The Peppard Primary School children are back from their two week Christmas holiday. The children have had some amazing trips and topics, plus the Ofsted inspection, since their return. In this issue you will read about some of the most exciting things the school has been up to. So start reading now!

The Junior Peppard News Editors

An Interview With Reverend James Stickings

Another new face at Peppard School this year is the Reverend James Stickings. He has taken over our church services and is always a welcome and popular visitor to our school. We emailed him about his impressions of Peppard and got to know a bit about his background.

Reverend James moved to Kidmore End with his wife and daughter in early September 2016 from Headington in Oxford where he was the Curate (assistant priest in training) at Holy Trinity Headington Quarry. He told us that this church was famous for being the church of C.S. Lewis, the author of the Narnia Chronicles and lots more.

He likes the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of our school, but his favourite church service is a baptism. He says, ‘There’s a real sense of joy and fresh beginnings – which is what the Christian faith is all about’.

We asked him whether he spoke any other languages and he speaks German from when he lived in Germany as a child and he is learning Italian.

Reverend James talked about religion in the wider world and commented that ‘although the religions of the world are in some ways very different, in other ways there’s a lot of common ground, especially when you focus on what we can do together, such as working for peace.’

When asked what his favourite church was Reverend James said, ‘I love the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York City, which always moves me deeply. It’s still unfinished, but it’s very beautiful.’

And finally, we had to ask him what his favourite sandwich was, ‘Ah, that’s an easy one. I love the Reuben sandwich, which isn’t something you often see here in the UK. It consists of salt beef, sauerkraut, and cheese on toasted rye bread. But if I can’t get a Reuben, I’ll settle for chicken mayo on a baguette…’

The Junior Peppard News Editors

Corrections

Peppard News apologises for two misspelled names in the previous edition.

The following corrections apply: Laila Webb was the Peppard Class art competition winner and Bethan Toward was the Springwood Class art competition winner.

Peppard School Young Musicians

On Thursday 15th December five of our young musicians took part in the Henley Music School performance at Trinity Church as part of the Living Advent Calendar. While the venue is advertised the performers are kept a secret so each night there is a surprise.

This performance included Benedict, Jemima and Jonty Hall playing Jingle Bells and Silent Night as part of the ‘cello ensemble. They have been learning the ‘cello with the Henley Music School since May last year and loved having the opportunity to perform in front of an enthusiastic audience. Benedict said ‘I loved it, it was a great experience.’

Sienna Keyte also played some Christmas music as part of the violin and strings groups while Francesca Keyte put in an outstanding performance of Frosty the Snowman and The Christmas Alphabet as part of the junior choir. The Junior Choir definitely brought the house down as the final performance of a very enjoyable evening.

By Jonty Hall

By Jonty Hall
Young Voices 2017

After practising for five months, the Peppard school choir set off to London to take part in one of the world’s largest school choir concerts. Once they had set off, they passed the time by singing, playing top trump cards and generally being excited for the night ahead.

The Peppard School Choir

At around 12:00, they arrived at the O2. Thanks to the fact that they have been three years in a row, they were finding their seats and eating their lunch in no time. By the time everyone had finished, the other schools were making their way back in to the concert hall for the rehearsals. Once they were over, the children happily ate their delicious, but cold, tea. Eventually, the big show had arrived! All the adults were seated and the band was tuning their instruments. After what felt like hours, the compère waited on stage and introduced the conductor.

They sang some old classics like Birdhouse In Your Soul and Ain’t No Mountain High Enough. Also they sang Welsh songs and a famous Scottish song. After three hours of singing, there came the finale, a new song that is going to be put forward for a record deal.

The show finished at 21:00 and they slept all the way back home (they got back to school at 23.30!)

In conclusion, everyone enjoyed their experience, and slept very well that night.

By Lois Powell

Football Tournament

In October Years 5 and 6 went to a football tournament at Bishopswood Sports Ground. They played other schools such as Kidmore End and Sonning Common in six aside matches. The Peppard Team won two, drew one and lost two matches.

James Edgell in Year 6 and Archie Croft in Year 5 were particularly strong goal keepers. Jake Wilde and Joseph Biggin both scored a considerable number of goals.

Jake Y5 commented on the game ‘it was good fun’. Joe Y6 said ‘I liked it because we got to the semi-finals’. Kits Y5 said that ‘the event brings all the schools together’. Olly Y6 commented that ‘it was good fun and we did well considering we are a small school’.

James Y6 commented that it was particularly fun as the team was playing other schools.

By Archie Croft

Netball Tournament

Recently, Springwood class went to Gillots secondary school to compete at a Netball tournament. There were two teams and they both did amazingly. They did brilliantly because they all worked as a unit. Here are some quotes from the team players:

‘It was really fun and a great opportunity to meet new schools.’ said Amber-Lily, Yr 6.

‘We had a great time and it's nice to play netball with other teams.’ Said Nina, Yr 5.

It sounds like they really enjoyed it and are willing to do it again!

