

Celebration Newsletter - Terms 3 and 4 - 2010

Dear Parents & Carers,

We remember the first couple of weeks of Term 3 when we couldn't have playtimes outside due to the snow and ice. So the sunshine recently has been welcomed by everyone. Despite difficulties with the weather, we have much to be proud of over the last two terms. Our sporting clubs have been organised and we have taken part in several key competitions against other schools. We have had visits from ex-pupils of the school who have talked about their experiences, the Choirs have sung at the Central Theatre and our Science Week produced a lot of interesting and exciting learning.

Our pupils always rise to any challenge and their response and participation in events, including their own learning, is really impressive. They are providing us with lots to think about for improving our learning environment. Our 'community' stakeholders are also helping us 'shape' our amenities and facilities so we can become a 'hub' for community focussed activities as part of our school refurbishment programme.

Here are just some of the key events we need to celebrate from the previous two terms:



Haiti Earthquake Appeal

Our pupils wanted to take some positive action when they heard about the devastation caused, back in January, by the earthquake in Haiti. They learnt how the earthquake was caused and how families were trying to rebuild their shattered lives and find their loved ones. The whole school joined together to raise money. The first event was our TAG day. Even the Staff team dressed up in school uniform which went down well with our pupils! The second event was our Great Balloon Race. This idea came from Katie James's mum (Katie is the Chairperson of School Council). Each class let off a balloon with the school's contact details attached. So far, three balloons have been reported - Grain, Sheerness and Southend. We await the others in great anticipation! The great news is that these two events raised an amazing **£1,092**, a truly fantastic effort from everyone. School Council elected to send the money to UNICEF who will use it to help the children of Haiti. Chris and Tammy Lowe from UNICEF praised our efforts for sending in the four-figure donation. So, well-done and thank you to everyone! Read the article on our school website and see the photos.

Sports Clubs

We have lots of fun clubs at Napier. We have invited Buxton School of Dance in to work with children from Years 1 - 6. All children who participated have learned lots of funky new dance moves and had lots of fun. Years 4 and 5 have also had the opportunity to participate in Ice Hockey - I am so surprised by how much their skating has improved and am really looking forward to watching them play a competitive match!

Our sports teams are performing really well at the moment; the football team are playing really well as a team, the Netball team have been practising hard perfecting their footwork and they are now ready to join a league. The cricket team have really improved with their fielding and the table tennis team are so much better at serving. All four teams are really looking forward to attending the Medway Mini Youth Games in later terms and I really hope I'll be able to report some trophies by the end of the year!!



Netball

Our new netball team got its first chance to play in a 'friendly' league this term. They were up against some very well-established teams from other schools. They have been practising with Mrs Slade after school every Wednesday using Netball's High 5 rules. The team, which also included boys, were not deterred in the league and they managed to score several goals. Each member of the netball team tried their best and Mrs Slade felt very proud of them. Next term the team will be competing in the Medway Mini Youth Games.



Kwik Cricket

Our Kwik Cricket Club has now been running for 5 weeks. Group 1 are successfully through and now it is the chance for Group 2 to show what they can do. A squad of 12 players will be chosen from the two groups to represent the school at local league games and the Medway Mini Youth Games tournament in June. The Napier Cricket Squad has been showing steady improvement in their showing at the Youth Games, so we intend to build on this success!



Community Consultation Meeting: Friday 5th March 2010

We were delighted that so many of you attended our consultation evening and gave your ideas about facilities which we could incorporate into the refurbishment of our school. Our film of our pupils went down extremely well, particularly as they mentioned the improvements

they would like to see in their learning environment and playgrounds. Many local community representatives and residents also attended. A full report is included on our school website. There will be further meetings organised. These will provide up-dates on progress about our refurbishment programme which is due to start after this summer.

Feedback from Parent Questionnaire



You will remember we sent a questionnaire out to parents that asked about your children's experiences of school, staff and school leadership. This year we also canvassed views on parents' perceptions on healthy lifestyles and on how safe your children feel at school.

We were pleased that 55% of you completed and returned the questionnaire. Overall, the results were very positive. (Anything over 80% OfSTED considers as 'a very large majority/most' and anything over 65% as 'a large majority')

Here are the results:

Question	School average	Question	School average
My child is happy in school	95%	The school involves me in my child's learning and progress	90%
My child knows the targets he/she has to achieve to make progress	82%	The school provides sufficient information in a timely manner	85%
My child finds their learning interesting	91%	Behaviour at the school is good and well managed	89%
My child is making good progress	91%	The school is led and managed well	91%
My child is given various opportunities/experiences to learn	93%	I am confident that my child understands what makes a healthy lifestyle	90%
My child's specific learning needs are being supported in school	85%	My child makes his/ her own decisions in pursuing a more healthy lifestyle	81%
My child feels safe in school	94%	I am confident that my child understands the basic principles of keeping safe whilst near water, roads, electricity, fire	91%
My child knows what to do if they experience bullying	89%	I am confident that my child understands how to keep safe whilst using the internet, email and mobile technology, appropriate to their age	71%
I feel there is a positive relationship between the school and home	89%		



In Year Group Newsletters and on our website there is information about how pupils can be kept safe whilst using the internet, email and mobile technology. Cyber-bullying was our theme during our last Anti-bullying Week.

