



Easter Newsletter

What a busy and hectic couple of terms we have had! We've certainly seen some comings and goings in the last three months both locally and much further afield! Now that the Easter holidays are upon us, some of us are hoping for a rest – all except Mrs Baker who's off on a return visit to see our School – Link friends in Gambia! We hope she has a productive time working with them and sharing good practice and we look forward to hearing her news in Term 5.

Mrs C Owen, Head of School & News Editor!

My Trip to Ghana ~ Miss Vedamuttu



I have travelled to many different places in the world, and taught for a summer in Peru when I was at university but no-

where has touched my heart like the Saltpond area of Ghana. The schools that we, teachers, visited were all very different but one thing was clear from the outset, the resources that they have are minimal and more resources would be received so gratefully. I presented the gifts that I bought through your generosity at



the Enterprise market to the Catholic School who were very thankful.

This visit to Ghana was funded by Kent County Council but my colleagues and I are hopeful that we will be able to return, under our own steam, within the year. We would like to be able to teach in our "Link schools" and take even more in the way of resources to the schools and a village called Etwa, which we are committed to helping to develop.

I will be in touch later in the year to ask for support in raising funds with which we, as a school, will buy more resources and help the community of Etwa and Saltpond Catholic Primary School.



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Sesame Seed & Nut Free Zone ~ All Parents Please Read

We have several children at school with severe allergies to nuts and sesame seeds. Because of this we ask parents to respect that St. Peter's School is a Nut & Sesame Free Zone. If your child brings in a packed lunch we would be grateful if you would refrain from including nuts and sesame seeds. Some children's allergies are severe enough that they could be af-

ected by any exposure, such as skin contact, to these items. It is a life threatening condition.

The staff have recently undergone refresher training on Anaphylaxis Shock and the use of Epi Pens but are rather keen never to have to put this in to action.

Thank you for your consideration.



Music News

During the week beginning 14th March the schools which had previously been part of Swale Urban Cluster came together to celebrate the musical achievements made as part of the Wider Opportunities scheme.

St Peter's was involved in three events. On Tuesday 15th March Year 5 went to the Swallows Leisure Centre, where they sang in a choir of about 400 children. The choir sang several songs they had learned at school, learned some new ones on the day and also took part in four sessions of musical activities. The singing included singing in parts, singing rounds, un-

accompanied singing and singing in other languages.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and performed at the end of the day to a large audience - thank you to those parents who managed to come and watch.

On Thursday 17th March Year 6 went over to Halfway School on the Isle of Sheppey to take part in a woodwind day, playing their clarinets, while the Halfway children played flutes and clarinets. The children played some pieces prepared beforehand and learned some new ones on the day, which they performed in a short concert to parents. Thank

you to Mrs Jackson and Mrs Osoba for coming to support St Peter's.

On Friday 18th March 18 children from Years 5 and 6 joined a large orchestra of 'continuers' - children who have been learning to play an instrument for more than a year. Our children played violin, recorder and cornet. The event was held at the Ramada Hotel in Maidstone and a wonderful day was had by all. The standard of the music produced was much higher than in previous years, showing the impact with which the Wider Opportunities Scheme has had on our music making. It was a real treat to see the enjoyment on the

children's faces when the parts they had been practising at school suddenly made sense as part of a complete orchestral piece.

None of these days would have been possible without the Wider Opportunities funding which has provided free instruments, tuition and transport for days like these, but more importantly without the amazing energy and inspiration of Christine Adams, our Lead Teacher for music, who has organized all the events we have enjoyed over the past few years. Thank you, Miss Adams, Mrs Michell and Helen McGregor for all your support!



Charities ~ A Huge THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to all of you for your continued support in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Lent and Easter Season - Reaching Out to Charity

The response, this Lenten Season, to our discussions with the children about prayer, fasting and alms giving has been generous and tremendous as our display bears testimony to.

We are still collecting (& counting!) money for the Young Carers Centre & Water Aid.

If there are any Water Aid monies still to come in please send them in by Thursday 28th April.

