



LEY HILL SCHOOL Headteacher: Nigel Hoff

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—enjoyment—engagement—growth—

16th December 2016

Newsletter 4 Academic Year 2016-17

Welcome to newsletter 4.

Christmas Shows

Each year your children put on a superb series of Christmas shows, which of course includes a Nativity. It is such a positive time for the school and the children and staff have a great time, despite the hard work involved! I hope all of you who were able to come along to these productions enjoyed yourselves.

Reception and Year 1 took us beautifully through the Nativity story with 'A midwife Crisis'. Such great confidence from children of a young age was wonderful to see.

The Year 2 and 3 production of 'Lights, Camel, Action!' was a superb show and was a perfect accompaniment to the Nativity story.

I was very proud of the children from Year 4, Year 5 and especially Year 6 for their high energy production of 'The Amazing Adventures of SuperStan', our pantomime this year. It was such a happy and slightly riotous event! It was a real pleasure to work with them all over the last few weeks as we put the show together and, although I love directing the pantomime, I couldn't do it without the brilliant support I get from the teachers and LSAs. A special mention goes to Mr Brar for the fabulous Megaville cityscape and Stan's sweetshop scenery he produced for the show.

A big 'thank you' to Mr Dickinson for the superb photos of the children in their costumes. Mrs Kendall also filmed each show, so many thanks to her. The DVD will be available to buy via the Friends of Ley Hill School.

Thank you to all who came along to support these shows and for your help with learning lines and providing such brilliant costumes for the children. We raised a fantastic £737.21 for the Arctic One Foundation from your end of show contributions so again thank you.

Andy Lewis Visit

The school was treated to a visit from Paralympic triathlon Gold medal winner Andy Lewis on Friday 25th November. Andy gave a truly inspirational speech to the whole school about his journey to Rio Gold and the children were captivated by his story. Andy is involved with Arctic One so there was a great opportunity for the children to talk with him about the realities, hardships and triumphs of a Paralympic athlete. For more information about Arctic One please visit their website www.arctic1.co.uk

Friends of Ley Hill School Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair which was held on Sunday 27th November was a superb event and we had some great feedback from many of those who came along to enjoy the festive atmosphere and join in the fun.

Huge thanks to all the parents who went the extra mile to organise the stalls, setup the fair and clear up afterwards. A superb team effort. In total we raised £2300 for developments to the school and to add value to all we do here.

On behalf of the children and staff I would also like to thank the Friends for their organisation of the visiting pantomime today. It was a fantastic show and all the pupils had a great time. Santa also visited and his appearance with a gift for each child was another highlight of the day. So thank you to all involved for providing such a full programme of festive events.

Bear Raffle and Charity Cake Sale

We are all very proud of the efforts children make independently to raise money for charities of their choice.

Recently Isobel and Harriet Dibble took it upon themselves to raffle a lovely (massive!) teddy bear during the Christmas Fair. The girls raised £129.56 in aid of Guide Dogs which is a magnificent achievement. Well done to them both. The raffle was won by Mrs Hunt, our Year 3 LSA, who then donated the bear to Stoke Mandeville hospital; a lovely gesture I'm sure you will agree.

Emma Osborne from Year 3 organised a cake sale on Thursday 8th December to raise money for PACE who are a family-centred charity which provides an innovative education for life for children with sensory motor disorders. Emma and her friends raised £144.60. A fabulous total. Well done to Emma and everyone who supported her by supplying or buying cakes.

We also enjoyed the Christmas jumper day today and we raised £155.79 for Save the Children.

Report to parents regarding the NFER Parent Survey

Thank you to all the parents who took the opportunity to complete the NFER Parental Survey form. In total 86 families completed the survey which is a return percentage of just under 50%, the school has a total family count of 174.

As an organisation it is very important for us to gather feelings regarding our provision. The results from the survey in November were sent to me at the end of November and I include a summary below.

The whole team at Ley Hill are pleased to see such a positive response to the various questions. Naturally there were a small number of negative responses and comments. Although we will celebrate the fact that the vast majority of parents support the school and its efforts to provide an excellent educational experience for all its pupils, the team will analysis the more negative responses to see where we can improve further.

The percentages below are given for agreement (agree or strongly agree) with the statements presented by the survey.