By Lily Jelowitz

The Peppard School Choir

Brazil

During this term, Springwood class has been learning about Brazil. Everyone has enjoyed the activities and has learnt a ton of facts.

In the first lesson, they learnt about the different climates and compared the Brazilian temperature to the English. There was quite a difference!

Springwood class had more lessons on the subject:

Jessica Wilson, Year 6, said, ‘The fat king Momo, needs to be given a gold key before the carnival started.’

Georgia Ruff, Year 5, said, ‘Ordem e Progresso, which is on the Brazilian flag, means order and progress in Portuguese’.

Olivia Shepherd, Year 6, said, ‘I enjoyed it because it was very creative’.

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Peppard Class Trip to See The Room on The Broom

Peppard Class had a wonderful trip to the Hexagon theatre to watch the show Room on the Broom on the 31st January. They had been using this story in their Literacy lessons. They had retold the story and changed some characters. The show demonstrated how effective innovating a story can be. The show inspired some lovely art work from the children.

Here are the children's reviews of the show.

Annabelle said ‘My favourite part of Room on the Broom was when the frog sang his song, it was so funny’.

Dexter said ‘My favourite part in Room on the Broom was when the broom snapped and all the characters fell off’.

Evie said ‘I loved it when the dragon was dancing with the witch and said ‘maybe just once I will have Witch without chips for my tea.’ It wasn’t a scary dragon, it was someone dressed up’.

By Peppard Class

Rapunzel - A Tangled Tale

Two children from Peppard Primary School (Sienna Keyte and Charlie Upsher) took part in Rapunzel a Tangled Tale. The director and writer of the play was Muffin Hurst. After four months of tears, sweat and rehearsals the first show came around. On the 30th December at 1:00pm the show began.

Charlie Upsher’s view on the play: ‘I thought it was an amazing opportunity for all. I got to say a lot and sing with Rapunzel and two other singers! I absolutely loved it! I can’t wait till the next performance.’

Sienna Keyte’s favourite bits: ‘I loved it when Hairy Clary Balding did an ‘I’m watching you sign’ at the end. I also liked it when everyone sang ‘pantomime’ at the end of the play and I liked Sir Donald Trumpington’s accent.’

All in all, the cast had a great time and, I believe, the audience loved it too!

By Charlie Upsher

Ukulele and Recorder

This academic year Years 3 and 4 are learning recorder with Mr Pip Marples. The Year 5 and 6 are learning ukulele with Darren Hillier.

It is good to learn an instrument. It takes time and dedication to improve.

The ukulele are all bright colours, red, blue, pink and green. These look quite a sight when the pupils all play in a group. We are learning how to play You Are My Sunshine and Rip-Tide. Some students that play Ukulele gave some comments: Kits Y5 said, ‘I love playing it’s a great experience’. Fran and Matilda in Y6 said ‘Yes it’s great to play’. Jess Y6 said, ‘Yes in my spare time. It’s brilliant’.

Pip Marples is a focused teacher of the recorder. He has helped the Year 3 and 4 learn music. Year 4 know notes top D, C, A, G, F sharp, E and bottom D. While year 3 know D, C, A and G. Freddie Y4 said he ‘really enjoyed the lessons’. Dylan said he found it ‘great fun’.

Learning a musical instrument is great fun and we would recommend it to everybody!

By Archie Croft

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Mrs Hall Interview

Mrs Hall has started in Peppard Primary School as a TA in Springwood class. She also helps out in the Peppard Junior News. We have asked her some questions:

What’s your favorite sandwich filling? ‘Egg mayonnaise with cress.’

Did you have a job before you were at Peppard? ‘I worked in IT for 11 years until I had children.’

Have you so far enjoyed working at Peppard Primary? ‘I love working here its a great school.’

Do you think you are learning anything at Peppard? ‘There are things to learn everyday but I am particularly enjoying learning the Ukulele.’

What’s your favourite thing about Peppard? ‘The fantastic, inclusive and caring environment.’

Do you wish in any other time in your life to become a teacher? ‘I am very much enjoying being involved in education and I can imagine wanting to become a teacher in the future.’

What’s your favourite type of tea? ‘I love herbal teas, but nettle is my favourite.’

Mrs Hall has been a great help in the school and we are glad to hear she enjoys her job at Peppard.

By Archie Croft and Charlie Upsher.

Highmoor Nursery School

Our private nursery is located in the rural village of Highmoor and offers exceptionally high standards of childcare and education.

- Open Monday to Friday during term-time
- Full and part-time places
- Fully government funded sessions available
- Children taken from age 2

Please send e-mail to gwen@highmoornursery.co.uk or telephone 01491 642162 to arrange a show round.

Babes in the Wood Toddler Sessions

- Stay and play group at Stoke Row Pavilion, RG9 5PS
- Three mornings sessions per week
- Soft play, baby area, toys, books, music and outdoor activities
- Run by Highmoor Nursery School staff, paediatric first-aid trained and DBS checked

Please contact Gwen Pragnell for more information on gwen@highmoornursery.co.uk or 01491 681837