Please return Cabrini Children's Society boxes at the start of next term

Charity Raised 2010/11	
CAFOD	£192.49
Cabrini Children's Society	£64.96
Sports Relief	£22.80
Gambia Project	£221.40
Mission Together	£93.21
Shelter	£160.44
Pakistan Floods Appeal	£209.11
Kent Air Ambulance Trust	£51.35
Save the Children	£100.00
Ghanian School	£204.02
British Heart Foundation	£212.27
Hearing Dogs for the Deaf	£67.14
Total :	£1,599.19



Fancy Dress for Swale Young Carers

Holy Communion News

Our parent talks have been well attended and successful. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was received by the children from the parish in February. Miss Vedamuttu and Year 3 will complete their Holy Communion preparation with a retreat to Aylesford on Friday 6th May 2011.

Please pray for them as they receive the sacrament at one of the following Masses:

Saturday 7th May
Sunday 8th May
Saturday 14th May
Sunday 15th
Saturday 21st May
Sunday 22nd May

We welcome you all to join us in this parish celebration and would be grateful for any children who could help us with the singing.

Although we have made a significant change this year to strengthen the important parish/family link, the special touches that the children and families have always enjoyed will remain.

Their posters will be displayed in church as usual. Please join us for our school celebration on Friday 10th June 2011.



Sports & Competition News

K'Nex

January saw Jack S and Luke (Yr 6) go through to the district finals of the K'Nex challenge at BAE Systems, Rochester. Watch out for Yrs 3 & 4 who will be involved in the Summer terms.

Hockey

Yrs 3 & 4 entered the Quicksticks Hockey Festival in February and came back sporting medals for 1st and 2nd place.

Swale 2012 Logo

Noah (Yr 1) won the Swale Key Stage One 2012 Logo competition. He was presented with a 'bag of goodies' and a certificate at an

award ceremony held at the Abbey School in March.

Swale Athletics

Kian (Y5), Titilola (Y6) & Jack S (Y6) have all been awarded coveted places at the Swale Athletics Academy.

Taekwondo

Taekwondo champion Rhys (Y6) was awarded a gold trophy and bronze medal in the GTI English Championships held in Cheltenham in February.

High Five Club

Miss Vedamuttu reports that the dedicated High Five Club (formerly netballers) have taken part in several festivals during these past terms and although they did

not come back with any successes they have grown in skill. Our thanks go to Mrs. Mallon & Miss Vedamuttu for their excellent coaching of the children.

Football

Footballers have also grown in skill and experience in playing as a team when they entered their festivals – Minterne 7s & Swale Yrs 3 & 4 at Woodstock. After a really good start to the season they were faced with tough opposition this term. They battled hard but unfortunately the ball just wouldn't go in the net! Our thanks go to Mr Tierney, Mr Kelk and the parents who have supported them.

Judo

Sadly we said 'good bye' to Judo John who has inspired our youngsters to engage in the excellent discipline of Judo. Skills of cooperation, concentration and self control were mastered and above all the club was fun. We will miss him greatly.

Hello

We say hello and welcome to Judo Steve who has taken over the club and the girls from Street Dance Club which has been an instant hit!

Look now for Terms 5 & 6 Clubs letters in your children's bags!

Gymnastics ~ Steps to Success

The popularity of gymnastics at St. Peter's has grown and we now have thriving Key Stage 1 & 2 Clubs. These early risers, under the careful coaching of Jane Hyams, Mrs. Farley-Hills, Mrs. Keene and 'assistant coach' Jack Taylor, have been practising for the Key Step Gymnastics Competition 2011. Tension and excitement were mounting as competition day (Thursday 24th March) approached. Individual floor and team body management

routines had been polished, gracefully executed vaults rehearsed, music timed to perfection - with muscles properly warmed the children were finally ready. 34 teams (134 children) filled Swallows Leisure Centre, their nervous energy bubbling away. Newly qualified judges from Borden and Highsted Grammar Schools joined the Sheppey and Sittingbourne Schools Sports Partnership staff as the competition began. With excellent concentration and

attention to detail our young gymnasts performed their very best and enjoyed a successful day, winning.....

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) – B Team (Body Management & Floor disciplines, Team Gold). Hannah R - 1st (Individual Floor).

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) – A Team (Body Management, Team Bronze).

