

NEWSLINE



North Primary School and Nursery

A Town Centre School with a Strong Community Ethos

March 2017
Issue 5

Stone Age Brought to Life

On Thursday 16th March, years 3 and 4 set off on their coaches to visit Layer Marney Tower for a Stone Age themed day of hands on activities. They conducted an archaeological dig, discovering shells used for eating and drinking, bones used as weapons and jewellery, rock hammers for flint knapping and clay pottery used for cooking. In the barn, the children made their own clay pots to gather berries and seeds in, and had a go at using fire sticks to start a blaze (sadly no success!). They also had a go at steering a coracle and said hello to Millie the pregnant goat! In the long gallery the children experienced Stone Age school using catapults, fishing rods and spears. They also got a chance to handle real flint arrow heads, mammoth teeth and very heavy mammoth tusks. A really great day was had by all. Thank you Layer Marney for laying on such an exciting day of practical activities.

Mr Johns reporting.

Pictured: Casper in a Coracle, Cormac trying to start a fire and the catapult practice at Stone Age School!



Layer Marney Tower provided the setting for an even more ancient history lesson than that of the magnificent building. Year five and six pupils experienced the Stone Age and were asked to imagine what it might have been like to live in Britain ten thousand years ago. They thought about the very first tools that humans might have used and saw how these developed over time, looking at hand axes, microliths and other sharp pieces of flint. They even held the real fossil remains of a mammoth.

Making fire was a major technological advancement for Stone Age people and we tested out the different methods of rubbing wood together, fortunately with little success. If ancient people could transport water they would reduce the risk of being attacked at water holes or streams so we made our own clay pots for this purpose. After hunting for or dinner with a variety of fun skills activities we created Stone Age images of the animals that these people might have come across. This was a great way to imagine what it would have been like with very limited resources and has helped the children to understand how human intelligence developed over thousands of years.

Mr Armitage reporting

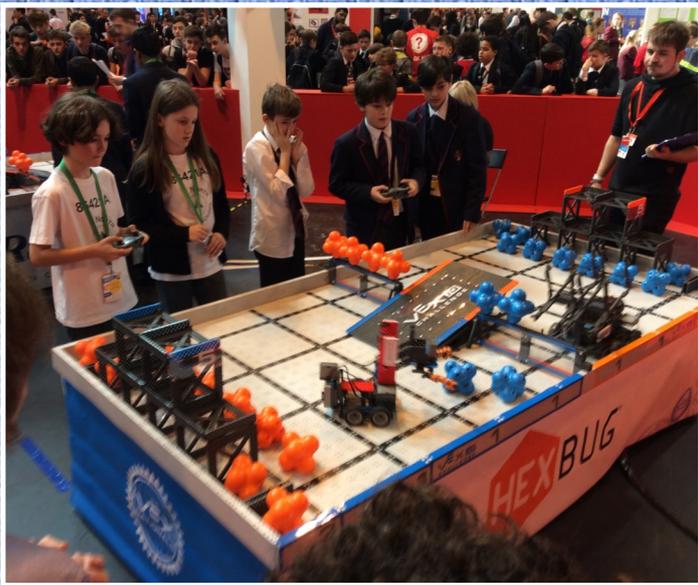


NSA SPRING FAIR FRIDAY 24TH MARCH - DOORS OPEN 3.45PM

CREAM TEAS - treat your mum or gran

CRAFT STALLS - PERFECT MOTHERING SUNDAY GIFT IDEAS

CRAFT ACITIVITIES



The Big Bang

March 15th was a memorable day for the Year 6 quartet of Dylan, Polly, Rhiain and Seb and their parents. They had taken their robot to the NEC to compete in the national finals of the VEX Robot Challenge. They kept their focus on a gruelling day, competing against mainly secondary schools from around the country.

Chris Carver, the Education Officer for the organiser RAPID was very impressed. He emailed, "I just wanted to say a massive well done to your team for how they performed last week. The competition was extremely tough and to be ranked 8th in Skills was an absolutely massive achievement."

The team had been prepared by Mrs. Walker and Mr. Allen. Mrs. Walker said, "We had a fantastic time. I was so proud of the children, they amazed me with their calmness throughout the day. ...I, on the other hand, was a bag of nerves for them every time they stepped up to compete!" Let's hope this event becomes a fixture in the school calendar. The quartet's task is to now train up the next group of robot designers and programmers.

Dinner money week for last week of term

A reminder that all dinner monies for children in Key Stage 2 need to be paid on Monday mornings (or the first day your child is in school, if they are absent on the Monday). During the last week of term all dinners will need to be booked and paid for on Monday 27th March, to allow processing for the end of the financial year. Please ensure your child's dinner money is handed in to their class teacher, in a sealed envelope clearly stating their name, class and which days your child will be having a school dinner.

Thank you

DATES FOR TERM

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------|
| Friday 24th March | NSA Spring Fair | 3.45pm |
| Friday 31st March | Last day of Spring Term - EASTER PARADE | |
| 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 | |