

MAYVILLE NEWS

JULY 2010

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Headteacher's Comment

The second half of term seemed quite long when viewed from late May but it has raced away and soon the holidays will be here. Much will have happened for Mayville pupils in the final half term of the year and a time to draw breath is well deserved by pupils and staff.

The office remains open throughout the summer and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Magee & Mrs. Piercy, under the leadership of Miss Wareham, for all their work over the last school year. They will be surrounded by boxes, piles of papers and new furniture during the summer but all will be back to its calm normality for the start of the new school year.

Some of you will have witnessed the coming together of vehicles in St. Simon's Road recently. Fortunately no-one was injured but it does help to remind everyone of how careful both pedestrians and road users need to be, especially at the busy times of the day. Please can I reiterate that parents do not park on the zig-zags in St. Simon's Road. I have asked the city council to come and review the zig-zags but their wheels grind slowly. One aspect of the event was long conversations with the residents in St. Simon's. Many were very critical of those parents who park across their driveways and are unhelpful when residents need to get on or off their driveways. In some cases this is to take their own children to and from school. This can only be a very, very small number of individuals but their actions are tarnishing the many. Please respect the driveways where at all possible and if you have to move please do so. We need the support of our neighbours. There are spaces in the surrounding streets that may not be quite so convenient but will avoid any unnecessary aggravation. After much discussion and a little tour of the school we parted with a great deal more understanding so the afternoon was useful in the long run.

PTA / Summer Fair

I look forward to seeing parents at the summer fair tomorrow, July 3rd beginning at 1pm. Please remember that this is a compulsory school event.

The first of our clutch of babies arrived this week with Mrs. Hunt giving birth to Anya. Both are well. Our best wishes go to Miss Mills and Mme Leroy for the safe delivery of their babies during the summer holiday and congratulations to Carole (in the kitchen) on her wedding day tomorrow.

As the next newsletter will arrive at the end of the summer holiday it just remains for me to wish you a sunny summer and for those going away, a happy holiday.

Rock Challenge

Some 700 schools entered this nationwide competition and having reached the Southern Open final with our performance of *The Test of Time* we were placed 5th and also won awards for costume design (huge parental involvement here), lighting (designed and directed by Toby Lawrence), staging (back stage crew included here) & the award for healthy living – based on work done by pupils. All-



in-all the whole Mayville family achieving recognition. Well done to Mrs. Hepburn and the entire team.

Our performance puts us in amongst schools that are specialist in performing arts and colleges that

compete with teams of 'A' level students. This is a fantastic effort from everyone involved and a wonderful experience for our pupils.



Update – we have been put forward for four national awards – costume, set design, staging & lighting design – fingers crossed!

Hard hats & hi-viz!

During our book week last term a number of parents came into school to read to pupils – it was a great session. As a follow-up, Kestrels & LI held a Construction Afternoon.



Parents, pupils and staff investigated construction materials together - Mrs. Tremorin writes: *the children dressed up as construction workers and took part in activities such as hammering nails, building with car tyres, planks of wood and milk crates. There was sand play, loading and off-loading using wheelbarrows designing and making out of junk materials. Lego and toy train tracks were dotted around the playground. Not even*

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the damp weather could stem the construction fever as the children took the opportunity to build dens and shelter in them! Tremendous fun was had by all. Many thanks to all the parents and staff who made this possible.

LI at Blue Reef

What a busy bunch LI have been. As well as the above they have been to the aquarium. Amongst things that impressed were Dotty the shark (Benjamin's favourite) and the amazing facts that starfish have five eyes and that they shouldn't be pulled off rocks as their legs(arms!) can come off and crabs can grow their legs back. Annie loved putting her feet in the water, Thomas loved putting his feet in the water – in fact they all like putting their feet in the water! Just one small complaint from James – the otters were a bit smelly!

Zoolab

Came to visit recently and Harry Noyce of LIIB noted in his diary that ...*they brought lots of interesting animals with them. We saw a corn snake, giant African snails (not Mrs. Jones' favourite) cockroaches, two cute rats and a tarantula! ...The snake was called Saturn and we passed it around... I enjoyed stroking the rat best because it was very furry and had a sweet face (!) ...It was an unusual afternoon.*

Age Concern Picnic



On June 7th we held a picnic for a group of pensioners from the Age Concern day centre in Kingston Road. They came to chat with U11 pupils about their lives and schooldays and wartime experiences. They were then treated to a concert by the Pre-Prep & Junior choirs. There was much toe-tapping and singing along. It was a lovely afternoon

enjoyed by all. Laura Bagott wrote to thank us for the event, which we hope to make an annual one, and stated that they *thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially being able to interact with your children*. As you would expect of the wartime generation they were a feisty bunch and one member of staff, attempting to assist a lady of 94, was told in no uncertain terms that she was 'a volunteer' and not one of the old people!