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6) – B Team (Body Management & Floor disci-

plines, Team Gold). Imogen - 1st (Individual Floor).

Congratulations to our children and staff – two splendid trophies will grace our cabinet for the next year.

PTFA

It's a busy time for our committee members and begins with shed clearing this Saturday (9th April) in preparation for the Kings and Queens Fete (11th June). Plant orders have gone off and now they are working on the annual sponsored event. The Christmas raffles, Valentine's dis-

cos and Wine & Wisdom (Mrs Jackson is not giving up her day job to be a Quiz Master) further swelled the funds for the valuable extras that make the difference in our school community. The children now have a lovely climbing wall, have been complimented on the wonderful track suits (well used for all our

team events) and accompanying staff fleeces (good for identity and security purposes) and finally our lovely 'real' story books for guided reading in Reception, Years 1 & 2. Words of thanks do not adequately express how appreciative we are of all the support the committee & parents give to the school both in

terms of time and money. **WE STILL NEED MORE HELP** if you are able to spare a few hours.



Special Days in School

We hope you have all enjoyed the many and varied opportunities offered to you to visit classes, assemblies and masses and see us 'at work'. The children certainly enjoy creating presentations and sharing their learning with you. They are very proud of their work and you can be extremely proud of them. Our thanks go to you all for supporting us and entering into the spirit of

these days (those 60s fashions were a sight to behold)! We do appreciate that it can sometimes be challenging to 'kit' the children out but we are always grateful and amazed by how inventive you and the children can be with paper, card, glue and material.

You all must be avid Blue Peter viewers!

Father Michael & Pilgrimage News

In January, as our School and Parish communities said a sad farewell to Father Michael, an intrepid group of parishioners (led by Father Michael and including Mrs Jackson) made a special pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

'We were walking in the footsteps of Jesus.....A memorable 7 day pilgrimage full of spiritual and inspiring experiences to reflect upon.'

On their return, a special assembly was held in honour of Father Michael and the children certainly all enjoyed singing along with him to the Gillingham Football Club anthem. Father Michael would like to pass on his very grate-

ful thanks to all those of you who contributed to his farewell gift from our school and the Parish of a laptop and printer. He has promised to keep in touch!

'Farewell Father Michael – we'll all miss you.'

In Term 5 Mrs Jackson is primed to give us an informative presentation of the visit and the children will also have the opportunity, through our Creative Partnership Project, to go on a pilgrimage themselves. Watch this space!



May the new life that God our Father brings through the Resurrection of His Son Jesus be a blessing for you, your children and your families throughout this Eastertide.

God Bless
HAPPY EASTER

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Year 6 Isle of Wight

Year 6 pupils (and teachers) returned happy but very tired from their long weekend on the beautiful Isle of Wight. Not only did they enjoy glorious weather but also some new and exciting activities this year – Jacobs Ladder (well done Mrs. Laming & Lizzie), Leap of Faith and 3 G Swing (Mrs Owen's scream could be heard in Sittingbourne).

The centre staff complimented the children on their behaviour and collaborative working – we are very proud of them all.

The activities all demand a high level of team work and challenge by choice. Our thanks go to all the staff that supported Party Leader, Mr Tierney (chief tormentor during Nightline) & Mrs. Baker (Aeroball Champ).

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2011

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Thursday 21 April

8.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching until 10.00 pm at the Altar of Repose, 0.00 pm Compline - Night Prayer of the Church.

GOOD FRIDAY - Friday 22 April

10.00 am **Walk of Witness** - start: West Lane, East Street (Outside of Net Church) (9.45 for 10.00 am start).

The route will be up East Street, onto the High Street. There will be a stop outside Wilkinson's Store for a short Open Air Service.

11.00 am **Stations of the Cross for Children**

3.00 pm **Solemn Liturgy of the Passion**

7.00 pm **Stations of the Cross**

HOLY SATURDAY - Saturday 23 April

10.00 am **Polish Blessing of the Easter food.**

8.00 pm **Easter Vigil - The first Mass of Easter** - Celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and our Redemption

EASTER SUNDAY - 24 April Mass times are 9.30 am and 11.00 am