

# Summercroft Primary School

'Achieving through care, challenge and creativity'



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Summer Term and I wish it were accompanied by more appropriate weather! I hope that you all had a fabulous Easter break with your children and enjoyed the Bank Holiday weekend. In this edition, you will read about the children's experiences of Science Week which was greeted with such enthusiasm by pupils and adults alike. It was lovely to have so many parents come to school to show how Science is used in their day to day life at work. Thanks to Mr Purser who, with Mrs Stubbings and Mrs Jolley, lead the development of Science across the school. We look forward to achieving our Primary Science Quality Mark soon!

**SATs** Spare a thought for the year 6 pupils who are taking their SATs next week beginning the 8th May and the adults in keeping children calm and focussed. Various rooms will be used at this time, so I should be grateful to everyone in being mindful when they are moving about the school grounds—especially between 9.00 and 12.00 thank you.

**Parent Governors** play a vital role in the strategic development of our school and we are seeking 3 keen individuals who would like to be part of the team. Please check the children's book bags for the letter sent out recently to see if this is something you are able to offer us. Perhaps you need to find out more information about it and there are members of staff in school who would be happy to talk you through the time commitment needed to be able to fulfil this rewarding but demanding role.

**Learning Powers** The final of our 10 learning powers was introduced at the beginning of this term (Mr Jess explains about that on page 5 of the newsletter) but have you seen our new stickers? The children have started to receive these through the Golden Folder assemblies when their teachers spot them using and growing these skills as part of their learning. The aim will be to collect all 10 over time. Thanks again, to Mr Divall for his original art work and to Mrs Paxton for designing the stickers!

Warm wishes

Carole Hinstridge

Headteacher



## Science week at Summercroft

We have had a fantastic Science Investigation week at Summercroft. Huge thanks to all who arranged the many marvellous costumes, they really made for a memorable day at the beginning of the week. The range of science going on was amazing and the children have loved it- we've even had some of our pupils state an interest in becoming scientists when they're older!

Mr Purser, Science Co-ordinator

## The Golden Folder

Congratulations to the following children who have appeared in our Golden Folder recently:





**Having a blast in year 5**

Science week has been a blast in Year 5 over the past week! We launched bottle rockets centimetres into the atmosphere! We experimented with toy cars to test out the friction of various materials and even made pooters (please don't laugh) to catch bugs with! Sycamore class even visited a laboratory at Herts & Essex to get a glimpse of what science lessons will be like in secondary school!



**Year 1 investigate the Material World.**

During Science week, Year 1 had great fun finding out about materials and their properties. They carried out different investigations to find out which material was the best to prevent ice from melting and which material would help to slow you down when going on a very steep slide. They also tested different materials to see which float and then worked as a team to build a boat that could hold the most weight. The winners of the boat making investigation were Alec, Amelie, Joey and Ananya from Chestnut class, whose boat held 235 cubes and George, Aimi, Caleb, Archie, Lily and Ani from Cherry class, whose boat held 160 cubes.

The children used many scientific skills throughout the week including making predictions, testing and recording results and finding the conclusions to the various investigations. The children also demonstrated many of our learning powers such as collaboration, connection making, resourcefulness, adaptation and resilience.

Year 1 also enjoyed a visit from Mrs Van Baal who is a Fashion Designer. She showed us how to create different dyes using vegetables in order to colour material. The children were fascinated to see a cabbage and beetroot freshly dug from the ground and learnt how to use them to create natural dyes. They made predictions about the colour the vegetables would turn a white piece of fabric. Thank you Mrs Van Baal for giving up your time and coming to work with year 1.



**Science in Reception**

This week we have celebrated science and looked at just how many jobs and places involve science! We learnt about the different parts of a plant, what plants and flowers need to survive and planted our own bean seeds. We then investigated what happened when we put flowers in different coloured dye. We also looked at what materials float and sink, sorted magnetic and non-magnetic items, observed the changes as ice melted into water and explored mixing different colours. What a fascinating and busy week!!





**Nursery explore, experiment and discover!**

Last week the children were fully engaged and enjoying science week. During the week the children experienced different science investigations. We looked at what happens when you mix certain colours together, what materials are magnetic and non-magnetic, what conditions plants need to successfully grow, what floats and sinks and we also created ramps and experimented with which surfaces were best for speed! We are now experts in explaining why things happen and how things work! Chloe explained “I liked experimenting with the floating, putting stuff in the sink and seeing if they float or not. George told everyone “I liked Science week and doing all the experiments.”



**Science in Year 6**

During Science week year 6 have been very busy investigating the importance of nappies. Recently, Mr Carter has been having some problems with baby James’s nappy leaking; year 6 were given the opportunity to investigate this matter further. Every night James drinks 270ml of milk, however whilst he’s sleeping his wee starts to leak out of his nappy – this will make baby James feel very uncomfortable during his sleep; we don’t want this to happen! Four brands of nappies were tested: Sainsbury’s, Tesco’s, Aldi and Pampers. To test the leakage in the nappies, we coloured the water (either black or yellow) and then slowly poured the water in drops of 10ml. at a time, to see which nappy absorbed the most liquid and which nappy was the driest at the end of our experiment.

