

VOLUME 26
ISSUE 2

16, LEIGH RD, LEIGH ON SEA, ESSEX, SS9 1LE



Friday 12 February, 2016

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'The Supplement'

Saint Pierre School's Newsletter



Fundraising Week

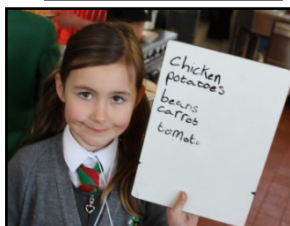
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If you hadn't realised already, nobody does a fundraising event like Saint Pierre School – this time we decided to go one step further! Each class organised their own fundraising initiative for the charity of their choice as follows:

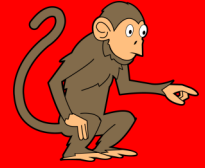
Nursery: RSPCA Reception: WWF Year 1: GOSH Year 2: GOSH
Year 3: Dog's Trust Year 4: WaterAid
Year 5: Southend Hospital Charities Year 6: British Heart Foundation

As you can see from the photos, collectively we all made a huge difference to a number of good causes! We must say a very special 'Thank You' to everyone in the wider Saint Pierre Family and the local businesses who sponsored Mr Harris and Mr Perkins to wear their 'SHIRT OF HURT.' To the casual onlooker, they were a really convincing Englishman and Tottenham Hotspur supporter, but both of them remarked that the whole experience was incredibly worthwhile with in excess of £1500 being raised!

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Chinese New Year



As you may have read in our last newsletter, the children have really been throwing themselves into our new Mandarin lessons with enthusiasm, and what better way to make our specialist teacher Ginny feel welcome than to throw a special lunch celebration to bring in the Year of the Monkey. Our resident 'Man of Many Cuisines' Chef Mike prepared a true oriental banquet with a selection of Chinese delicacies. The Oriental Chicken went down a treat, and many of the children opened their own fortune cookie for the first time.



In The Press



Musical with a message

Dad makes a song and dance about dangers of surfing the web

EXCLUSIVE

By Suzi Muston

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SAFETY conscious staff at a Leigh school have developed a clever way of educating pupils about the dangers of the internet.

Information technology and communications expert Simon Harris from Southend developed the idea because he said he wants to protect children from risks lurking online.

Mr Harris, who is a communications advisor at Saint Pierre School

in Leigh Road, helped create a musical project using songs and drama.

The school has now produced a video on the topic which has now been uploaded to YouTube.

Dad-of-one Simon said: "One of the most rewarding parts of my role is seeing how our children want to contribute to any discussion about online safety.

"Our older pupils are taking a real lead in this with the video, assembly presentations and other printed materials that are shown around the school.

"We have recently introduced a safe and secure email network for year two and above and I am delighted to say that every single pupil is taking responsibility for every message and image that they send.

"We have created emails for the pupils too and other than the occasional forgotten password, the email trial has been a complete success."

Saint Pierre headteacher Christopher Perkins said the school felt it was necessary to include online safety in the IT curriculum.

He said: "We wanted to go beyond any government-issued 'bare minimum' material.

"Five or 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even thought about talking to pupils as young as ours about the dangers of Facebook, Twitter and the internet in general, but we have to



TAKE CARE: Simon Harris with pupils promoting their video to highlight dangers of internet use

move with the times.

"Thankfully we have managed to cover an incredibly serious subject in a way that is engaging, fun, and most importantly, relevant."

Head boy Glen Morris, 11, said: "The online safety video was a lot of fun and it has helped our own pupils a lot.

"It has been shared so much online now that it is also helping children and their parents around the world too, which is amazing.

"We all love using our new email addresses because it gives us the chance to chat with our friends in

other year groups, and we know that messages to and from outside addresses are blocked to keep us safe."

Mr Harris added: "The children all got really involved in the acting with loads of great ideas, and the song was sung by our drama teacher Rachael Linnen.

"The video has been praised by Essex Police, ChildNet International, pupils and parents."

To see the video, which has now amassed more than 1,000 hits, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=1G9uicgr9a4g



MASCOT: Head boy Glenn Morris with school mascot

Colchester Castle



Pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 took a trip to Colchester Castle to find out more about both the building itself and the history of our home county. Britain's oldest Norman keep is well worth a visit at any time of the year, and the pupils took part in a number of activities to learn more about how a castle would have been used as both a home and a defence installation. When it came to learning the art of battle, the highlight of the day came when the children were given bows and arrows to learn how to defend the castle in times of attack - all under close supervision of course!



Bikeability



A group of our Year 6 pupils have been taking part in the Bikeability scheme to help develop themselves into the responsible road users of the future – this was an even bigger achievement when faced with the incredibly strong winds at the tail end of Storm Imogen! Our pupils love getting involved with this initiative as it takes place in 'stages,' offering participants the chance to refresh existing road awareness skills and then build upon them as time goes on.



Our Roving Reporter



Cybersecurity experts have said that parents should ban, or at least be cautious of, VTech's electronic toys because of how they have handled a hack attack.

They gave the advice after it was found that the company's new Terms and Conditions state that parents must assume responsibility for future data breaches.

No company that operates online can ever be 100% sure that they won't be hacked, but since the attack VTech have been working very hard to make sure that their systems are as well protected as possible. They have told everyone that they are trying very hard to safeguard customer information.

By Gabriel Blackwell - Year 6



Winnie The Pooh

We had a great time during our recent Winnie The Pooh theme day, with the whole school being transformed into Hundred Acre Wood for a little while. The curriculum in many subjects had a distinctly 'yellow' touch all day, and the pupils were even treated to a visit from the star of the moment. The good news is that Pooh's dance is available in full glorious Technicolour on our Facebook page, so scan the QR code and take a look!



Welcome New Staff

We are delighted to welcome two new members into the Saint Pierre School Family. Miss Cole and Mr Sullivan have joined us as Apprentice Teaching Assistants, and the children have already made them feel very welcome. Both of them bring a set of unique qualities to the school, and they are both relishing working with all year groups and getting a real 'feel' for the place – we've always believed in 'The Deep End' method as it works so well for everyone!



Young Voices

We took our entire choir to the O2 in London for the 2016 Young Voices show, and after many, many hours of preparations we were delighted with how well the pupils acted as both performers and ambassadors for Saint Pierre School. It was an incredibly long and tiring day, but everyone felt that it was all worthwhile for the experience of singing in such a huge event with thousands of other schoolchildren from across the UK. In particular, the Madness Medley brought the house down.

NURSERY BAKES

Our Nursery is well-known all over the area for offering a varied and vibrant curriculum, and recently this included getting stuck in and baking cakes as part of our week of fundraising events (take a look at the front page for more). All of these treats were then washed down with a cup of freshly-made lemonade, also expertly prepared by the Nursery children!



Forthcoming Events

Saturday 20th February - PTA Valentine's Ball
Wednesday 24th February - School Photographs (Kittle)

Thursday 17th March - Une Journée Française
Tuesday 22nd March - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Thursday 24th March - End of Term (midday)