



News on the Ninth

Gusford Celebration Newsletter – Issue 60 – 9th October 2014

A new year

Do you ever wonder what your children do at school? News on the Ninth gives you a little flavour of the exciting things that we do. The October edition is always a great edition to read about the two school residential trips we do to Horstead and Hilltop, but this month we also have information about some of the new ways we approach the curriculum. You have information about how we have created exciting ways to launch a project, like the magician geography in Year 4 and the way we teach, such as the outdoor maths in reception. We do hope that you enjoy this edition and see how dynamic learning is at Gusford

Mr Tapscott

Barry the Dog



Barry the dog came to visit us on 30th September as part of our series of assemblies on charities. Barry is a guide dog in training and he came with his trainer Holly to tell us about what he does. He was on his best behaviour and Holly told us that he has been getting used to people on buses and trains and in the high street. He has also been to Pleasurewood Hills! There is more information about him on our website and how to become a guide dog walker.

In this edition



Inspiration

P1	Barry the Dog
P2	Y6 Hilltop
P3	Y5 Horstead
P4	Y6 Highwoods
P5	Reception maths
P5	Y4 Magician
P6	Nursery



Expectation

P7	Y2 Writing
P7	Y4 Writing
P8	Y6 Art



Collaboration

P9	Parent Council

Violin

Congratulations to some of our musicians on passing their grading for the Violin and Viola.

- Kayleigh Morgan Grade 1 Viola
- Grace Hammond Grade 2 Violin



Inspiration

Y6 Hilltop residential trip

Hilltop Motto - Challenge by Choice

On the 29th September the Year 6 pupils of Gusford Primary School got on the coach at 9:30 am. The journey took around 2 hours.



When we arrived at Hilltop at 11:30 am, we all got off the coach and went over to the patio so we could meet the instructors.

The instructors took us up to the quiet room (which would be our meeting room). Soon after we ate our lunch the instructors, A.K.A Tom and Leanne, took us on a tour around Hilltop.



The Super Swing was the best activity of the week. It had different stages which were green, blue, black and red.

Green and blue were for children who were less confident and black and red were for more confident. The swing pulled you back up to the level you chose and you pulled a string to release yourself. Then it was like being on a massive swing! Next was the High Ropes. They were the best thing ever in my opinion because you could do whatever level so if you weren't too confident you could go on the starter level to work your way up and if you were very confident you could do more.



One was the trapeze jump where you could have it 1 ft or even 2 ft away and you had to jump off this high platform to grab it. But the best bit was the 'all board'. 3 people climbed up a tall tower to get onto a small platform. Then once all three people were up you had to hold hands all lean back and fall off! (Don't worry – you're attached to a harness but the platform is really wobbly!)

High Brides were one of my favourites because on the higher platform there was skateboard you had to pull yourself along. All these activities were about the height of a 2 storey house so quite scary at times but amazingly fun!

A brilliant trip away for the week. Highly recommended!

Charly Davison, Faye Polley, Dylan Bailey (6S)



Inspiration

Y5 Residential to Horstead



From 1st to the 3rd October, 60 children travelled to Horstead and spent 3 days and 2 nights enjoying lots of exciting activities. These included canoeing, climbing the tower, the zip wire, bush craft – making waterproof shelters (which were tested), camp fire cookery and environmental art.



In addition to this there were three birthdays that were celebrated during our stay. Many happy returns were wished to Chloe Allison, Mason Fountain and Emma Ling with a surprise barbeque and a camp fire with songs and ghost stories.



The next evening the children took it in turns to play hide and seek with head torches, there were so very good hiding places. Everyone had a lovely time and all were asleep by 10.00pm on the second evening.



Well done to all the children for their conduct whilst there which was commented upon by the centre.



Inspiration

Year 6 Highwoods trip



On Thursday 2nd October the Year 6 who didn't go to Hilltop went to Highwoods in Colchester. First we went pond dipping. The children found lots of fantastic insects and creatures underneath the water and the leaves, like newts and backswimmers. The most common creature was the newt. The children found up to 20 to 25 newts in the murky water!



After lunch we all went orienteering. All of the children had a compass and a map of the park. We had to find waymarkers with red and white triangles and answered questions at each point. After that all of the children spent the rest of the time playing and climbing.

By Megan Mann

Year 6 Invertebrate Books

During the week, when many Year 6 pupils went to Hilltop, the remaining pupils studied invertebrates. Our task was to make a book for a Year 2 pupil on an invertebrate of our choice.

We learnt that invertebrates don't have backbones. In our books we had to include a contents page, an introduction and think about bright colours and neat handwriting. We all tried really hard to get our work written in simple sentences for the Year 2s. As young children like a lot of pictures Year 6 used pictures of the invertebrates to inspire the Year 2s in their books.