After a very interesting two days, the investigation was finally concluded. PAMPERS WON!!! Now Mr C knows which nappy to use and there will be no more wet nights for James (well, not until he starts potty training!) This was a very enjoyable Science Week; we want many more to come – even though this is our last year!

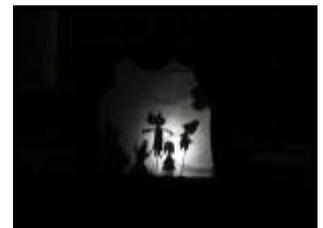
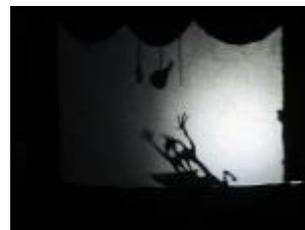
**Puppet Theatre in year 3**

During Science Week the children were set a challenge to create a puppet theatre. They needed a cardboard box theatre, puppets and a short script. Many were a little confused about the science involved until they were shown a video clip of a shadow theatre group called Attraction who performed on Britain’s Got Talent. The children were clearly moved by the story about love and loss but also totally amazed that the performers created all the shadow shapes with their own bodies.



The children set to work on their theatres. They found making the puppets much harder. All the detail that they wanted to add would be wasted. They worked out that a good strong outline was much more important than the detail on a character’s clothing.

The children also had fun making their own shadow shapes with their hands in front of the screen in the hall and their whole bodies behind a sheet much like Attraction had done. There were some very mixed results but a lot of laughter!





## SPORT AT SUMMERCROFT

It's been a very busy time for our sportsmen and women, more pictures can be found on our school website [www.summercroft.herts.sch](http://www.summercroft.herts.sch).

### Cross Country

On Monday 24th April, our cross country squad competed in the Bishop Stortford High School cross country race at Jobbers Wood. Comprised of 6 girls and 6 boys from Years 4, 5 and 6, the squad did themselves and their school proud. Every single member gave nothing less than their best efforts and performed brilliantly. A special mention needs to be given to Issy (Year 6) and Gabriella (Year 5) who finished 1st and 3rd respectively in their races - an outstanding feat considering that over 60 children ran in each of their races. Thank you to all of the parents who supported the children on the day and gave up their other commitments to provide transport for the children.

### Football

The Year 5/6 football team have played their last game of the PSD league against Hatfield Broad Oak. I am delighted to report that after a masterful performance, the team secured their first victory of the season by 4 goals to 1. I am sure you will agree that the children have done teachers, parents and themselves proud with the effort and attitude they have given throughout the season. I would also like to say a massive thank you to all of the parents and family members who have supported the team on the side lines during the season, as well Mr Burnham and the PSD coaches who have taken the training sessions.



### Chess Champions!

Chess club, this year, has proved more popular than ever and over thirty members battled it out over the spring term to reach a county wide competition. Each week, the children played an opponent matching their own ability, gradually accruing points as they went. Normally, a trophy is awarded to the person who gained the most points – but this year there were three champions (Tom, Jimmy and Thomas) who couldn't be separated even when set against each other in a challenging simultaneous three way game! So a trophy will be awarded to each. Those children, who gained 17 or more points, or the most points in their age group and gender, were then entered into the Herts Megafinal on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April, where they faced stiff challengers from other schools across the county. These children, who proved to be a credit to themselves and the school, were Tom N, Seb C, Alex B and Olivia C (under 11s) Jimmy G, Thomas G, Grace M (under 10s) Hayden L (under 9s) – Daniel G (under 8s) and Peter S (under 7s).

All the children had a great day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, winning numerous games and points against tough opposition. And thanks also needs to go to parents who supported this event – their enthusiasm was much appreciated.

A special mention should go to Peter, who played particularly well and managed to win 5 out of his 6 games and was awarded a medal. This means that he will be going forward to the 'Southern Gigafinal' at Twickenham on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. This talented participant tells me that he intends to develop new strategies before he moves forward to the next prestigious event and we wish him lots of luck for his onward competition. We congratulate everyone who took part last Saturday, you should all be very proud of your achievements, and were outstanding representatives for the school.



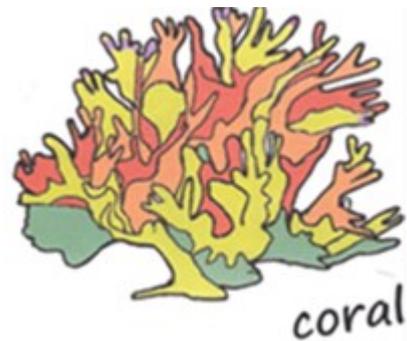
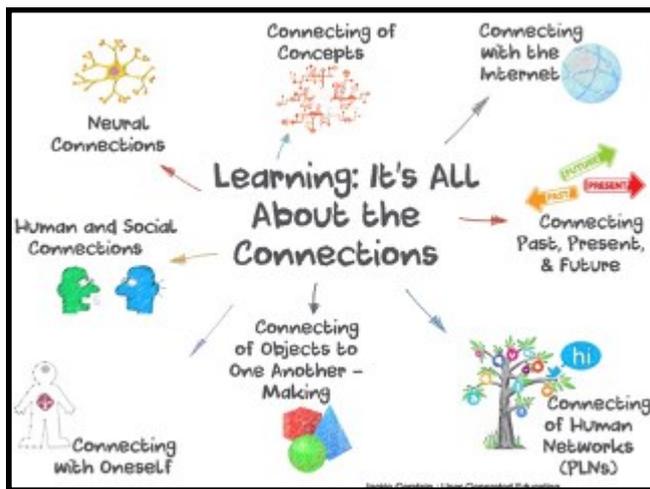


