



Dear Parents,

Once again we have made a busy start to the term.



Year 4 spent a fascinating morning problem solving last Monday through the "Knex" Challenge. An engineer from the organisation "Setpoint" led the activity and the children rose to the challenge enthusiastically. They all applied thinking and problem solving skills successfully and had a great morning. Thank you to those parents who helped.

Year 4 also gained an insight into causes of earthquakes and their aftermath. Mr Bulpitt (Cameron's Dad) came as a representative of "World Vision" and answered lots of questions from children eager to understand more about such situations. A few weeks ago Year 4 were investigating shelters in World War 11, leading to the need for different kinds of shelters today. Year 4 used their DT skills to build a cardboard home, remembering that for some people, this is a necessity and not a classroom challenge.

This week, representatives from St Dunstons will be working with KS2 children on "A World Without Vision", giving them an insight into a life without sight. We are looking forward to meeting them.

Year 1 had a great day at Tring Museum studying animals, patterns, etc. A good time was had by all. Miss Capstick has also been busy organising all kinds of events through the Sports Partnership. Again, Year 4 has really enjoyed participating in these with other first schools. It is a marvellous start to the transition process to Middle school. Miss Capstick has also been running the Speed Stacking Club.

Energy levels were at the fore when all children participated in the SGSA event, the Sponsored Skip! Thank you to all the parents who organised the event.



CHOIR

Approximately 25 children are having great fun singing in the "Choir" on Wednesday lunchtime. Julia is also taking Year 4 for Drama on Fridays. They are very enthusiastic exploring the theme of conflict and resolution. They are certainly gaining the confidence to express themselves and direct their own learning.

YEAR 3 NEWS

As some of you may already know, Mrs Price has been quite unwell for most of this term and continues to undergo tests. She feels unable to return to her post of class teacher whilst her health continues to present such huge problems and has sadly resigned. We are very saddened to lose the input from such a committed colleague and wish her a successful recovery. Mrs Price leaves Swing Gate at Easter, but unfortunately is not well enough to return to the demands of class teaching for the rest of this term.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Ablett who has worked at Swing Gate for a long time. She leaves us to take on the challenges of a different working week in a nursery in St Albans. We wish her well in her new post and a big thank you from all of us at school for all her input into our nursery. We welcome Mrs Ray, from Grove Road Primary school in Tring, an experienced Early Years Practitioner who will join us after Easter to ably support Mrs Hardwick and the early years team.

The week of the 22 March, all the children will be focussing on "An Autumn Landscape With A View Of Het Steen In The Early Morning" by Peter Rubens, as we enter "Take One Picture" week. This event is promoted by the National Gallery. Pupils will spend an entire week exploring all aspects of the painting in each class. We look forward to all the exciting learning it will stimulate.



CLASS ASSEMBLIES

YEAR 4 FRIDAY 12TH MARCH

YEAR 3 FRIDAY 19TH MARCH

END OF TERM WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH AT 13.30

RETURN TO SCHOOL MONDAY 19 APRIL 2010