

# DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 9

11<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Parents

In what has been a very wet week it was most fortuitous that 'Raindrops' came to sell waterproof dungarees and trousers! Now the children will be dry and comfortable as they play outside or at the water feature. Thank you for adding this item to the school clothing list and I should be grateful if they can be clearly named. Raindrops will continue their 15% discount mail order price until the 16<sup>th</sup> November. I know the cloakroom is congested and so the staff are meeting to think of constructive ideas to make the room easier to hang clothing and store wellingtons.

Unfortunately the Drumming workshop had to be cancelled due to car problems. Kathy will re-arrange this and we will let you know the new date as soon as possible so you can join in the fun! We will be having a workshop on Tuesday with Jane Ray, a very well-known and highly-respected book illustrator. The results of our day will be on display in the Library.

Thank you all for coming to your Parent Evening. I do hope you found it useful and informative. Year 2's Parent Assembly is next Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 9.00 am. The next formal meeting for you and your child's class teacher will be in the Spring Term, but please come and see myself or your teacher at any time if you have a concern or just need to catch up on progress.

Year 3 children have now settled well and over the coming weeks they shall be given more responsibilities around Dunannie. Their first duty is to cast an eye at the end of playtimes around the cloakroom to make sure it is tidy! I wish them luck in this endeavour! As they are now so independent and responsible, I would like to see them going to the classroom on their own in the mornings and beginning their lessons promptly at 8.30am.

Reception class performed the most wonderful version of "The Gingerbread Man" on Wednesday morning to the delight of their parents. They spoke with such clear voices and remembered every move they needed to make - all in front of a large audience. Well done everyone; I was very proud of you.



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We shall be 'Showing our Spots' on Friday 19 November to support Children in Need. Can all the children come to school dressed in spots and pay £1 (or a donation) to the charity? We shall have a little fashion show during Assembly and spotty snacks at playtime!

With best wishes



## REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

-  **Parents' Christmas Drinks Party:** This is on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – please can you sign up on the board in the entrance hall as soon as possible or phone or email [mbaldwin@bedales.org.uk](mailto:mbaldwin@bedales.org.uk)
-  **Lost Property:** A Reception child's blue hoodie is missing, probably just before half term. It is marked with her name. Please could you check at home to make sure you haven't got it by mistake. Many thanks. Also a grey kitten soft toy with a white nose has been found; if it is your child's please see Marian.



The Nursery Practise their Driving!

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Congratulations to the following children for their great efforts in Mathletics:

Tiger (I Bronze)  
Adam (I Bronze)  
Livvy (I Bronze)  
Archie (I Bronze)  
Anne (I Bronze)  
James (I Silver)  
Ruby (I Bronze)

Well done!  
David

## SCIENCE CHALLENGE

This week's challenge caused a few puzzled expressions on the adults' faces. Well done to the following children who correctly noted that the ice cubes in the drink should be floating (one child said think of an iceberg):-

Orla (Dunhurst)  
Tallulah  
Anne  
Nela  
Evie  
Daisy  
Florence

Ruby  
Molly  
Olly  
Felicity  
Theo  
Nicolas  
Ernie

Well done to Athena who made the clever observation that there were two drinks on the table and there should only be one.

Look out for next week's puzzle on Monday morning. Younger children may draw what's wrong in the picture if they wish. Please remember to write your name on the paper. David

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## FRENCH TEACHING IN DUNANNIE



This year I have been teaching French in a slightly different way. The reason being is that, by starting French at such an early age I want to make sure that we are not repeating the same things from year to year.

Nursery and Reception are learning in a more traditional way and practising numbers, colours, animals etc, mostly through songs.

Year 1 are learning using a set of books called "Petit Ange Parfait". They are about a little boy called Jules, who is sometimes good and sometimes not! I read the book in both languages and then expand on ideas. For example we have learnt bathroom vocabulary and are now learning the weather and seasons.

Year 2 are learning through a fabulous website that teaches languages through fairy-tales. We have watched "Les trois petits cochons" and learnt vocabulary used and are now just starting "The Three Billy Goats Gruff".

Year 3 are attempting to act out a little show about animals and families that I wrote for them! It is quite a long process, but I want them to feel really confident about speaking another language. Their accents are beautiful by the way! We have also subscribed to a new website called "Languagenut", which we use in class sometimes and which they are very welcome to use at home. Please contact me for the username and password.

I'm very excited about the year ahead and the learning of French at Dunannie. I hope the children are too!

Bon Weekend,  
Ellie



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## Dance and Drama

During this first part of term (and my first at the school for a very long time!), we have been concentrating mainly on dance and movement. We have been learning how our bodies move differently through space using different images.

We began by looking at the weather as the warmth of summer turned to autumn and some of the younger children watched how brittle autumn leaves lift and drop and move quickly away when we blow them.



We stretched in the sun and shivered in the cold and looked at the different ways we move our feet in mud, snow, sand and puddles. The older children created swirling storms and we all explored the way water can race very fast, but moves slower and slower as it gets colder until it freezes – into some very imaginative icicle shapes!

The children have all developed ideas from the sea - creatures such as light, darting little fishes, huge menacing sharks and jelly fish. Some of the older children developed this work to explore the difference between how the waves move onto the sand and how people move on the beach. The older classes worked in partners, one being a wave and one a swimmer so we could all see the difference in each other's ideas. All the children developed a game into a dance where some of the children were pieces of coral, standing very strong and still in astonishing shapes while the other children, the fishes, crabs and sharks, moved among them either very quickly or very slowly and gracefully.

We also used land animals to explore different movements. We worked all together and then the children experimented on their own, choosing to be enormous, heavy elephants, fast cheetahs or naughty monkeys (there were quite a lot of naughty monkeys.....!).

The older children did some more partnering work which started explored the concept of 'mirroring'; the pairs leapt, crawled, stomped, slithered and flew around the 'jungle' (Dunhurst hall).

The younger children favoured kittens, horses and rabbits in their pieces.



Finally, just before half term, things got a little spooky (and a little more dramatic) and we looked at how music affects the way we move. The younger children practised observing each other and played a sort of follow-my-leader game while the older two classes developed their work on mirroring. We worked on our movement with no music and then tried to do the same pieces to two very different sound tracks, one light and rhythmic and the other very, very spooky. As you can imagine the difference was huge!

Now we are starting to work on the class dances for the school Christmas show – and I don't think I should reveal any more than that! It has been lovely getting to know all the children and discovering the vivid imaginations at Dunannie!

**Helen**