

Junior Peppard News

Mrs Davies- A New Addition to Peppard School

Mrs Davies, a new teacher, joined Peppard School and took the role of the *Junior Peppard News* adult. Since she is our new TA, we decided to ask her some questions.

When and why did you start teaching?
'I worked in a bank and financial services for 15 years and changed careers when my children started school. I enjoyed helping out in their classes on my days off and eventually went to work at their school.'

What was your favourite subject in school? Mrs Davies said she enjoyed all languages like English, French and German.

What is your favourite sandwich filling? Mrs Davies answer was very simple- 'BLT' (bacon, lettuce and tomato).

What is your favourite animal? 'My favourite animal is a dolphin.'

What are your big ambitions in life? 'A large family and spending lots of time together.'

What was your favourite childhood book? 'Amelia Jane books by Enid Blyton. I enjoyed them so much that I named one of my daughters Amelia!'



*Astrid Waite & Freya Kriefman
at the River & Rowing Museum*

Greys Visit to the River and Rowing Museum

On Wednesday 9th January 6-greys class (Year 1 and 2) visited the river and rowing museum in Henley. When they arrived in the morning they split into groups to do a workshop about light and dark. The carousel included various activities: reflection, shadows, sources of light and nocturnal animals.

In the afternoon they all took part in an art workshop. It was a screen painting activity looking at light, dark and shadows. By the end of the day, the whole class had produced some amazing work.

By Charlie Upsher

The Living Rainforest

Last term, in Springwood Class, we were learning about rainforests and on 7th December 2015 we were all excited to be going on a trip to the Living Rainforest in Newbury.

After travelling on two minibuses, we arrived at about 10.30 a.m. Then we split into two groups and had guided tours around the indoor rainforest. There are over 700 species of plants and animals in the Living Rainforest and we were lucky to see lots of cool and exotic animals including: an armadillo, toucans, freshwater stingrays, tiny monkeys and many more! We even encountered Luigi, a really funny bird with a brother named Mario.

We had lunch and some time to play outside before going into the rainforest again. In the afternoon we had worksheets to complete about the adaptations we had learnt about in the morning.

We then went back to school, very exhausted after such an amazing trip.

By Marie Guthrie

Christmas Cakes

Before half term, Springwood class started cooking lessons with Mrs Barlow so that they could surprise their family and friends with a special Christmas treat. Cooking took place every Thursday; in small groups; in the staffroom and quickly became many children's favourite activity.

In the first week, we made the cake with the fruit, flour and eggs. We mixed the ingredients with a wooden spoon and everybody got a turn. It smelt heavenly!

After half term, we covered the cakes with marzipan, which was quite tricky. We had to stretch it out and make sure that there weren't any creases. The week after that, we used the same technique to lay the fondant icing over the cakes.

The next step, was the best part of all – decorating the cakes. We had a choice of: penguins, a post box, a Christmas tree or presents. We chose a ribbon to go round our cakes and then the cake was ready!

On the last week before the Christmas holidays, Mr Steele handed out certificates to the Star Bakers. All the cakes looked amazing and tasted even better!

By Lois Powell



Head Chef Lois

Junior Peppard News is published by Peppard News Publications with financial support from Friends of Peppard School and Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council, and is distributed free to almost all households in the ecclesiastical and civil parishes of Peppard. It is also available by e-mail.

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Printed by Herald Graphics

Junior Peppard News cont'd

Chiltern Edge Performing Arts Day

Tuesday 19th January was a very exciting day for Year 5 because we were going on a trip to Chiltern Edge to do a performing arts workshop about *Footloose*. We all arrived at school, in our PE kit, ready for the thrilling day ahead of us. The school bus was filled with happy children anticipating what the teachers of Chiltern Edge had in store for us.

Once we arrived, we went into the main hall where we got given a bit more information about the day. We were split into three groups with other children from local schools. There were three different workshops: dance, drama and music. Throughout the day we rotated around all the activities so that everybody got to try out all of them.

In drama, we performed the gym scene from *Footloose* where some of the main characters tried to sneak into class because they were late. It was extremely funny and very enjoyable, despite the fact that we had to do push-ups at the end!

For dance, we learnt a routine to the song *Let's Hear It for the Boy!* The dance included some tricky steps where you crossed your legs over (the grapevine) and it all got a bit confusing. Eventually, all of us got the hang of it and the dance looked amazing!

During music, we sang *Footloose*, which got all of us jigging about in our seats. There were some high notes that we had to hit but it went smoothly in the end.

In the afternoon, we all got ready for the big performance in the hall where we had the chance to show parents and teachers what we had learnt throughout the morning. It all went really well and was great fun!

After the final group had finished performing, three judges, who were in the Chiltern Edge production of *Footloose*, came up to hand out certificates. Octavia and Lois were awarded

Star Dancer and Star Actor and were very proud of their achievements.

The whole day was great fun because we got the chance to do things we don't normally do at school.

By Lois Powell



Georgia Ruff is 'Knighthood' at Windsor Castle

Windsor Castle

In November 2015, Highmoor Class (Year 3 and 4) went to Windsor Castle. Their topic was the Normans, and they were looking at Motte-and-Bailey castles.

They travelled by minibus and got into different groups. They went around the Windsor Castle and saw lots of interesting artefacts such as armour they used in Norman times, Normandy helmets and they almost saw the Queen!

