

DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 14

20th January 2011

Dear Parents



What amazing children we have in Dunannie! A broken boiler in the Nursery has meant that the children have had to base themselves in the Library for much of this week. How sensible and adaptable they have been in working in a different space! Reception has successfully designed and built Dunannie Castle and Year 1 have produced the most stunning wall of nocturnal creatures! Year 2 went to Birdworld where they learnt more about their project about 'flight' and wrote excellent factual reports on their return. Year 3 thought carefully about their 'Helping Hands' duties for the playground and successfully made a 'pitch' to me about the need for me to finance their project. Well done everybody!

We were so lucky this week to be able to slot in an extra workshop organised by our music teacher Debbie. Her husband Arnie came to school and we had a Chinese New Year Musical workshop. The children played a variety of instruments, learnt about the Chinese dragons and moved the life-size models around the hall. The highlight however had to be the 'wiggly bottom' audition for the Chinese Lion! The clear winners were Evie and Talullah!!

On Monday Melissa will be going off to Dunhurst to do some cover there and so Selena Foster will join the Reception team. We shall also be welcoming gap students, Amy, Ellie and Charlie who will help in Reception and Swallow Club until Georgina is well enough to return to school.



Year 2 and 3 children continue to be so very mature when they come to school in the mornings and far more is being achieved in class at the beginning of the day. Please don't forget that if you have something urgent you need to say to class teachers then of course you must go to the classrooms as it is so important that we are fully informed. Other messages can be left in the Library with the member of staff on duty.

There are some virulent bugs going around at the moment. We know how generous children can be with their germs so please keep your child at home for at least 24 hours after the last symptoms have disappeared and remind them always to wash their hands!

Thank you all so much for the books that you have sent in for the Library in Swaziland.....please keep them coming!

With best wishes

Jo



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REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

-  Childtalk: “Surviving the Early Years” with Mandy Hopkins is on Friday 28th January at 2.30 – 3.20 in the Library. Do please come along.
-  Year3 Extreme Reading photo competition deadline has been extended to Friday 28th January – another week for year 3 to be photographed reading in funny, unusual or surprising places! Bring you photo entries in next week!
-  Mathletics is now available to Year 1: please speak to David.



Friends of Dunannie

QUIZ NIGHT

In the Dunannie Hall at 6.30 – 9.00pm
on Friday 11th February
(First Question at 7.15pm)

£10 per head to include supper

Bar available

Please buy your tickets from Marian/Wendy

Challenge Club

We have an exciting term ahead of us with so many amazing projects.

Year 2 have begun their work on flight and experimented with making paper aeroplanes. There were some clever designs and many children had a good understanding about what makes an effective and aerodynamic plane. We then experimented with some other designs to see whether we could beat James's original flight record. We also made aerofoils and experimented with a hairdryer to observe how the aerofoil will rise and fall. Over the next few weeks we will be making a plane out of balsa wood.



Both Year 2 and Year 3 will be looking at changing materials. We will discover how some materials are affected by a reaction and whether the resulting change is reversible. Year 3 have begun looking at the materials associated with the river bank. We have been making a model to show the various materials found in and around a river.



Year 3 have begun their project on bridges. For the first week they experimented with the best structure. They were set a task of sending a toy car across a bridge using only two blocks and card. Eventually the pairs managed to find ways of supporting their structure using folded card. We then talked about various bridge designs. If when the children are out and about and they see a bridge, ask them to identify the type of bridge (arch, truss, suspension or beam).

Over the next few weeks we will be making a bridge out of wood following a 'truss' design.

In last week's newsletter I mentioned the Challenge Club running after school on a Thursday. I gave an example of a lateral thinking problem...

There was an old man who lived by himself. He felt tired so he went into the bathroom, went to the toilet and then turned the light off before going to bed. The next morning there was a news flash on the radio that a boat crashed. The man opened the window and jumped out. Why?

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The answer was that the man was a lighthouse keeper. He switched the light in the lighthouse off, causing a ship to crash.

The answer to the Rebus puzzle is 'Top Secret'.
Have a great weekend
David



Congratulations to the following children for all their hard work in Mathletics...

James (1 Bronze)
Livy (1 Bronze)
Tiger (1 Bronze and 1 Gold) - brilliant
Elliot (4 Bronze and 1 Silver) – an excellent effort, especially as Elliot is in Year 1.

Well done.
David

SCIENCE CHALLENGE

The middle pylon does not have a foundation extending into the water. It needs this for support.

Several children made this observation. Well done to Daisy, Anne, Evie, Andrew, Molly, Florence, Hamish and Adam (who also correctly identified the bridge as a suspension bridge).

There were other observations from...

Molly – 'there is no river'
Ernie – 'the castle isn't meant to be there'

Well done everyone!



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Nursery

The Nursery children have coped extremely well with our change of location to the library until the heating is fixed in the barn!

We have enjoyed using the library space and set up our activities there. We have also been out and about as much as possible, exploring and enjoying the orchard and Nursery garden.



Learning about high and low Notes with Debbie, the new Music teacher



Retelling "The Bad Tempered Ladybird" with puppets

We hope to be back in our warm Nursery as soon as possible!

Sharon, Harriet, Belinda, Donna and Bridget