## Year 5's successful St. Helena Visit

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the Year 5 classes visited St. Helena to get a taste of life at secondary school. Mrs. Skinner's class first went to art and made birds for a mobile, using paint and oil pastel for decoration. They were inspired by the work of artist Mark Hearld and produced some fantastic work. After this, they spent an hour in English improving a paragraph about a grotesque gremlin, before writing their own descriptions. Lots of the class were eager to share their writing at the end, impressing and repulsing the teacher with their brilliant imaginations, vocabulary and literary devices!

Roberta said "I really enjoyed trying the paint resist technique in art because I hadn't tried it before!"

**Sebastian and Mrs. Goodey reporting**

**Pictured: Sebastian (top) and Year 5 children at St Helena, School Councillors at Heathlands (bottom)**



## School Council Triad group meeting

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017, three representatives from the school council visited Heathlands Primary School for a Consortium School Council meeting. Daisy, Jack and Roberta shared the work our School Council have been doing towards gaining the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award, and told the group about the visit planned for next Monday to celebrate Commonwealth Day. Heathlands showed the group their first draft of a film they had been making about their school. The School Councillors from Heathlands gave us a tour of the school.

Here they are being shown the school council display board in the school entrance hall.

**Mr Johns reporting**



**Good luck to all our runners on  
Sunday, have a fantastic race!**



A big thank you too to all the staff and governors who will be helping as marshals.

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored our runners, your messages of support are a huge encouragement to the team. Please cheer our team on along the route, and check out the runners' stories and sponsor them now on

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/freeforall2017/405841>



## Children's University Graduation 2017

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March I was privileged to be able to go and see our children Graduate from the Children's University. As always the event was held at Essex University in the Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall, which is a very impressive building. This year we had 37 graduate compared to 19 last year. This shows that Children's University is going from strength to strength. During the ceremony there were talks from children's author DJ Catterall, who wrote The Bucket, and Jackie Fairweather, Chancellor of the Children's University. Some of the children opted to take part in lectures laid on by the university which they really enjoyed. It was a very enjoyable morning. Well done to all the children who took part and for all the dedication and hard work they invest in Children's University.

Pictured are Lucy and Matt assisting DJ Catterall, Rhian and Olivia with their certificates and the tradition of throwing the Mortar Board. **Mrs Eves reporting**



## Open Afternoon and Stay and Learn

Following last year's success, the school will be hosting another Open Afternoon from 2.15 to 3.15pm on Tuesday 21st March. This will be an opportunity for parents and grandparents to see the school at work. You will have the opportunity to visit your children's classes, help them with their work and see the lovely displays around the school. The Reception classes have sent out invitations to Stay and Learn Sessions which will be instead of the Open Afternoon. All sessions will be from 2.15 to 3.15pm, dates as follows:

\*20th March Badgers

\*21st March Hedgehogs

\*23rd March Squirrels

The playground will be open for parking.

## Helping your child's speech and language

A website we find really helpful is The Speech Blog website. This has great ideas for school staff and parents of how to help child with unclear speech and a whole range of language and communication needs.

You can also access some free online training through the website:

<https://speechbloguk.zenler.com/courses/speaking-clearly-and-confidently> or just google The Speech Blog website and you will be guided there. The free course has three parts, with notes and a video for each part:

How to have a successful conversation with children with unclear speech

7 tips to encourage confident communication

What to do while you are waiting for a speech and language therapy appointment

Please let us know if you do the course and find it helpful, so that we can pass this on to other parents.

**Mrs Jasper, SENCO**

## DATES FOR TERM

Sunday 12th March	Colchester Half Marathon	
Tuesday March 21st	<b>Open Afternoon</b> <b>Reception children will have separate stay and learn sessions</b>	
Friday 24th March	<b>NSA Spring Fair</b>	
Friday 31st March	Last day of Spring Term - <b>EASTER PARADE</b>	
Tuesday 18th April	First day of Summer Term	
Friday 26th May	Last day of half term	
<b>Tuesday 6th June</b>	Return to school	
Friday 21st July	End of school year	
Monday 4th September	Year 6 go to Weymouth	
Wednesday 6th September	Autumn Term begins	