



# Dunannie Thursday Letter issue 4

30<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Dear Parents

What an eventful week it has been!



It was lovely to see so many of you at the Badley Day. The sun shone and everyone had a wonderful time. I especially liked seeing parents and children working so closely together and being so creative! I do hope you like our new entrance way which will give Dunannie a clear identity when arriving at school! We intend to move the plaques around and add more to it, including little wooden people and some planting too.



Thank you all so much for your understanding about the school closure on Tuesday. Unfortunately Year 2 had to cancel their visit but Jacqui is going to try and organise another date. Those children who did arrive in school were extremely sensible and moved quietly and quickly around the school. Well done!

Although it was a rather damp day Reception enjoyed Popping to the Shops in Petersfield where they bought vegetables, fruit and flowers at the market. They had a good look at all the different shops around the market place and then selected and bought their choices. When they returned to school they made fruit salad, vegetable soup and drew their carnations.

I would like to congratulate Year 1 children and parents on their quick drop-off and departure in the mornings. This gives the beginning of the school day (when the children are fresh and alert) a purposeful and focussed time when much can be achieved!

May I remind Year 3 parents that the children's working day starts at 8.30am Monday – Thursday? Well done Year 3! You are now becoming far more independent, especially in the mornings and you are now organising yourselves and your possessions so well. Keep up the good work!



Please remember that if you arrive early in the morning and wait in the Library, it is an opportunity for a quiet reading time. Too much noise and charging around can be very disruptive and upsetting for the children particularly if mummy or daddy have gone. If you wish to leave your children and go, there are always two members of Dunannie staff on duty.



The weather is now unpredictable to say the least, so please make sure that the children have a coat in school each day.







Best wishes

Jo



# Dunannie Thursday Letter issue 4

## REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

-  HARVEST LUNCH: The Harvest Celebration on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October will be followed by a Harvest lunch to which all Year 3 parents and the members of the Dunannie Parents' Association are invited. Limited places are available; please sign up on the sheet in the entrance hall if you are staying to lunch. Thank you.
-  PLAYBALL – please pick up at 4.25pm. Children who are not collected will be taken to swallow Club.
-  LETTERS – please remember that a note or e-mail should be sent to School if your child has been absent. We also need a note if children are unable to swim.
-  SPELLINGS: Don't forget to help your child learn their spellings each week. Thank you.
-  HAIR: All hair that is shoulder length or longer needs to be tied back. Heads were inspected this week and children who need to be treated have been informed.
-  A3 NOTICE: Please note: over the weekends of 1-4 and 8-11 October between 10.00pm Friday and 5.00am Monday the A3 around the Punchbowl will close to enable contractors to clear trees alongside the existing A3 in preparation for returning the road to nature once the new A3 is open. Diversion for long distance A3 traffic will be via the A31 and A325 between Guildford and Longmoor. Local A3 traffic for Hindhead would use the A31 and A287." <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/13919.aspx>



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

Lorenzo (1 bronze)  
Tiger (1 bronze)  
Olly (2 bronze)  
Evie (1 bronze)  
Florence (1 bronze)  
Andrew (1 bronze)

Well done !  
David



# Dunannie Thursday Letter issue 4

## BADLEY WEEKEND – A PICTURE SAYS A THOUSAND WORDS



Leela: "I liked the woodwork because it was fun. The best bit was experimenting how to get the conker to stay on."

Henry: "I liked decorating my biscuit. I used four mini marshmallows. They are my favourite sweets".



Tory: "I saved my biscuit until after my roast lunch and I gave a little bit to my Granny and Grandpa."



Rachel: "Decorating my biscuit was really fun because I used lots of balls and bits to make it really tall".



Elliot: "I liked hammering an acorn onto my wooden square."



Rowena: "I liked hammering."

Giselle: "I liked putting the sweets on my cookie then I ate the whole thing!"



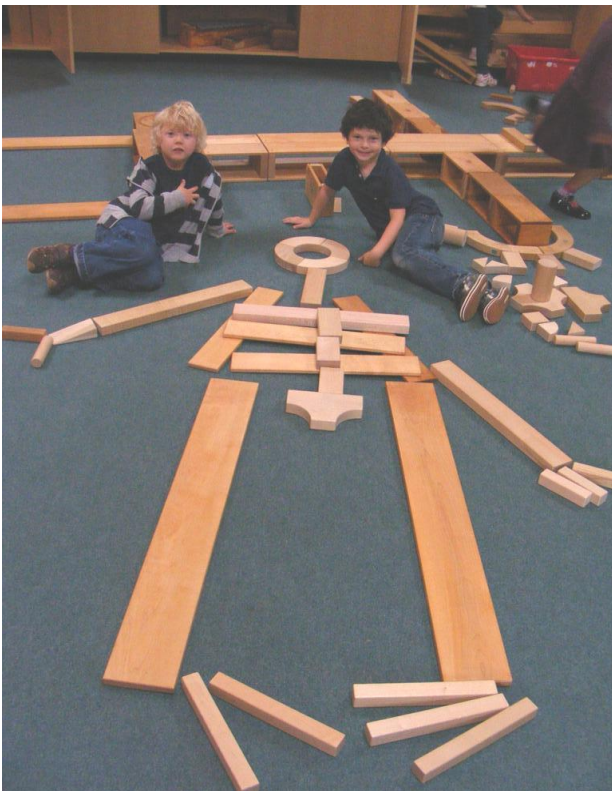


# Dunannie Thursday Letter issue 4

## YEAR 1 CLASS NEWS



Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.....what brilliant skeleton builders your children are! An afternoon of puzzle-making, counting, measuring and discussing resulted in some wonderful 3D constructions being built with Kapla, in the classroom and our special big blocks, in the library.