Next week Year 2 pupils will be reviewing them using our checklist below:

L.O. To write a non-chronological report 		
Task: To create a book for Year 2 on an invertebrate		
Checklist	We think	Year 2 think
BRONZE		
Bright and attractive cover		
Contents page		
Headings and subheadings used for sections.		
Information is written clearly in simple sentences.		
Full stops and capital letters accurate.		
Pictures to help understanding.		
SILVER		
Diagrams included to help understanding.		
Questions to the reader e.g. <i>Have you ever wondered...?</i>		
Interactive features e.g. lift the flap, a quiz		
GOLD		
Tricky words are in a different colour and are explained in the glossary		
Adverbs used to start sentences e.g. <i>Interestingly...</i>		
Suggestions as to how to find out more e.g. websites		

By Isobel Stroud



Inspiration

Outdoor Maths in Robins class

The Robins have had great fun learning maths outside



In this picture one of them is completing one of his outdoor challenge tasks. He has to build a tower from 15 blocks.



In this one they are practising sequencing numbers to 10



The final challenge is to build a "cuboid castle".

Magician in Year 4



On Monday 15th the Year four children were entertained with magical illusions by Darren Aitkins. All of the children were taught a trick (which will remain secret and were told to practise this at home). There were lots of giggles and fun and a very enjoyable start to the Locational Knowledge scheme of work this autumn. This unit of work teaches History and Geography using Magic and illusions as a research tool. The children have learnt about the world and the seven continents by planning a world tour for the Magician and Magic the rabbit





Inspiration

Nursery

In Nursery we have been exploring the topic of journeys using the stories We're going on a bear hunt, Handa's surprise and Little Red Riding Hood. This has included trying some delicious fruits from the story Handa's surprise.



Playing what's the time Mr Wolf and drawing a pathway to direct Little Red Riding Hood to her Grandmother's house.



Using small world play to act out the story of We're going on a bear hunt and making the bear a cave so he can keep nice and warm.



New website

We have appointed someone to produce an updated website. Mr Mann, of Activ Web design, will be designing our new site. It promises to be fresher and easier to navigate. We will have new sections explaining about the school and how we approach things, as well as the important newsletters, calendar and important documents. The parent council will be involved in reviewing the draft for us when it is ready.



Expectation

Y2 Story - Little Red Riding Hood

We have been writing traditional tales in year 2 but have been reversing the roles. This story was one of the amazing stories produced.

Once upon a time there was a horrible, ugly, disgraceful little girl called Red Riding Hood. She had a cape as red as the sun.

"Please can you take the chocolate cakes to your Grandma," her mother said softly.

"No, anyway I want to eat them myself!"shouted Red Riding Hood.

Eventually Little Red Riding Hood agreed to take the cakes to her Grandma through the deep dark gloomy woods. Next a sweet, dainty, pretty, beautiful and delightful wolf walked passed.

"Good morning, " said the wolf. Little Red Riding Hood ignored him.

Behind a tree Little Red Riding Hood ate up all the chocolate cakes all by herself." Yum, yum, yum," she muttered. She went back home and told her mother that she gave Grandma the delicious chocolate cake. Her mother stared at her. She had been telling fibs because she had crumbs all over her face. Mother said she was lucky because she had ginger biscuits as well and that she should take these to Grandma instead.

"OK!" shouted Little Red Riding Hood. She stomped into the forest.

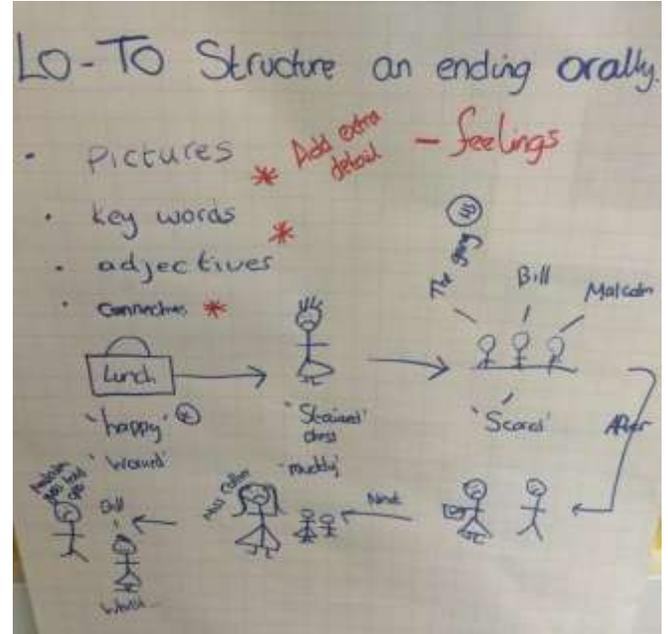
She went through the windy twist path. The leaves were crunching loudly and wildly. After a while she arrived at Grandma's house. She knocked on the door loudly. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Come in!" yelled a voice. The door flung open. The wolf saw Little Red Riding Hood was holding some fire. She had burnt dozens of plants. He quickly put out the fire. Grandma came home with scrumptious donuts and cakes. Little Red Ridinh Hood didn't get any. She learnt her lesson and they all lived happily ever after.

