



MARY ROSE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

parents and friends

School News

An exciting half term: this has been another action packed half term with lots of interesting and exciting experiences that have been designed by our staff to make learning fun and active.

Judo: Keystage 3 pupils are benefiting from Judo lessons from our professional coach. They really are enjoying this opportunity and it has motivated some of our least active pupils to get fit!

Links with Chichester University: this is a tremendous link and focuses on inclusive sporting activities for our pupils with the most complex needs from 5-19. They've all enjoyed their trips over there and benefited both physically and socially.

Celebrations: Burns Night, Chinese New Year: we continue to ensure that our pupils gain an understanding of the various religious and cultural festivals throughout the year. So far we have had a Burns Night celebration with our very own Scottish piper - the haggis went down well too! We've also been cele-

brating Chinese New Year, listening to music, dancing and tasting Chinese foods.

Coral Dance workshops: this dance company have been visiting us for the past 3 years. They help staff and pupils prepare for the Global Rock Challenge Performance just after Easter. Keystage 4 and 5 pupils are busy rehearsing already. We are also making costumes (70-80) and if anyone would like to help you would be more than welcome. You could either join us one afternoon a week or take costumes away to sew. Please contact the office if you can help.

Special Olympics: our team took part in the sports hall athletics at The Mountbatten Centre a couple of weeks ago. It was a fantastic day and they did really well—and they were competing against top Special Olympic teams.

Sensory garden: we are delighted to hear that we have won a bid in partnership with Portsmouth High School and St Swithuns. This will facilitate joint working with the schools and also provide



some funding to start developing the sensory trail behind the sensory garden. We will be asking for volunteers to help us with digging out the area please!

Learning about France and the French language: This term KS3's French experience was linked to their topic on leisure. The pupils worked in mixed groups from all the classes and completed a carousel of activities. They made their own game of Bilboquet and played a game in the group accompanied by musical challenges and French counting. They made their own Riviera boats, learning colours in French. The Tour de France was a popular activity, following a cycle route in the playground. On day two the classes created different aspects of a French café which culminated in the pupils taking great delight in taking turns to serve and be served with the French dishes they had made. A great ambiance!

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

Special points of interest:

- ☺ We will be joining the Mary Rose Trust on March 18th to lay the first foundation stone of the new museum
- ☺ We've got some brilliant pupils who have been raising funds for our school:

Mariah Wright raised £285.20 for the school in the Great South Run

Bradley Ryder organised a sponsored swim and raised £200+ towards a new mini bus

Nathan Harper organised a sponsored swim last year and raised £120 for the school

Important Dates:

Mon March 7th—11th
Residential visit to Little Canada

Tues March 8th
Pancake day races

Fri March 18th
Red Nose Day

Fri March 25th
Bingo and Curry Night

Friends of Mary Rose

We have been busy recruiting more members and organising our second fund-raising event of the year – a Bingo and Curry night on the 25th March.

All money raised by the Friends is being put towards the cost of a new school minibus, we are aiming for £15,000.

New members are always welcome, especially new parents to the school – it's great way to meet staff and other parents and to be involved with the school. We meet once every half term and just help out when we



can with events. Please buy tickets for the Bingo and Curry night, the food is being provided by the Marriott Hotel so it will be delicious! Tickets are £5 each or 4 for £18 and are available from reception

News from primary

Creative Partnerships: Every Tuesday the Primary Department are joined by a team of artists from Creative Partnerships. The artists have been working alongside class staff to create activities linked to the topics we are studying in school.

The children have been very lucky to work with Neil Tregear, an experienced potter. Neil has led the children to create some wonderful pieces of work, which are currently on display within the Art room. This term we have also been joined by Catherine and Teresa Grimaldi, who are both very talented artists specialising in textiles work, puppetry and storytelling



Octopus, Turtles and Seahorses have been focusing on Jack and the Beanstalk,

using the beanstalk to go on different journeys! They've used clay and a range of materials to create wonderful beanstalks.

Sharks, Penguins and Dolphins have been working on an Egyptian theme using clay and textiles. At the end of this half term they have shared an Egyptian lunch, thanks to our cater-

ing staff for their help!! Our storyteller has been working as a story collector, capturing the stories our children tell as they work with the clay—they communicate both verbally and through gesture and expression. It's all been really exciting and everyone has learnt new skills.



News from secondary and 6th form

Work experience: Wembley Class have recently spent two weeks on Work Experience. Some went on external placements to local businesses and employers such as Milton Park Pre School, Portsmouth Fruit and Flower and Charmaine Florists. Others worked within the school taking on the roles of Receptionist, Caretaker and



Reception Classroom Assistants. Reports on the students so far are excellent with one employer calling Daniel B the best student he had ever had! Full reports to follow on the school website.

Enterprise activity: Some 6th form students are again taking part in the Faith and Football Business Enterprise Chal-

lenge. They have been busy raising money to start the business by - preparing homemade soup for staff lunches and organising raffles and picture searches. After half term "Garden Box" will be launched and students will advertise and start taking orders for garden tubs and hanging baskets which they will plant with summer bedding plants. All profits will be given to the Faith and Football charity for their work in this country and overseas.

And finally

Parent training: Total Communication

Over 25 parents and carers attended this training run by our Speech and Language Therapy Team. The workshop covered different forms of communication from gestures and signing to emerging language. We looked at different ways in which communication can be supported both at home and at school and there was also time to ask questions relating to specific children. The feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive with comments such as 'very help-

ful', 'good to talk to other parents' and 'very useful'.

Many parents would like further training opportunities and we have started to plan a workshop for designing and making communication passports in the summer term.

Makaton sign language: we had such a terrific response for this that we have already run 2 courses this year with more to follow

Managing challenging behaviour:



we will be setting up a series of workshops later this term and in the summer term

School communication: please remember to contact us at any time if you have any questions at all about your child's education or anything else we can help with.

Tel: 02392852330

Email: headteacher@maryrose.portsmouth.sch.uk

I would like to thank you all for the tremendous support you give us, it really is most appreciated.