There was a lot of negotiating, turn-taking and designing to be done. Different blocks were experimented with for different bones. Theo, Elliot, Bertie and Jonty persevered with an upright model. I think some artistic licence has been employed! They packed the organs inside the ribcage. Lily created an oval shape for the head with straight Kapla pieces. I hope you have all seen the fabulous paintings and moveable card skeletons in the classroom.





## Dunannie Thursday Letter issue 4

Your children's favourite toys are safe in the classroom. Once we have looked at, described and drawn these, we would like to compare them with toys you may have enjoyed when you were a child. If you have any that you would be happy to tell us about, do let me know.

A huge thank you to Jude and Elliot who showed us some of Jude's medical equipment and helped us set up a drip to revive a very poorly Winnie the Pooh.



Thank you for saying goodbye to your children so effectively and promptly every morning. It means we can begin the day at 8.45 with optimum focus and purpose.

I am delighted with all the practice that is being done for spellings. Encouraging your child to join their writing as demonstrated in their list of words will help. We are practising this regularly at school too.

In maths we have been counting in 1s and 10s. Some children are not secure with the difference between 'teen numbers and 'ty' numbers eg 17 and 70. When counting in 10s we are remembering to say .....80, 90, 100. Not 80, 90, 20.

Here's a class nonsense rhyme we made up together after watching The Word Machine – I hope your children have told you about these fun phonic programmes:

Hickory Dickory Tish,  
The mouse ran into a dish,  
He ate a fish and made a wish,  
Hickory, Dickory Tish.

Perhaps your child can help you make up another one?

With best wishes,  
Amanda, Dorota and Kessie



# Dunannie Thursday Letter issue 4

## YEAR 3 NEWS

What an exciting start to Year 3!

As we welcomed Dominic, Issy, Archie and Ernie to Dunannie, life in Year 3 kicked off with a week of exploration. Our huge map of an imaginary land, the Land of Danger, gave us the opportunity to imagine and make journeys and discoveries far beyond our world.

Then we visited Southsea Castle for an exploration of a different



kind – looking for historical clues about the building and discovering how it had changed over *five* hundred years since Henry VIII ordered it to be built. The cannons and battlements were great, and in groups we followed a photo trail, identifying features and locations around the building. The tunnels were especially interesting, as the bricks were eroding quicker than the mortar, leaving a

honeycomb effect along the walls.

A time portal appeared in our classroom and we had much discussion not just about *where* we'd go, but also *when* we would like to go! A few brave children chose the Jurassic era, some Victorian times and one or two fancied a trip back to see the Roman Empire.



Some photographs outside our room show the colour and fantastic array of artefacts brought by Mexicolore,

the company who brought the Aztecs to life for us with costume, music, chanting and stories about life in Mexico 500 years ago. Everyone had the chance to join in and we learnt so much. I was particularly proud of our Year 3's who looked after our visitors from Steep Primary and Churchers Junior School very well.



We have been researching some of the Aztec gods and trying to pronounce their amazing name. Tlaloc, Quetzalcoatl and Huitzilopochtli are the best known. As in so many things, the children are *much* better

than I am at pronouncing Aztec words! We are building a model of the swampy lake where the Aztecs began to build their great city, Tenochtitlan and experimenting with floating fields, 'chinampas', to grow our own crops, just as they did.



A combination of research, in books and online, and colourful model-making is bringing our 'Aztec' classroom to life! Do read our poem 'Aztec Life' and see if you catch a flavour too.



## Dunannie Thursday Letter issue 4

Making good use of our extended classroom space, the children have been challenged in both rooms to think, describe, make and write.



As a new venture this year we intend to take our maths groups out and about to take advantage of real life mathematical opportunities and events. I recently took my group to Winchester to see a new sculpture exhibition run in conjunction with the Winchester School of Art and the Hampshire Sculpture Trust. Called 'Heft', the exhibition explores how we perceive weight, density and shape. Of course in

an art gallery we all rely on what we see and think, but the children were given the special opportunity to handle the exhibits and their reactions to the art works was filmed and is now shown alongside the exhibits on television screens!

All the way back in the minibus the children were singing "We're going to be on TV, we're going to be famous"! The

exhibition runs at the Discovery Centre, Winchester from 24<sup>th</sup> September until 14<sup>th</sup> November. There are more details in Reception if you'd like to visit it yourselves.



Lots of new routines, ideas, lessons and ways of doing things can be very daunting at the start of

the year, but the children have proved to be ready for new challenges and are definitely 'up for Year 3!' Well done to you all!

I am currently sorting out a printed copy of the PowerPoint presentation for those parents who were unfortunately unable to attend the Parents Meeting last week and this will shortly be available in the classroom.

Best wishes  
Catherine, Ros and David

Catherine's maths group at the exhibition

