

NEWSLETTER, January 2018



The new term has got off to a busy start for all of us here at Kennel Lane School with our learners engaging in lots of additional opportunities linked to our curriculum. For example a pantomime version of Dick Whittington was

performed in the Primary Hall and a 'goat' even came to visit the Forest School area. Next month also appears to be just as busy with Key Stage 3 learners visiting and attending a workshop at Harry Potter World to enhance their Literacy skills as well as many more community visits across the school.

The end of January also sees the launch of our new Kennel Lane School website and I hope you find it informative and easy to use. Please be patient though whilst we continue to work on some of the pages by adding the relevant information to them. Linked to our new school website will be our Twitter account, you can follow us on Twitter by searching for our handle @KLSBracknell.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events for parents and carers, which are detailed in the 'Dates for the Diary' section.

Kind regards

Jenny Baker - Acting Headteacher

Project Unified Basketball

Last term, we took part in Project Unified Basketball. As part of the programme, which aims for sport to be inclusive, we were privileged

to have a coach from Bracknell Cobras Basketball team training our young people.

Coach Martin taught the learners basketball skills in inclusive lessons with students from St Crispin's School in Wokingham. This was a great opportunity for our learners to work with mainstream pupils; they thoroughly enjoyed the social aspect as well as the physical challenge. On December 1st 2017 the Kennel Lane/St Crispin's team competed in a Unified Basketball tournament at the Madjeski Academy in Reading. Our learners played with enthusiasm, heaps of effort and great sportsmanship. After a very close final we came second in the tournament out of the six teams competing. Well done to all who took part and thank you to Hasbro who sponsored the event and kindly donated basketballs and bibs to the school.



Wellington College Links

As part of our Wellington College links, Redwood class welcomed some Wellington students and took part in 'scratch painting' art. The session was enjoyed by everyone and each learner created a beautiful personalised piece of art to take home.



Dick Whittington comes to Kennel Lane!



On Wednesday 17th January, the Primary Department were once again treated to another performance, this time of *Dick Whittington*, courtesy of M and M Productions. We are always really happy to have M and M visit us as we always enjoy the performances. A big thank you to Happy Days Charity who organise these events for us.

Something Special



The 'Something Special' episode filmed last term at Kennel Lane School and featuring some learners from Primary will be aired on CBeebies on **Tuesday 6th March at 9.45am and at 1.45pm.** The Primary department will be watching this together as a group.

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday, February 6th is Safer Internet Day, a global event promoting safe behaviour on the internet. This year's theme is "Create, Connect and Share Respect" and Kennel Lane School will work with young people to find out how they connect with other people in the online and offline world. You can find more information about Safer Internet Day at <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018>.



Do you know what "bae" means? How about "fleek"? If the answer is no, you should check out the BBC's Own It website (<https://www.bbc.com/ownit>). The site contains videos aimed at young people about topics such as the meanings of obscure words, but also practical advice to stop unwanted behaviour on the internet.

Governor Update from Peter Floyd, Chair of Governors

You will all know that our much loved and well respected Headteacher, Andrea, has announced that she will retire at the end of August. Andrea has been Head for over 15 years and during this time has helped to make Kennel Lane School the unique place that it is. Andrea has always worked in the best interests of the school to ensure that our learners achieve and become as independent as possible. I know that her efforts and achievements have been, and continue to be, very much appreciated by learners, parents, carers, staff and the wider community both past and present. During the time I have been a Governor I have witnessed first-hand the respect and affection the learners show Andrea. I am sure you will join me and the other Governors in thanking Andrea for her hard work and in wishing her the very best of luck as she approaches this new and exciting chapter in her life.

In the last two newsletters I have explained two of the Governors' core functions, the third is "Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent." Like all government funded organisations we are finding that money is tight and the indication is that pressure on budgets will continue to increase. The Finance and Site Committee led by Governor Martin Gocke, in conjunction with the school's leaders, ensures that the budget is balanced (i.e. expenditure does not exceed income) and that funds are spent wisely for the educational benefit of our learners and the wellbeing of staff. Additional responsibilities include ensuring value for money is secured in all dealings and that government grants for specific purposes are managed and reported on.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 31st January	Primary and Secondary Parent and Carer Workshop Numicon and RWI 9.15am – 10.15am or 6.00pm – 7pm
Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February	HALF TERM
Thursday 22nd February	Secondary Bring 2 and Share Afternoon 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Friday 23rd February	Primary 'All Join In' Afternoon 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Thursday 1st March	World Book Day
Wednesday 7th March	Family Fun Learning Session 3.30pm – 5.00pm