

Dear Parents / Carers,

We delayed our end of half term newsletter as a mark of respect, and in collaboration with our colleagues at St Michael's Junior School.

Our whole school community were deeply saddened to learn about the tragic death of Leo Latifi on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Leo was a pupil here for three years before transferring to St Michael's Church of England Junior School. We extend our most sincere thoughts, sympathy and support to Leo's family at this very sad and difficult time and also to all our friends and colleagues at St Michael's School.



**Gardening news**

Sue, Peter, Brian and Andy continue to work with groups of children in our polytunnel and vegetable garden each Thursday. Before half term the children came in with armfuls of fragrant sweet peas, a small pot of early strawberries and large bowls of salad leaves. Our children are so fortunate to have this opportunity.

In autumn 2017 Peter Seabrook gathered some acorns from trees at the front of our school and planted them with Yr2 children. The trees were displayed at Chelsea Flower Show last May and have finally been planted by our Foundation Stage classes on the edge of our Forest Area. Peter plans to take photographs each year of the children and the trees- for a few years the children will be taller, but, if we care for them well, very soon the trees will outgrow the children!



## Learning themes

The children really enjoyed **The Show Must Go On** last half term, with so many performances and opportunities to learn new skills. Thank you to all the parents who have contributed to our learning. Before half term every class enjoyed a dance workshop and performance with Katie Wilson based on The Greatest Showman, tunes which the children never seem to tire of hearing! Year 1 worked towards a dance performance in their Wednesday lessons with Miss Laura and Year 2 enjoyed a talk by Claire Woodward about her work with a local Amateur Dramatics Association.

The surprise discovery of a very large egg (and an assortment of other clues...) on the school field on Monday led to a flurry of investigations and theories. We have now been in touch with The Ministry of Dragons, who have kindly agreed to send a representative later this week to check the egg and advise us on what we need to do.

All year groups will have coach trips linked to their classroom learning this term. Year 1 and Year 2 classes will be visiting Hedingham to learn about life in a medieval castle, whilst Foxes and Badgers will be exploring the beach at Shoeburyness. It would help us to collect your contributions for these trips as soon as possible please.

## Parent lunches

Dates have been agreed with the kitchen team for Year 1 parent lunches- please make a note of the dates and look out for menu choices:

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

## Scarecrows

We had a sunny day and lots of enthusiastic volunteers to help us create our 3 scarecrows as part of The Galleywood Festival. If you check the Galleywood Festival website there is a map to show you where all 43 Galleywood scarecrows can be seen! We are grateful to Janet Doghan, who provided the inspiration for this project, and brought her scarecrows Petunia and Keith into school to meet us!



## **Lost Property**

We are doing everything we can to reduce the amount of lost property that finds its way to our school office. We know clothing is really expensive and that it is frustrating when items seem to vanish without trace. Whilst children are encouraged to care for their own belongings, we know children forget at times; teachers check classrooms daily and find owners for everything that is named.

We have bought a set of laundry markers and there is one in each class, as well as a couple in the office. You are very welcome to borrow these to name new clothing, and to renew names after clothes have been washed a few times.

Lots of companies offer name stickers and these seem very good, staying securely in shoes, coats and all items of clothing for long periods of time. We have some leaflets in the office if you would like to try these- alternatively search online where you can choose a design your child will easily recognise. Thank you.

## **GIPA events**

Next Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June is our annual sponsored event from 2:30pm. This year we have a dragon and castle theme with 8 activities for children to complete. Look out for full details and a sponsor form tomorrow afternoon.