Main Findings

- Overall satisfaction with the school – **96%**
- Satisfaction with senior leadership (Head and Assistant Heads) – **90%**
- Satisfaction with the curriculum - **90%**
- Satisfaction with the teachers – **96%**
- Satisfaction with standard of teaching – **92%**
- Satisfaction with behaviour and discipline – **88%** (6 respondents disagreed with the statement 'I am satisfied with the school's pupil behaviour and discipline.')
- Satisfaction with school's response to concerns – **86%**
- Satisfaction with care and well-being – **91%**
- Satisfaction with communication – **88%**
- Only **3%** disagree with our homework policy
- Encouragement to work hard at school – **92%**
- Encouragement to exercise – **96%**
- Encouragement to treat others with dignity and respect – **96%**
- Encouragement to help people in local area – **79%**
- Children well supported on entry – **93%**
- Knowing how well pupils are doing at school – **83%** (although this is a good percentage the school will review it's in term reporting to parents)
- Children are progressing well – **91%**
- Children are happy at school – **95%**
- The school provides a safe environment – **95%**

Findings pointing to possible improvements to make

- **Before and after school clubs**
64% reported being satisfied with this. Over the last three years we have expanded our provision to now include;
 1. Space for Ley Hill Owls – after school care (3-5pm) run independently from the school's music room.
 2. Before and after school activity clubs; Tennis, street dance, two sessions of French, two sessions of football, hockey (summer term), two sessions of kick boxing and gym club.
 3. Provided by staff free of charge after school or during lunch - netball (autumn term), Raspberry Pi computing, film club, cross country, table tennis, football, recorder, science club, glee club, juggling and language club.

There were a number of requests for a **Breakfast Club** to be initiated in the school. I would be more than happy to meet a group of parents who think this provision would add value to the whole school. It would be on the proviso that the club would be run by an outside agency with their own staff and resources (much like Little Owls). The school has a very tight and limited budget and any employment contracts above and beyond those needed to provide for the pupils cannot be considered unfortunately. If you would be interested in meeting for an initial discussion then please get in touch with Eleanor Garth (Chair of Governors) or myself.

Please remember that the school opens its doors at 8.40am as a favour to the parents; it represents fifteen minutes free child care to you. The school day begins at 8.55am and we are under no obligation to open the doors until that time. The fact that we do enables us to

provide valuable social time for the pupils and a time for me to be available to parents and children before the start of the day.

- **Home school agreement**

38% of respondents were happy with this. Many were unaware of the school policy or were confused by the question. There is no surprise here as we are still to agree a home school agreement document. Once agreed we will get this out to you as soon as possible.

In basis this will be an agreement that you as parents will support the class expectations contract that all pupils sign up to each year in September when they change year groups.

The contract came from working with all pupils via the school council in 2015-16 academic year. The whole school agrees to uphold three core values;

1. Be kind, polite and truthful
2. Work hard, progress and enjoy
3. Get Involved.

- **Governors**

64% of respondents were satisfied with the Governing body, whilst 18% felt unable to answer. I feel that the Governing body at Ley Hill provide the whole team with exceptional support and act well as a critical friend to help us continually drive improvement. I suspect that there is an understandable lack of clarity about the role of a Governing body and to that mind Eleanor Garth has written a piece for the new website, due to be launched in the new year, explaining in detail the role and responsibilities of a governing body.

Open ended responses

This section of the questionnaire provided the opportunity to give more open ended comments regarding the school.

There were some interesting comments in terms of improvements, the majority were related to a Breakfast Club and increased after school care. I have discussed these points with Mrs Bennett from Little Owls. The barrier here would be training for her staff as OFSTED have increased requirements for after school care that extends past two hours. Obviously that would have a knock on effect in terms of pay for staff and therefore to the hourly charges to parents.

Before school care has been discussed above.

Please don't forget those parents with KS1 children going to sports clubs after school which begin at 3.15pm that Mrs Bennett offers a service to you to get the children changed and ready for the club. This has been the case for a number of years. Please see Mrs Bennett if you are interested.

There were many highly positive comments about the overall provision which the team here were very pleased to receive.

Also mentioned by many parents was the great work of the Friends of Ley Hill School.

In closing I will quote directly from two parents who are amongst the large majority who value and support all we do at Ley Hill.

'The teachers and other staff are clearly motivated and this in turn provides an excellent education for the children. They are treated as individuals and praised for their achievements'

'Every child is positively encouraged to be the best person they can be. Academic success is seen as important too, but not more important than developing the whole child.'

Carol Service

Our Traditional Carol Service at St George's church will take place on Monday 19th December from 11am. It is such a perfect venue and it is always so lovely to welcome many parents who join us from Years 4, 5 and 6.

We will be repeating the service on Tuesday morning, at this service we invite the local senior citizen group, "The Well Seasoned Club", to join us and I am sure they will have a lovely time.

New Term

Finally, this has been a packed term and we reach the end of another calendar year with a school which is both thriving and vibrant. Many thanks for all your on-going support and enthusiasm. On behalf of all the staff and children I wish you all a happy, peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Thursday the 5th of January 2017.

Yours sincerely



Nigel Hoff
Headteacher



Last day of term:
Tuesday 20th December

KS1 (YR to Y2) finish at 2pm
KS2 (Y3 to Y6) finish at 2.15pm