Emily Guthrie, a year 3 who went to Windsor Castle, said, "Windsor Castle had a lot of history in it and I was fascinated by it!"

Overall, the Windsor Castle trip was very useful as Highmoor definitely have learnt lots from being able to explore the castle for themselves.

By Marie Guthrie.

The Choir O2 Arena

On Friday 29th January 2016, the school choir went to the O2 arena for Young Voices. (A massive performance of school choirs from around the country).

We left school at 10 o'clock and travelled in two minibuses and arrived early afternoon, (we had lunch on the minibus). We sang the songs we had learnt for the performance on the way to the O2 arena. When we first saw the arena, we were all very excited yet nervous too as it looked *huge* from the outside!

We went into the O2 arena, which seemed even bigger from the inside, but Mrs Clinkard told us that we weren't even in the main bit of the O2 yet! When we were called in to start our practice, we were all buzzing with excitement! As we entered the main arena, we were all gobsmacked at how big it was! We found our seats and started to practise our songs. It was an intensive 5-6 hours of practise. We practised the harmonies that we were going to do on the real thing and we met amazing people including some exceptional beat-boxers who sounded like sound effects and a great lady called Laura Wright who sang *World In Union* in the Rugby World Cup.

As adults and parents started to file in to watch our performance, we were both excited and shaky! The concert was MAGNIFICENT! We saw a brilliant group of dancers called Urban Strider, a fantastic singer called Tom and an amazing band who played all the songs brilliantly!

Overall everything was SENSATIONAL and a truly unforgettable experience!

By Marie Guthrie

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The Atlantic Lions

During November 2015, all the children in Peppard school were asked to come dressed as lions for the day to support a charity rowing challenge. A crew of four men (Dave Middleton, Matt Townsend, Joe Mile and Charlie Hayward) called the Atlantic Lions are going to row more than 3000 miles, setting off from San Sebastián, La Gomera, across the seas of the Atlantic, finishing in Nelson's Dockyard English Harbour, Antigua. The rowers are hoping to raise £100,000 for the Multiple Sclerosis Trust.

One of the crew members – Dave Middleton, gave us a talk about the rowing challenge which included: what the boats look like, the food the rowers would eat and the survival suits they required.

The race started on 20th December 2015 and we have been following the rowers' progress, tracking them live on their website. The Atlantic Lions are currently in 11th place and have already raised over £62000. Good luck for the rest of the journey!

By Finley Robertson

Farewell Mrs Brealey

Wednesday 13th January 2016 was a sad day for Peppard school as we were saying good-bye to Mrs Brealey. Mrs Brealey had been working at Peppard school for 25 years and in that time she taught us cooking, French, RE and Latin.

The church service was held at the church down the road from the school. The children sang some of her favourite songs and shared some of their memories of Mrs Brealey. Year 1 and foundations sang 'somewhere over the rainbow' and Springwood and year 4 sang 'ou se trouve mon parapluie'.

We will miss Mrs Brealey very much and hope she has lots of fun!

By Lois Powell



Joseph Biggin in an Atlantic Lions' wetsuit

Tesco's Magic Of Christmas Competition

Early in December, Peppard School held an Art Afternoon to make a display for Henley Tesco's window competition. The theme was The Magic of Christmas and our display was based on a scene from the *Nutcracker*. Every class took part.

Springwood Class split into four groups to work on the main characters: the Magician, the Rat King, the Ice Queen and Clara. Highmoor were responsible for the toy soldiers and the *Nutcracker*. Greys Class made the stars and the mice whilst Peppard Class worked on the baubles. As well as working on the collage, the whole school did a hand-print for the Christmas tree. Mr Steele did one too!

All the schools in the area took part in the competition and we were thrilled to be voted the winners. Judges said they chose Peppard because they could see that the whole school had added something to the display.

All the children in school enjoyed working together to make the display and can't wait until Easter for the next competition.

By Charlie Upsher

Peppard Rocket

At the start of this year Peppard class were asked to choose their topic and they all wanted to find out more about space. Noah said he wants to be an astronaut. The next week they watched Tim Peake go into space and his first space walk from the space station. After that they made their own rocket and painted planets to build the atmosphere. Jonathan said "It was fun, I enjoyed it!"

The whole class learnt 'The way back home' by Oliver Jeffer and performed it with actions. The children have been enjoying creating things with alien playdough and constructing their own rockets to send them into space. Dogs included!

By Finley Robertson

The Chiltern Edge Indoor Athletics Competition

On Friday 22nd January 2016, Springwood Class went to Chiltern Edge's Indoor Athletics competition. When we arrived at Chiltern Edge, we were welcomed by Mr Nutt (the PE co-ordinator) and told the rules that we needed to know for the activities.

We started with an obstacle race, just to warm us up. The obstacles included some quick feet dodges, jumping from side to side and going over hurdles. We had a lot of fun and got an idea of what the proper competition was going to be like.

Then the real competition began! There were lots of different types of races and we were competing against children from Sonning Common and Kidmore End schools.

At the end of the day we awaited the announcement of the winners. Who was going to represent Oxfordshire in the big athletics competition? Unfortunately, it wasn't us! Even though we didn't win, we ended the week on a high as we all had great fun trying!

By Marie Guthrie

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