By Bethan Jolliffe

Y4 Story Mapping

In year 4 we have been using story maps in our literacy lessons to help us with our story writing.



By using key pictures, key words and powerful language, we have been able to plan our stories on paper as well as practicing our story orally before we write our story down.



We can then use our story map to help us when we are writing to make our writing the best it can be.



Expectation

Year 6 Art



The art that we produced was inspired by the Blue Period. Our work is fantastic and all of 6S are proud of it.

First we had to mix the blue with white and then we had to paint it in a small square to show how we could change the tone. Then we had to mix the blue with the black, but only a little bit of black though, and put it on a square to show it getting darker.

Next we sketched our own face and shoulders. First we started with the shape of the face most of us had circular faces but some had oval or heart shaped. Then we did our nose. After that we did the eyes (which were very tricky) and after that we did the final bit, the shoulders.



I learnt that it is really hard to use paint and shade, and it is really hard to sketch a face.

By Fynn Horne, Abbie Hammond & Daniel Sharland

You said - we did

We want Gusford to be a school that we all feel part of. We have pupil voice sessions and a school council for getting the children's view and parent surveys and parent council for parents' views. Here are some of the things that you asked for and we have done:

Better communication: Parentmail is used to updates parents eg Norovirus in September. The newsletter comes out each week via parentmail.

Information in advance: We released a yearly calendar in September

Keep informed: Where there have been issues in a class (eg teacher changes in Otters) Mr Tapscott had held a meeting with parents.

More information on how your child is doing: We will have Pupil Asset printouts for all parents at parents evening.

Hedges are getting overgrown: 7th October Suffolk Grounds Service were in to remedy this.

If you have any items you would like us to consider then please let us know via parents@gusfordprimary.net or let your parent council rep know.



Collaboration

Parent Council meeting - 25th September 2014

On 25th September the Parent Council met with Mr Tapscott and Mr Marlow. The following items were discussed.

Improvement

Parents felt there had been an improvement in communication.

- Parentmail - this was working well to keep parents informed, especially when a number of children had the virus
- Newsletters - the balance of information is good
- The yearly calendar for key events was a good addition

The following topics were discussed:

Seeing a teacher in the morning

Seeing a teacher in the morning is sometimes difficult. Mr Tapscott explained how teachers are setting up for the day and when gathering the children in the morning they need to focus on getting the class into the right mindset and behaviour. Lots of parents wanting to chat whilst children are in the line makes this difficult. Other ways of getting messages to staff for the morning include:

- Seeing the office and asking to speak to a member of the FET team. They then make sure the teacher knows.
- Letting one of the headship team know your issue for the teacher when they are on gate duty
- Asking the office for the teacher to phone the parent when they can so that they can chat to them in a break
- Emailing parents@gusfordprimary.net and asking for it to be forwarded to the teacher

Illness

Parents are concerned that some children may be coming back to school too soon after illness. The school follows Public Health England and Suffolk County Council advice that the child should return 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

Hedges

Parents raised that the hedges need to be cut. Mr Marlow explained that the grounds service have had staffing issues over the summer. He had walked around the site earlier with Mr. Carley to check the grounds. A meeting has been arranged next week with the head of the grounds service. It would be helpful if parents notified the school office of any issues they see.

Parents' Evenings

Parent/teacher evenings are key to helping parents support their children to make progress. The Parent Council felt that it is best to see their child's class teacher rather than their set teachers as well to avoid it feeling like a secondary school parents' evening. Some parents want clear information from their maths and english set teacher so that they can support progress. The sessions before the open evening to see children's books is helpful. Parents would also like books out on the parent evenings in order for a parent who was unable to attend the book session previously. Parents who have been given Pupil Asset grade information sheets found this very useful and have asked that this happen for all classes.

Representatives and the next meeting

Our thanks to the parent council for discussing these items. The next parent council meets on Thursday 6th November 2014 at 2.30pm. Please let your representatives know if you want anything discussed. Parent council reps who attended this meeting are:

Melanie Felgate, Debbie Mackenzie-Thorpe, Shelley Ingram, Emma Fothergill, Sarah Walker, Charlene Weeding, Kerry Hawes, Sarah Ingram, Aileen Davison, Tracey Evans