Assembly

Whole school assemblies take place on a fortnightly basis in the Linda Owens Hall. As in the past LII hosted an assembly recently about their time in the Pre-Prep and looking into the future. There were many reminiscences and the usual looking forwards to rugby / netball / swimming but I was taken by the budding entrepreneur and empire-builder that couldn't wait to get his own desk! Other assemblies this term have taken us to ancient Rome, Greece and Egypt whilst LV took us to Soweto and news of a charity that the seniors will support next year. These are important gatherings as it gives an opportunity for pupils from Kestrels to UV to speak in public, tell us about their learning, hear of their thoughts and plans and to celebrate the successes of all parts of the school.

G&T

As part of our Gifted & Talented programme pupils attended two challenge days at St. Vincent's College in Gosport. Remove studied Classical Greece whilst UIV pupils discussed Resistance & Rebellion.

Portsmouth Book Awards

Various groups of pupils throughout the school have been part of the city-wide judging panels for the Portsmouth book awards. This meant that the pupils had to read the short-listed books and give feedback at meetings before casting their votes. The award ceremonies are taking place during this term. This has been an invaluable experience and the senior panel is pictured below.



Sport

A number of children took part in the Hampshire games representing Portsmouth. They included Isobel Stancliffe and Ashleigh Dekker who ended playing against each other as Portsmouth A played their B side in the final. Tom Farres won his pole vault competition clearing a height of 2m 20cm and goes onto represent Hampshire this summer. Congratulations to all who represented the city and particularly to Isobel and Tom as winners.

Mrs. Hindson has provided the following Senior Girls rounders reports & results:

The U13 rounders team travelled to the St John's College playing fields at Farlington on 9th June. They played all the schools in a round robin format. Despite only winning one game they scored a lot of rounders and when the overall results were announced the girls were surprised to find that we finished in fourth place out of seven! Well done to Natasha, Jessica, Parinaz, Caitlin, Tegan, Francesca, Ya Xian, Emily, Niamh and Erin.

The U12 team faced Meoncross School on 8th June on Southsea Common. Our team had already played a few matches together but after the half term break struggled to regain their form. Meoncross School had some strong players who could not only hit the ball well but could field accurately as well. The final result was a loss by 18½ to 12. Well done to Rebecca D, Rebecca H, Martha, Fabrizia, Georgina, Tara, Safah, Imogen and Ayla.

In the same age group a win was achieved against Wykeham House 15 – 10½. Rebecca D, Rebecca H, Imogen, Georgia, Georgina, Holly, Fabrizia and Martha showed some really accurate fielding and strong batting, especially in the second half.

The Under 14s lost 16 – 14½ (Alice-Rose, Lucy, Elle, Hope, Amber L, Amber M, Phoebe and Emily W). In the second half the team really improved both their batting and fielding resulting in a much closer game than the first half score suggested.

On an associated point our badminton players raised £609.18 for Sport Relief in just 15 minutes by paying 1p per hit – I'll let you do the maths!

Water bottles

All pupils are encouraged to bring a refillable bottle to school to keep themselves hydrated during the

day. There are various taps that they can fill up from. Due to a big rise in the cost of plastic cups pupils requiring one of these will have to purchase them at a cost of 5p each. Water and drinks are available at lunchtime.

Senior School Ski Trip 2011

There are still a few places available for this trip that is open to pupils currently in Remove, LIV & UIV. If you would like further information please contact the school.

Primary Languages Day

This week we hosted pupils from local primaries to join pupils from UIII to celebrate the learning of



languages. French, Spanish, Italian & Japanese were on offer and various activities – Venetian masks, presentations in the languages by pupils, piñatas, a Mexican bandito times-table ‘shoot-out’ and a release of balloons to round off the day. As you can see all had a fantastic time and a big thank you to the ‘3½ Amigos’ Mrs. Higgins, Senora Martinez and Mme Leroy (& baby!)

Doodle4Google

This was a competition that a number of the boys entered. They had to design a doodle on the theme of ‘I love football’. Over 4,000 doodles were submitted nationwide and Oliver Bonar’s impressed the judges and his design has been recognized with a certificate – well done.

Work continues

Alongside all the end of year activities the Pre-Prep and Juniors went to the beach to stir the creative writing juices.

These same children also had a whole day of Mathematical challenge, with workshops courtesy of Portsmouth University and a production of *The Countback Kid*. Many thanks to Remove pupils who helped out and to Mrs. Neiken for organizing the whole day.

Next week Remove, LIV & UIV pupils will be working on a theme around codes and ciphers, including the chance to see an original Enigma machine from Bletchley Park – more on *Enigma Week* next time.

Isle of Wight 2010.

Miss Lewis writes: *On the 25th of June, pupils from Upper 3 went on a weekend residential trip to the Kingswood Activity Centre on the Isle of Wight. They were blessed with fantastic weather for the trip and took part in the activities in glorious sunshine. Pupils took part in 18 different activities during the trip. These included; Go Karting, zip-wire,*



abseiling, Leap of Faith and the particularly scary 3G Swing. They were even brave enough to venture into the sea once the sessions had finished for the day. Pupils had a great time and returned home tired, but pleased with the different things they had accomplished during the weekend. Thank you to Miss Lewis, Mrs. Dekker & Mr. King.

Forthcoming dates:

3rd July Summer Fair from 1pm
9th July Junior/Senior School Sports Day
16th July Term ends
24th August GCSE results published
2nd September Autumn term begins