**Making Connections Mr Jess**

Learning is about making connections. For teachers, there is nothing better than that moment when the penny drops, the “ah ha” moment when children understand that what they thought were isolated concepts come together to help them make sense of a bigger picture of learning. Suddenly the lights have been switched on!

We have started the summer term focussing on our ‘Connection Making’ learning power. This is the coral which underpins the survival of all our other sea creature learning powers. The story (written by Mrs Richardson) was introduced in assembly with the coral dying because of pollution. Unable to help itself the coral required the support of the creatures that normally live in and around it. Collaboration between the creatures enabled them to work out that there was lots of pollution in the area and it was this that was causing the coral to die. They had been able to make the connection! Between them they were able get the support of humans to stop the pollution and save the coral. This story will be followed up over the coming weeks by looking at the importance between making connections in our learning. It has been exemplified brilliantly during science week where the children have been able to see links between their English, Maths, Science, Computing and many other subjects.

Our creative curriculum provides lots of opportunities for the children to develop new learning but also connect this to and build upon their prior knowledge. The ‘fab finales’ at the end of topics often display the link between learning as I am sure you have seen on different occasions. Our staff development day on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April was dedicated to enhancing our curriculum by making further links within topics and enhancing creativity. We look forward to sharing some of these ideas with you later in the summer term ready to launch in September.



**Reporting From Burwell House - Day 1**

We all arrived safely, went straight into the lounge and received our briefing. We discussed the skills we would be working on whilst here, 'Respect, Responsibility and Teamwork' and what that would look like at Burwell House. After that we started our first challenge, 'The Snail Game' where we had to work in teams to answer lots of questions. “The snail game was challenging because the pink cards were really hard to find,” Amelie H.

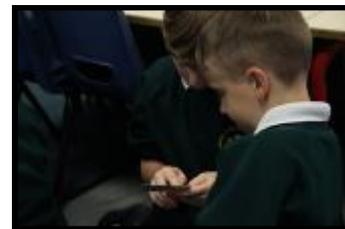
After the snail game, we started our craft activities. We spent about an hour on each activity, enamelling, batik, hammer and nail art and corn dollies. 'Burwell House is the best' Niamh C. We are now really excited to find out about our bedrooms. “It is awesome!” Anabelle A.





### Superb Science!

Last week was science investigation week and the children in year two had some special visitors in to help their learning. Dr Philippa Allen came in to discuss her work at GSK and led the children in a fun skeleton workshop. The children took part in a 'Skeleton Assault Course', collecting bones and leaping over or ducking under a series of obstacles to pass the bones so that others could build the skeleton. We've also had a visit from Mrs Jackie Taylor who demonstrated to the children how micro chipping technology is used in her business to help people find their lost pets. During the week we've also learnt more about how animals survive in the wild. The children have investigated plant growth too and you might have noticed some bean seeds germinating in plastic bags on the classroom windows. Inside, there's also some cress growing for another investigation. We've had a super week!



### School Meal Payments for Year 6 pupil

For the Summer term, I ask that parents pay the current balance for school lunches plus any additional days that lunches are going to be taken up till the end of term, by **Monday 15th May 2017** at the latest. This will allow your child to continue having school dinners. School lunches are charged at **£2.35** a day.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs. Hintridge



## MUSIC AT SUMMERCROFT

Congratulations to the following pupils on their successes in music



Euan H	Drums	Book 1 Bronze level 2
George T	Drums	Book 1 Bronze level 2
Emily O	Clarinet	Grade 2
Naomi W	Cello	Grade 1
Sophie S	Cello	Grade 1
Sienna A	Violin	Bronze Music Medal
Sofia M	Violin	Bronze Music Medal
Sasha P	Violin	Grade 3



## Celebrating Children's Achievements Outside School!

An Enthusiastic cricketer, in Sycamore class, has been honoured with an award for best bowler in the under 9's indoor Hertfordshire cricket league 2016-2017. His best bowling figures were 3 overs with 3 wickets, giving away only 8 runs.



A Year 6 pupil has attended the National Individual British Schools Championships at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. He fought amazingly and showed great tenacity securing himself and Summercroft a silver medal, only narrowly missing out on the Gold after a very close final.

He made everyone proud conducted himself and the determination he showed. He competed in the u34kg category for academic years 6+7. (He was the only medallist on the podium from year 6 in his category)

