

St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School

It has been quite a short term but we've managed to pack in a lot as usual. Year 6 have been incredibly mature and tackled their SATs amazingly and now have started on the school production! Year 2 have also been completing SATs this term, working hard to do their very best.



We thought it might be nice to see a flavour of everything the children have been up to this term.

Year 2 started the term with a visit from children from Bannockburn school in London. Together they made stick people in our forest school area and really



enjoyed each other's company. Year 1 have also been enjoying forest school, both on-site and in Langton.



With the warmer weather, we have seen many classes planting seeds so they can observe plants growing over the summer. There is a great variety of plants including beans, potatoes, sunflowers, herbs and cress. Year 3 have been looking carefully at the conditions needed for germination, whereas year 5 have investigated different methods of reproduction in plants.



Many artistic talents have been on display across the school. Reception children have been making African mud huts out of clay and sticks. Year 5 used their book 'The Lost Happy Endings' to inspire a beautiful creative display and year 3 have been sketching on the field after looking at satellite views of the school.



There was great excitement in year 1, when their large and colourful egg hatched and a tiny dragon became the latest member of the class.



Sporting News

Sports Person of the Year

This award can be won by any child from Year R to Year 6 and the attributes required are enthusiasm, effort, talent, sportsmanship, respect and being a team player. This is only the second year that this award has been presented and Mrs Hookway was really proud to award it to Erin from 6O. She has given us great pleasure over the past few years watching her improve and succeed in all the different sports she takes part in. She has represented the school on many occasions and she always makes us proud to have her as part of the team. She is a wonderful winner but also a gracious loser and she is always ready to offer advice and encouragement to others. This year she has performed superbly representing the school at virtually every sport we have taken part in. She is a valued member of St Matthew's School and she will be greatly missed when she leaves to start secondary school in September. Congratulations Erin you are an all round superstar.



Football

On Saturday 18th May our boys and girls team took part in the inter schools football tournament at St Gregory's School. The boys team consisted of Tinashe, Henry, Harry, Jack, Charlie, Preston & Tochukou. This was Harry's first time as goalkeeper and he was brilliant, making some really good saves. Tinashe and Jack scored 2 amazing goals and there was also some superb defending from Charlie & Tochukou. The team finished in equal 3rd place overall which was a great achievement. The girls team consisted of Anais, Jess, Amelia, Keeley, Martha, Amelia, Abbie & Annalys. Every member of the team played beyond expectation today and there were some superb goals from Amelia, Keeley, Martha & Abbie. Jess and Amelia played brilliantly in defence and made it really hard for the opposition. Considering this is their first season in the football league the amount of improvement they showed today was unbelievable and they drew 1-1 against two teams that beat them by double figures less than 6 months ago. The girls finished in 4th place overall which is a brilliant result



Gymnastics

On Thursday 9th May St Matthew's took part in the inter schools key steps gymnastics festival at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge. All the children had been practising for many weeks and it definitely showed in their performances. All of them were superb and the Year 6 A team finished in 2nd place and the Year 4 team finished in 3rd meaning they now progress to the Kent School games Finals in June. The Year 2s finished in 4th & the Year 6 B team finished in 3rd.



Tennis

On Thursday 25th April two teams took part in a mini tennis developmental competition. This event was for children who are new to the game of tennis and it was played on smaller courts in order to allow the children to develop their skills. The games were for fun and there were no winners or losers. All our children showed some great skills and there could be a few Andy Murrays in the making.

Hockey

On Thursday 4th April two teams took part in the inter schools Yr5/6 hockey tournament at Tonbridge School. We had every type of weather possible; rain, hail, rainbows and extreme cold, but all the players battled through it, playing some superb hockey. The A team managed to finish in 3rd place which was a huge achievement.



Cricket

On Wednesday 15th May St Matthew's took two teams to the inter schools cricket tournament at the Nevill ground. The A team consisted of Charlie, Harvey, Aiden, Jaimin, Frazer, Oliver, Niamh & Ateefa. They all played really well scoring many runs, especially the batting partnership of Harvey & Charlie. They won 3 games and lost 3, finishing in 6th place out of 17 schools. The B team consisted of Sean, Toby, Joshua, Ryan, Jack, Joseph, Georgia & Evie. Again they all played really well and managed to finish 9th. Well done to all.