Further things which parents wanted us to consider were:

- Homework Club after school

- Information/communication sent to parents living apart but who have joint care of children
- Decision about adverse weather made sooner and not to have half day closures
- Provision for pupils to cycle to school.

We are putting many of these into place so thank you for your comments and support shown for the school.



Pupil / Parent Art Workshop

Early on in Term 3 lots of Year 3, 4 5 & 6 children, along with their parents, took part in an Art Workshop. The workshop was based around the theme for Term 3 of 'Sustainability'. The children had the opportunity to create a range of 'Sustainable Artwork' using recycled or reused materials. Some children printed environmental messages and images using reused sponges and polystyrene and potatoes. These were very inspirational and really made you think about saving the Earth. Others created some beautiful collages using watercolours and tissue paper that displayed silhouettes of wind turbines and oilrigs. These were very attractive and would look brilliant displayed on any wall. Some children reused magazines to produce collage faces of the future. These were truly inspiring and all had stories behind them about why they had special features such as sunglasses. Other children had the opportunity to create junk monsters that displayed an environmental message. Many of these monsters were stunning with some very imaginative ideas about how they can help to save the environment. A junk wind turbine was also made showing real technical skill (even though it broke - unfortunately!) All of this wonderful artwork can still be seen on Site A display board and has been admired by many. Well done to all the children, parents and teachers who took part - it was a really fantastic workshop!



WORLD MATHS DAY Wednesday 4th March 2010

Following last year's success in this world wide event, our pupils logged on for the 48 hour period to play head to head against people from all parts of the world. We had 239 pupils log on during this time, with many playing for what must have seemed every spare moment of the day! We questioned whether some of these children slept as they answered SO many questions correctly! However, we weren't surprised as we have lots of superb mathematicians in our school that certainly made us very proud when the results finally came in. Well done to everyone who took part who helped give us our new school record in the

total number of questions answered correctly. We look forward to continuing this next year and smashing our record once more!

Place	Name & Class	Total number of questions answered correctly (during live event)
1st	Nathan Mills 6CC	13744
2 nd	Olivia McCormick 2SL	6700
3rd	Lauren Lawton 6CC	4153
4 th	Luke Jackson 5TP	3098
5 th	Danish Tayyab 6CC	2500
6 th	Faisal Ahmed 4SE	2205
7 th	Eric Johnson 5TP	1682
8 th	Yukesh Shrestha 2CD	1629
9 th	Lewis Tracey 2CD	992
10th	Dilan Patel 4AK	986

We answered a total of 66,310 questions correctly out of 71,131 that's 93% accuracy!!! WOW!!

Why not carry on playing at www.worldmathsday.com/2010 and get ready for next year!

Chess Club News

Since Christmas Chess Club has seen a marked increase in the number of players. Each morning from 8 am we have upwards of 26 to 28 busy players, which is a whole class full. We have been very fortunate with our Certificates of Excellence from the English Chess federation:

Shauna Pearson	Silver	Chloe Claydon	Bronze
Louis Unsworth	Silver	Ellie Payne	Bronze
Michael Curran	Silver	Hopi Fernandes	Bronze
Jessica Pearson	Bronze	Rheanna Goldup	Bronze
Millie Eastes.	Bronze	Rebecca Gibbs	Bronze
Abbie Eastes	Bronze		

Well done to all those who have achieved success this year and to the children who act as tutors to help their friends.

Chess Club has also run The British Land Chess Challenge 2010. The winner was Eric Johnson and the following have qualified for the Megafinals in Maidstone: Jade Barker, Ryan Barker, Sophie Smith, Michael Curran, Alexander Rubb, Georgia Williams, Courtney-Tane McCarvil

We wish all those who have qualified good luck in the competition.

Science Week 15th-19th March 2010

Another Science Week has come and gone. It is the International Year of Biodiversity. In our lessons we became Endanger Rangers and looked at animals and plants that are under threat of extinction. Posters were produced across the whole school. There was a homework/lunchtime activity about taking photos of unrecognised animals and plants. A Top Trumps competition also took place

Our gardening club has just started up, we are certainly looking forward to sampling some of the home grown produce!

We were amazed and thrilled by the imagination shown by all of our children. The work was of a very high standard. It was a very difficult decision to judge the winners.

Thanks to everyone who took part in this week and made it so successful.



Mrs. Constable

We are delighted to announce that Mrs. Constable gave birth to a bouncy boy called Toby. Both mum and baby have been to visit the school. Mrs Constable will be back in July.

Everyone at Napier is to be commended for their hard work. We would like to thank parents and carers for all the support they give to help children learn. We look forward to returning to school for Terms 5 and 6 when there are more exciting events planned as well as some hard work to complete. Hopefully, everyone will have a restful Easter break with not too much chocolate!!

Yours sincerely,

Z. Slade .

Zerina Slade
Headteacher