

NEWSLETTER, October 2017



Hello and welcome back. I hope you had a great half term. Hands up who else can't believe we're on the run-up to Christmas?!

I will be away from school for most of this half term, having some surgery. In my absence, Jenny Baker will be acting Head teacher, very ably assisted by my Assistant Heads and Key Stage Leads. Don't worry though; I'll be around towards the end of term to see what brilliant work you've been doing and what fun you've been having! I look forward to seeing you all then.

STEMX Awards



SATRO Each year some of our learners have the opportunity to study BTEC Level 1 Award or Certificate in Construction, run by external company SATRO. Within each cohort, one learner who has made either exceptional progress or has shown a good work ethic and attitude towards the subject is nominated for the Carl Burrows award, given at our annual awards ceremony. In July, this award went to Laura in Sycamore.

This year, Kevin, the external tutor of the course, was so impressed with Laura that he also nominated her for the regional 'STEMX' awards within the category for Learner of the Year 2016-2017. Laura was up against 4 other learners from a wide variety of schools who had also completed the qualification last year. Laura had been nominated for her brilliant work ethic, supportive nature and her progress within the subject and she explained that completing the qualification had helped both her maths skills, in and outside the classroom, and helped build her resilience.



Huge congratulations to Laura, as she and her parents were invited to the awards ceremony evening in September where Laura won her category! Amongst the comments Laura received was that she is a credit to both her parents and the school and her positive attitude sets her apart from others.

Energising the Elderly!



Some of our KS4 students who have been participating in the 'Energise Project' hosted a tea-party for some elderly visitors recently. The tea-party was the final product of two terms worth of small-group work in which they planned the event. The aim of the project was to develop confidence and teamwork skills, whilst also teaching our young people about the world of work and different roles involved in projects. Well done to everyone - our visitors had a great time and were full of praise for our young people.

Forest Schools

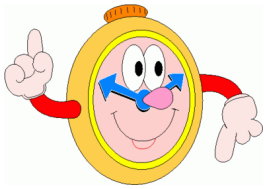


Forest Schools have been making and racing 'conker' hedgehogs! Learners have discovered what hedgehogs eat, where they live and have built them some homes in which they can hibernate.

We are sure that our local hedgehog community will be delighted with their new cosy houses and are looking forward to a nice long sleep.... **Zzzzz**



'Fall' backwards...



You may or may not know that on Sunday 29th October, all of the clocks in the country went back by an hour. This means that it's lighter in the mornings but darker in the afternoons. So why do we do it?

Benjamin Franklin, an American politician and inventor first came up with the idea whilst in Paris in 1784. He suggested that if people got up earlier, when it was lighter, it would save money on candles. Back in the UK, a builder called William Willett, thought it was a good idea too and in 1907, published a leaflet called '*The Waste of Daylight*', encouraging people to get out of bed earlier! His idea was discussed by Government in 1908, but many people thought it was daft so it wasn't made a law. Willett continued trying to convince people that it was a good idea, but it was only introduced in the UK in 1916, unfortunately, a year after he died.

Now, the UK's clocks always go back by one hour on the last Sunday in October and forward by one hour on the last Sunday in March. Moving clocks like this is now done in a few countries across the world, but most still don't do it. Many people remember which way to move their clocks by saying "Spring forwards; Fall backwards".

Governor Update

Hello – my name is Peter Floyd and I am the new Chair of Governors, I would like to introduce myself but before I do that I must pay tribute to our outgoing Chair.



Anne Shillcock has been a governor here for as long as anyone can remember and has been the Chair of Governors for most of that time. She has led the governing body through some difficult times in terms of school inspection and governor recruitment challenges. Anne never stinted in the amount of her personal time that she dedicated to the school and never shied away from a challenge - either internally or with the various agencies and authorities that she had to deal with. Anne has agreed to stay on a while longer as a governor which is excellent because I truly value the amount of experience and knowledge that she can continue to bring to the governing body so I'm sure you will join me in wishing her a long and happy retirement from the role of Chair.

Now a little bit about me. I have been a governor at KLS since May last year, coinciding with my retirement from a management position in a global multinational company. I have over 20 years' governance experience in a Bracknell Forest Secondary School but although I have chaired committees before, this is my first position as Chair. Additionally I have been a Lay Member of the Local Safeguarding Children Board for 6 years. In the relatively short time that I have been involved with KLS I have grown to love and respect the ethos and feel of the school and the staff and young people have made me feel very welcome. At the Leavers Assembly in July it was clear that this school is a community that cares about and looks out for each other. I found the experience quite emotional and at Festival Week it was a delight to see the energy and enthusiasm our learners put into trying new things.

Over forthcoming issues of the Newsletter, I will be introducing you to other members of the governing body and to tell you a little bit more about what we do to support the school.

Dates for the Diary



Thursday 2nd November	3.30pm – 5.00pm	Family Learning Session
Friday 10th November	1.30pm – 2.30pm	Primary All Join In Afternoon
Friday 17th November		Children in Need

Best wishes,

Andrea