Dates for your diary:

Mon 27th May- Fri 31st May - Half Term
Mon 3rd June - INSET
Tues 3rd June—7th June—Yr 6 Bikeability
Tues 4th June - Term 6 Starts
Mon 10th June—Fri 14th June—Year 6 residential
Fri 14th June- Class Worship 3DB
Mon 17th June - New Reception Parents Evening Meeting 6pm
Tues 18th June- Class Photos
Wed 19th June- Class Worship 4CD
Thurs 20th & Mon 24th June - Reception New entrants taster afternoon
Fri 21st June—Class worship 3P
Saturday 22nd June - Summer Fayre
Wed 26th June - Music Concert 9:15am
Thurs 27th June—Class worship Robins
Tues 2nd July—KS1 & EYFS Sports Day 9:30am
Wed 3rd July—KS2 Sports Day 9:30am
Thurs 4th - Fri 5th July Year 5 residential
Mon 15th July - Class Worship Reception
Tues 16th —Year 6 Production 7pm
Wed 17th —Year 6 Production 1:50pm & 7pm
Thurs 18th —Tie Ceremony for Year 2 2:45pm
Mon 22nd July—Leaver's Service

Attendance

Whole School attendance this term is 95.4% , the highest in three years. Kookaburras have the highest attendance in KS1 with 96.4%. In KS2, 4D have the highest attendance with 96.1%.

Where attendance falls below 90%, we monitor carefully and if needed, letters are sent out by the Kent Attendance Officer.

Staff News



Congratulations go to Miss Shears, who is getting married at Half Term. We wish her a fabulous day and will be welcoming her back as Mrs Miller!



Safeguarding



A letter was sent out to parents to inform them that the school has signed up for Operation Encompass which is a jointly run operation between individual schools, Kent County Council and Kent Police. Operation Encompass has been set-up to help schools to provide support to children who have been present, or exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. We have four DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads), and a strong pastoral team who support both children and parents as well as providing specialist services such as play therapy and counselling. Also, Mr Hardwick attended a course on Mental Health First Aid, an area of increasing national concern, which proved very informative and signposted services that we can access.

PTA - Bake Off

Over the last 4 weeks, the year groups in KS2 have been competing in the St Matthew's Bake Off. Each Friday a different year group have brought in cakes to sell after school on the playground. The competition is to see which year group raises the most money. Everyone has been very generous in their cake donations and in buying after school. Thank you to the PTA, who have been selling the cakes both at the end of school and after the clubs finish on a Friday.



The next big PTA event is the summer fayre on Saturday 22nd June, from 11-2pm. If you can spare some time to help set-up, run or pack up stalls on the day, please get in touch with the PTA to offer your services.



SATs

Thank you to all those involved in making sure the year 6s had the best possible preparation for their SATs. Breakfast was provided each morning. Thursday afternoon was lovely and sunny and the year 6 children enjoyed a relaxing afternoon playing on the field with biscuits as a treat!



Tower of London

At the very end of last term, our year 1 children had an incredibly exciting trip all the way to the Tower of London.

The cannon balls and armour were a great hit. What was lovely was to have a teacher from America praise the children on their knowledge and enthusiasm for learning.



Parent Consultations

Thank you to all the parents who came to consultations. It was lovely to hear the children talk about their learning. Thanks also to Independent Catering, who laid on some tasty treats for parents to sample.

Life and Soul

Year 5 have undertaken a creative and worthwhile project in collaboration with the charity Life and Soul and St Matthew's Church.

Old T-shirts, trousers and shirts have been upcycled into new fashion items. On Saturday 8th June, these will be part of a show at the church which is a fundraiser

for the charity. I think you'll agree that they have certainly been imaginative. Thank you to Anna Christmas, who gave the children some ideas to get started with.

I am extremely proud of our Year 6 children (and staff) who demonstrated a huge amount of resilience, perseverance and motivation throughout the week of SATs. All other years have also been busy and there is a great buzz of learning as you walk around the school. We've also enjoyed the Friday treat of tables groaning under the weight of cakes - a tasty way to finish the week. I wish you all a lovely half term holiday.

Mrs Hayward