

DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 17

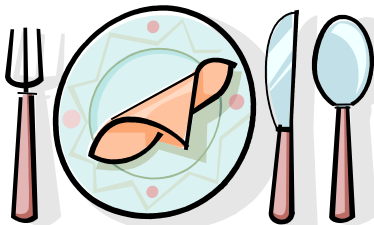
2nd February 2012

Dear Parents

Last Friday I joined Year 1 on their visit to Intech in Winchester. The children had a wonderful morning experimenting with buttons, pullies and levers before entering the planetarium to look at the sky. They were fascinated and showed their impressive knowledge of stars and planets through their thought-provoking questions and answers and today they are looking forward to a visit from our Bedalian astronomer Michael Truss. Thank you, Amanda, for organising the visit and Sinclair for his help with the children.

It was World Storytelling week this week and I invited a storyteller into school to read project-related stories to the children which I am sure they enjoyed, with steel bands and puppet shows to follow up the stories.

Last Friday the Internet safety talk by Childnet was not hugely attended but those parents who were able to make it found it extremely useful and informative. I am hoping to arrange similar age-appropriate talks for the children to alert them to Internet safety. If you would like more information, there are some leaflets in the Dunannie entrance.



With half term approaching and therefore plenty of family meals we would appreciate you practising knife and fork control with your children. We do our best at lunchtimes to remind the children how to hold their cutlery correctly and to eat politely but obviously we have a limited amount of time. Thank you for doing this.

Unfortunately the swimming pool is out of action at the moment. Karen has organised orienteering lessons for Reception and Year 1 children as an alternative and these have proved to be very popular indeed!

I am very much looking forward to our Performers' Platform on Wednesday 8th February at 3.45 – everyone is welcome!



DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 17

On Friday 2nd March Year 3 parents are invited to a Minstead information meeting in the classroom at 9.00am with coffee from 8.30am. This will give you an opportunity to hear about the exciting plans for the forthcoming visit on 19th March.


The FODs are holding their first coffee morning of the term tomorrow and I hope many of you are able to come.

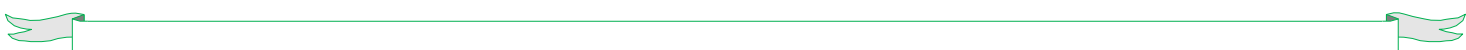
Spring Term Parent Evenings will be on Monday 27th February and Wednesday 29th February. The signup sheets for appointments will be put up on Monday.

Best wishes



REMINDERS

 Calendar Updates: Friday 2nd March Y3 parents to Minstead information meeting at 9.00am with coffee from 8.30am.



DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 17

MUSIC



If you happen to be in the vicinity of the Library on Tuesday and Thursday mornings this term, you will hear a pleasing cacophony of sound as children explore the concepts of dynamics, tempo, pitch, timbre, duration and texture through a range of instruments, songs and composition activities. In Years 2 and 3, this exploration takes the form of a class orchestra, which also presents the challenge of working as part of an ensemble and following a conductor.

Reception and Year 1 are investigating a range of percussion instruments, with songs, compositions and games linked to their topics. Nursery children are creating Sound-o-Saur music, matching movement and music to dinosaurs of different sizes. African drums have so far proved very popular to represent the larger and fiercer dinosaurs.

All Dunannie children sing with great enthusiasm at their Choir rehearsals each week - this half term bobbing up and down like sailors and singing about three cornered hats, in addition to preparing some challenging songs for the Spring Concert at the end of term. Each class is also learning topic-related songs in weekly class singing lessons, some of which they will also share with you at the Spring Concert.

Next Wednesday sees the Spring Term Dunannie Performers' Platform, which will take place in the Library just after the end of the school day. Do come along and enjoy the performances from these brave soloists.

If your child is thinking about starting instrumental lessons, do feel free to chat to us about it.

Gill Robins

DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 17

RECEPTION NEWS



Reception had an interesting time with our visiting storyteller on Tuesday, who read them the story of 'Creepy Crawly Calypso'. They danced to calypso music and joined in with their own 'steel band' using tins, pots and pans. In the classroom we have been exploring how different instruments are played and the children have been designing and making their own instruments, using wood and junk materials – we have some budding musicians in this group!

In our maths activities over the last few weeks we have been working on 'less than' and 'take away'. The children have been introduced to the take away sign and have been calculating one or two less than a number by counting back in their heads and/or using fingers.

In our literacy work the children have been working hard at labelling pictures and maps, particularly trying their own spellings using the phonics that they have learnt. We have also been thinking about how stories work (with a beginning/opening, middle and ending) and the children have been applying this to their own puppet show stories. They particularly enjoyed deciding on the character they would



make for their own sock puppets and these have been used a great deal in our role play area over the last week or so.



Next week we are continuing to look at different musical instruments and after half term Jude (Toby's Mummy) will be coming in to tell us about ears and how to look after them, in her role as a doctor.

DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 17

PHILOSOPHY NEWS



Clare Jarmy from Bedales came down on Tuesday afternoon to take our philosophers on a journey of thought. The subject for discussion was 'What is a Hero?' In pairs, the children were asked to place some pictures, in order of heroism, characters such as superman, a knight, a granny on a bench and even a dog. Much discussion followed their choices and afterwards Clare told a story about a knight who was rather bad and a very brave granny.

The children's preconceived ideas were thoroughly challenged and when asked to re-order the pictures, the sequences were altered in the light of their new thinking. Well done the Philosophers!

There will be two more sessions in the second part of the term and other children will be invited to take part joining a core of very enthusiastic young thinkers.

Rachel commented, "I love it, can we do it again"