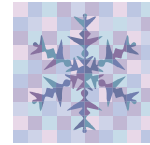




NEWSLETTER 13



FRIDAY December 12th 2008

I have many 'well-dones' to share this week!

Well done to our school community!

We have just heard that we have done extremely well in the 'Yellow Woods' campaign to recycle last year's Yellow Pages. Out of 52 schools that took part, Longwell Green came fifth in the whole of South Gloucestershire in terms of the number of Yellow Pages that were collected, a fantastic achievement! The school has been commended and was also recognised as the '**Best Newcomer**' to the campaign. A big thank you to all the community who helped by collecting Yellow Pages for recycling, and especially to Ms Flook who is leading the school's drive to become 'Greener'. For your information, the Yellow Pages collected are being used to make noticeboards and the top six schools in the campaign get a year's free membership to The Woodland's Trust Nature Detectives Club- more details to follow.

Well done to Year 6

At this time of year all the children in Year 6 present their Personal Challenge work for parents to see. I had the pleasure of seeing all the work displayed on Monday and I'm sure parents who attended will agree that the quality was superb. On Tuesday the rest of the children in the school had a chance to see the displays and other colleagues have described them as 'inspirational'. I would like to thank all the children for working so hard to produce work that secondary school age students would be proud of. Having been to Hooke Court with Year 6 I know that they are a talented group and this presentation confirmed the outstanding nature of their work. Well done!

Congratulations to Mrs Harris and Mrs Hatcliffe I am delighted to report that Mrs Harris (teacher of H2) and Mrs Hatcliffe (teaching assistant) have both been given roles within the local authority. Mrs Harris has been asked to be a Key Stage 1 assessment moderator, which means she will visit some other schools to help them carry out their assessments effectively; and Mrs Hatcliffe has been asked to be a Higher Level Teaching Assistant cluster co-ordinator, helping to organise meetings for other HLTAs in the local area. Although both these roles will mean that the two colleagues will spend a few days out of school this year, we are confident they will learn a tremendous amount through their new roles that they can then bring back to share at Longwell Green. Well done!

Well done and thank you to the infants

The infants performed their nativity plays to packed audiences this week. The children did incredibly well, and the adults who attended were very complimentary about the performances. Well done to all the children, and thank you to the staff who helped the children reach such a high quality of performance. Well done also to our visitors who parked so considerately outside the school- it does make a difference! Can we remind parents to do the same in the church car park at next Tuesday's Carol Service.

Mr Sibley

Working with other institutions

Longwell Green School is often asked to take part in research projects led by universities and other agencies. We are very proud of the fact that we are asked to take part in this prestigious work, and are always pleased to say yes. For example, recently we have been working with the University of Southampton on research into how we teach French in school, and this research will be used as part of a report that will be published nationally. As part of the relationship with the other institutions we have to agree by a code of ethics regarding children in educational research and this includes informing parents of the research and obtaining from parents their general permission for their children to take part in research of this kind. As we hope to continue to be involved in future research we are therefore asking parents to inform the school in a general nature whether they would like their child to be withdrawn from this kind of activity. If so, then please inform the school so that we can take the appropriate steps.

CLUBS AND CLEANING AFTER SCHOOL

THIS YEAR WE HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED TO SEE SO MANY AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS TAKING PLACE. THIS HAS BEEN VERY BENEFICIAL FOR THE CHILDREN CONCERNED BUT IT HAS MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE CLEANING THAT MUST TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME. FOR SAFETY REASONS WE ASK THAT CHILDREN TAKE ALL THEIR BELONGINGS TO THE CLUB THEY ARE ATTENDING SO THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO GO BACK TO CLASS TO COLLECT ANYTHING LATER. WET FLOORS, VACUUM CLEANERS AND ELECTRICAL LEADS ARE ONLY SOME OF THE HAZARDS THAT FACE CHILDREN WHO MOVE AROUND THE SCHOOL AFTER HOURS. YOUR CO-OPERATION IN THIS MATTER IS MUCH APPRECIATED.

Used Postage Stamps

Please bring in stamps from your Christmas cards – we have a collecting box in the main entrance which is for the charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Winter Hats

Hand knitted winter hats for sale at £2.50 each, ideal for the cold winter weather. Medium and small sizes available in Longwell Green school colours.

Cleaner required

The school will need to recruit an additional cleaner from mid January 2009 due to reorganisation of our current team. A cleaner will be required for 1.5 hours per day, which could be done in one shift or a split shift before or after school. The role will include use of an electric floor polisher. If you are interested please contact the school office.

Sport Update Term Two

Children throughout the school have been busy taking part in a range of sporting activities this term.

Girls in year six have received four excellent weeks of football coaching from Jess, a GFA football coach. This culminated in their excellent performance at the South Glos. Girls Tournament in Yate.

A group of children from Year 1, led wonderfully by Adam from F4, spent an afternoon at Hanham High where they took part in a range of activities with other local schools. They had great fun playing New Age Kurling and Boccia. Thanks to Adam, Daisy, Billie-Jo, Jacob, James, Grace, Rose, Thomas, Daniel, Isabelle and Harry for representing the school so brilliantly. Also thanks to Mrs Nicholls and Mrs Hatcliffe for accompanying them.

The Year Six football team have played four matches so far this year. In the league they beat Cadbury Heath 2-0 with goals from Tom and Michael. They also drew 1-1 with Hanham Abbots and 2-2 with St Anne's. Goals in those games from Tom, Michael and James. Unfortunately they lost their cup match to St Stephen's.

Four of our Year six children, James Lister, Michael Pope Robbins, Katie Ireland and Eloise Underhill have been chosen to join the South Glos. Sportshall Athletics Development squad.

James writes: 'At athletics we train in all sorts of events every Saturday morning at The Grange. The main event we focus on is running. There are all sorts of running events like the one lap sprint.'

They also do other events such as standing long jump and speed bounce. They will have the chance to represent at a range of events later in the year.

It is also great to see many children from all year groups taking part in our wide range of after school activities. Keep it up.

Mr Fry

Year 6 girls' football tournament

On Thursday 27th November, nine girls set off to King Edmund Secondary School. The team included Kara (Captain), Emily, Ellen, Katie, Olivia, Abby, Louise, Lauren and Bethan. We all got very excited and we were hoping that we would get as far as the final. So we had 4 group games which meant that we had to win all our games. In the group stage our results were as followed 1-0, 3-1, 4-0, and 2-0 which got us through to the semi-final. In The semi-finals we unfortunately lost 1-0 against The Ridge who won the competition so we didn't lose that badly. So then we played against St Anne's for third or fourth place. It was so close that we had to go into extra time, but unfortunately we lost 4-3. We were very proud that we came fourth out of 20 so we came back very happy. Now we know that every position is important and that you can defiantly not play football on your own.

By Ellen, Emily and Kara