

NEWSLETTER, December 2017



It is hard to believe we are a third of the way through the academic year as the Autumn Term draws to a close. I would like to highlight a few of the achievements so far:-

- Our partnership links and opportunities with Wellington College
- More off-site trips than ever before
- Successful 'working' experience placements, including a residential to Foxes Academy
- Access to English and Maths GCSE courses for identified learners at Sandhurst School
- The introduction of Read Write Inc. into Primary means there is a consistent approach to teaching phonics across the whole school
- Our sporting achievements continue to be recognised
- The successful implementation of the Support and Intervention Team which provides additional targeted support to specific learners and/or their families
- Site security has been improved by the introduction of automated gates
- The school environment has benefitted from some creative wall murals, for example, the Gruffalo in the Primary entrance hall
- A larger number of classrooms have been refurbished

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff involved in supporting your young person here at Kennel Lane School for all their hard work this term. The team works tirelessly to ensure that our vision for the whole school community is fulfilled.

Wishing you and your family all the best over this festive period and a Happy New Year.

Jenny Baker - Acting Headteacher

Primary and Secondary Christmas Productions



On Friday 15th, both Primary and Secondary performed their Christmas productions. Secondary were up first and performed "*The Christmas Eve Disaster*" to a packed hall full of parents and some Governors and once again, they thrilled their audience with their performing talents. "*The Christmas Eve Disaster*" showed what would happen if the Father Christmas in a well-known department store decided that children were not worth the bother, and he went on strike! All the classes

played their part in trying to persuade him to think again, and there were lovely performances of their chosen songs. Learners had worked hard on rehearsing their pieces and as usual, they showed how much they enjoyed being on stage. An extra thank you to Diane Haylor who is leaving us this term, for creating this superb production.

Later that same day, Primary learners performed "*Christmas Around the World*", and through song and acting, featured angels visiting lots of different countries to see how Christmas is celebrated all over the world. They visited Australia and found out how people spend Christmas day in a hot climate and even ventured to Africa! They did, however, finish up at Kennel Lane School to see how we all celebrate Christmas. An extra thank you to Lois Casey, also leaving us this term for her part in organising this production.



We are always grateful to parents for their support, both in coming to watch the performances and in organising costumes. Thank you once again.

Family Activity Session



Last month, some of our students brought their parents, carers and siblings to school to join in our Autumn Term family activity session. We spent the afternoon in Forest School making stars, lanterns and flowers out of everyday materials and later, enjoyed toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate around the campfire. Thank you to all of those who attended and to the Friends of Kennel Lane School who fund these sessions for families to enjoy. We hope to see you again in our Spring Term family activity session.



KLS/Wellington College Link



This term, Redwood learners have been working with their peers at Wellington College as part of the KLS/Wellington College Link. Young people from both schools have valued their time and experiences together, which included taking part in low ropes, using Apple Macs to make unique music and using the Wellington College site for a scavenger hunt! We hope that this link will continue and will publish further activities in future newsletters.

Darron Love

We were delighted to welcome Darron back to school last month to run more workshops for some of our older learners. Darron spoke about the importance of reading and introduced us to his latest book. If you want to learn more about Darron's books, please visit his website <https://www.darronjonlove.com/>



Horse Riding Success!

In November, six learners who attend Warfield RDA (Riding for the Disabled) with the school were tested by an external examiner for their Riding Skills and their Horse Knowledge. We are pleased to report that all six passed their Riding Skills Level 1 and nearly all passed their Horse Knowledge Level 1. A special mention must go to Jasmine (Citrine) who has been awarded the RDA Progress Cup and Rhys (Amethyst) who was awarded the runners up rosette.



Shakespeare Schools Festival 2017



On Wednesday 18th October 2017, our Performing Arts group performed 'The Tempest' at South Hill Park's Wilde Theatre as part of the Shakespeare School's Festival. The group have been working incredibly hard since the beginning of September to produce an imaginative and fun retelling of this famous play.

We arrived at the theatre and were given real 'West End' treatment with dressing rooms that even featured the infamous mirrors with light bulbs! The performers focused well during the technical and dress rehearsal, and responded well to the direction of professional lighting and sound technicians.

"Lights, camera, action!" - all performers were calm, ready and waiting in the wings for their big moment. It was truly a magical experience to watch the learners act with confidence and to support each other when the performance took a slight change of action! There were so many incredible effects created on stage; the soundscape of the magical island, the dramatic storm and shipwreck, Caliban's creepy cave and powerful magic from Prospero and Ariel.

Kennel Lane School is very proud of all of the learners who took part. It takes a lot of strength and determination to perform in front of a large audience.

Congratulations to Molly, Laura-Rose, Luke, Ellie, Tom, Naomi, Amber, Gemma, Jessica and Libby!



Governor Update from Peter Floyd, Chair of Governors

In last month's Newsletter I introduced the first of the Governors' three core functions. The second is "Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school & it's pupils, and the performance management of staff." This focuses on the progress that our learners make and the capability of the staff to provide them with the best possible education. However, I am proud to say that at Kennel Lane everyone concentrates not just on educational performance but also on ensuring that our learners are as fully prepared as possible to understand the world around them, become fulfilled individuals and active and compassionate citizens. It is this overall approach that gives them the best life chances when the time comes for them to leave us.



Recently we have been recruiting for both a Parent Governor and a Staff Governor and I am pleased to say that a couple of brave people have stepped forward to fill those roles – how brave they are they probably don't realise yet!

Farah Kahlid is the new Parent Governor and is filling that role with immediate effect. Farah has a daughter in Secondary. **Stuart McCann** is the new Staff Governor effective from January 1st. Stuart is a

Qualified Teaching Assistant working in Secondary and has been at the school over three years. Stuart takes over from Jenny Baker and I would like to record here the Governors' appreciation of her many valuable contributions over the time that she was the Staff Governor.



Lastly, you will be receiving this as the Christmas break starts so I would like, on behalf of the Governing Body, to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and lots of luck for 2018.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 5th January 2018

Back to School!

**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!**

Christmas Fun for the Kids



1. What do you call an old snowman?
2. When does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?
3. What does December have that no other month does?
4. What Christmas carol is a favorite of parents?
5. Where do snowmen go to dance?
6. What kind of candle burns longer, a red candle or a green candle?



Help Frosty get through the maze and to his gift!



s u b c a n d y
l s b a l l e k
e n e l f t e d
d o l l s e r k
t w l g t r e e
o w n i a x a i
y b m f r m w c
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ball	elf	snow
bell	gift	star
candy	santa	toy
deer	sled	tree