

Junior School News

Friday 8th May 2015

Ofsted Report

As you will probably remember we had a visit from Ofsted recently (on the 16th and 17th April). We are pleased to say that we have now received the final report, a copy of which has been sent home with today's newsletter. **We are delighted to be able to tell you that the school has now been judged as 'good' in all areas** – leadership and management, behaviour and safety of the children, quality of teaching and children's achievement. We are also really pleased that they recognised that our work in keeping the children safe and promoting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. As with all schools there are still things to work on. We are already looking at ways of improving children's handwriting and presentation, and will be working with the teachers to make sure the exemplary practice that goes on around the school is shared more effectively.

It has been a challenging time for the school since the last inspection, and we would like to thank you for your continued support. Onwards and upwards!

Shackleton's Cat by Hazel, 5IE

Last Thursday our school was lucky to see an opera called Shackleton's Cat performed by the English Touring Opera, who brought their own orchestra. They sang and acted really well, and told the story of Captain Shackleton and his epic adventures in Antarctica. The story focussed on Mrs Chippy, the crew's cat (who was actually a male cat!) and how they had to leave him behind. It was a sad but very inspirational and exciting story.

Dogs on site

Lots of children like to greet the lovely dogs that are tied up by the school gates waiting for their owners to return from dropping off their children. The Dogs Trust recommend that you teach your child the following rules to ensure this is done safely:

Don't approach a dog with no owner around.

Only stroke a dog when the owner says 'Yes, you can.'

Get the dog to sniff your hand first, then stroke gently.

Please remember that dogs aren't allowed on the school site, even if you're carrying them.

Ladysmith Junior School 01392 255554

www.ladysmithjunior.devon.sch.uk

PTFA UPDATE

Sponsored Bounce A huge thank you to the organisers Olivia, Jen and Rosie, plus everyone who helped on the day. The children had great fun bouncing and all to help raise funds for the school. Please send in your sponsorship form and money by 15th May.

The Junior School Sponsored Assault Course will take place on 20th May – details attached.

Ladysmith PTFA FUNdraisers Meeting Minutes 21/4/15

Attended: Mr Wilkinson, Mr Souter, Mrs Smith, Mrs Brown, Ellen Jenkins, Charlie Nixon, Emma Whittingham, Christine Lewerne

Spending funds This is how the £300 per class funds (£6300) allocated in the 2014/15 school year have been spent:

Reception – new bikes for the outside space, Yr1 (allocated), Yr2 (iPads), Yr3 (allocated), Yr 4 & Yr 5 (subsidised aquarium trip) and Yr6 (subsidised theatre trip & £600 to spend)

We have also funded the Willow Project (£1000), Yr 2 Puppet Theatre (£275) and purchased lighting and gazebos and a shed for the PTFA/events.

Spending funds plan for 2015/16

Based on the voting results, the PTFA funding priority will focus on the following areas:

1. Developing outdoor spaces: PTFA will support the Junior school in developing a grant application aiming to develop the corner of the field where the willow structures have been planted to provide greater play equipment, seating and shade.

For the Infant School, PTFA funding will focus on the Reception and Year 1 playground and will be used to buy a shade sail and a bridge to allow children to cross over the planted areas. Cost tbc. PTFA funds and garden centre donations (if possible) will also be used to buy compost, flowering plants for the gardening club and bulbs for a Federation wide planting effort in the Autumn.

2. School trips versus special events: The idea was that PTFA funds could be used to subsidise school trips, however, the cost for these trips tends to be quite high so a small subsidy is often unseen. It was felt that there may be better value in funding special events at the school such as workshops, performances, music, etc.

Cafe The pond has now been fenced off making it safer to allow access to the forest school area during the monthly cafe. Parents to keep a watch outside and follow the specific forest school rules.

Events in 2015 Juniors Sponsored Assault Course (20 May), Pop Up Cafe (24 June) Summer Fair (10 July), Art Exhibition (November 15), Fireworks night (6 Nov), Theatre Alibi (26 Nov)

Infant Library Refurbishment Project

The Infants library is in need of updating including sourcing new books. The results from the voting in this round about the spending of funds didn't highlight this a key area for PTFA to fund. However, the PTFA would still like to support the activity by donating the funds from one of the Pop Up Cafes. If you would like to be part of the library working group, please contact Mrs Smith.

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Ladysmith Federation

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