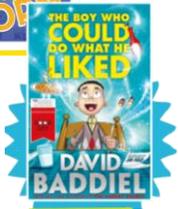




26th February 2016

Dear Parents,

It is a pleasure to write this first newsletter as the permanent head of SJA. I would like to thank you for all your good wishes and congratulations which has meant a great deal to me. I wouldn't have been able to accept the post if it wasn't for the truly wonderful staff that we have at the academy. They really are a tremendous team and go above and beyond to make the academy a great learning environment for your children.



Next week we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. Children will be bringing home a £1 book voucher which they will be used to swap for one of 10 World Day books. A selection of the KS2 books are shown here and I think they look particularly exciting. An alternative is to use the voucher to get a £1 discount off a book of your choice. We will again be dressing up for the day. Children can choose any character from a book so there is a vast choice. In class, the focus this year will again be poetry. Each of the classes will choose a poem, study it and then video themselves reciting their chosen poem. We will then share their recitals with the rest of the school. Keep a look out on the website for this year's performances!



As always, we are keen that our children read proficiently and also for pleasure. It is a crucial skill to master which is why we do ask that all parents ensure that they are reading with, listening to, or for older children, ensuring children are reading each day. The impact on daily home reading is very noticeable and has a positive impact in the classroom for attainment, progress and general confidence.

If you or your child are unsure as to the next book to read, please do speak with the class teacher or Mrs Brine (Librarian) and they will recommend a book for you. And remember if we haven't got a book in school that you want to read, we will buy it!

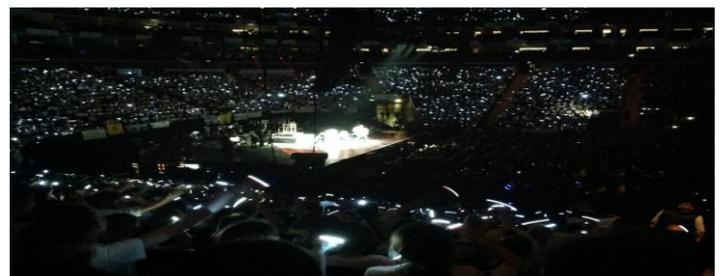
Despite the fact that we are looking forward to spring and the longer days – our first assembly after half term was based on the theme of making every day count. This is something which is so important in our ever busy lives.

Kind regards

Anne Ratsey

Year 6 Children have the time of their life at the O2 Arena

On Friday 29th January 68 Year 6 children and 7 staff became part of a 7,500 strong 'Young Voices' choir to perform in a 'Young Voices' concert at the O2 Arena to a capacity audience. Throughout the autumn term the children had responded brilliantly to the challenge of learning a wide range of songs ranging from gospel songs, Madness hits, newly commissioned pieces and the very latest pop songs from 2015. Also to learning dance moves, choreographed by leading street dance group Urban Strides, to the songs and an Uptown Funk mix.



At the O2 the children were absolutely enthralled by the venue, the atmosphere, the fun generated by David Lawrence (conductor), Craig McCleish (musical director) and Andy Imberstone (choreographer), the live band, the lighting, the sound of the music making, and the skill of the guest artists. We were incredibly fortunate to perform 'World in Union' alongside Laura Wright, who sang this at the opening ceremony of the Rugby World Cup at Twickenham. Also to perform

alongside 'Beatbox Collective', who have recently been crowned world beat box champions and regularly perform at festivals such as Glastonbury and Bestival. Most of the children and adults found it virtually impossible to stop moving as they performed! The children sang their hearts out throughout the rehearsal and concert and were fantastic ambassadors for Southwater Junior Academy.



The aim of 'Young Voices' is to provide a music experience for children that they will benefit from and remember for the rest of their lives. This is absolutely true. All the staff from Southwater Junior Academy will remember the children's faces as they took part in the day for a long time to come. As Mrs Whittaker summed up, "This is why I came in to teaching." and as Ruby in Year 6 explained, "I will never forget it."

Watch out Year 5 for your opportunity to take part in 'Young Voices' 2016. It is an experience not to be missed!

Gifted And Talented Choral Day Hits A High Note!

On Friday 12th February pupils from Year 5 at both William Penn Primary School and Southwater Junior Academy, attended a one-day Choral Workshop at Christ's Hospital, designed to enthuse and inspire Gifted and Talented young singers. Children from twenty-two different schools across the county experienced an exciting day, under the guidance of Andrew Cleary (Director of Music at Christ's Hospital) and David Lawrence (Associate Director of the City of Birmingham Chorus and Director of Young Voices). They worked on 4 songs – all of which were sung in parts and a complex gospel medley which contained extracts from 11 different songs and then split into 3 parts at the end.



Under the baton of David Lawrence, and accompanied on the piano by Alex Hughes (music teacher at Christ's Hospital), approximately 175 children, all aged 9 and 10, worked together to create a fantastic sound. The children were also treated to a performance from Christ's Hospital Schola Choir, a performance on the organ in the Chapel, watched the famous Band Parade and had lunch in the magnificent dining hall. All children were thoroughly engaged in the challenges of the day and enjoyed performing their work to parents, family and friends in Christ's Hospital Chapel at the end of the afternoon.

Easter Egg Raffle

We will be holding an Easter Egg Raffle on Thursday 24th March to raise funds. Staff will be donating Easter Eggs to the raffle and children have the opportunity to win one of the eggs. Tickets are just 20p, although children can buy as many as they want. If you would like a ticket or two, children can bring their money in to their class teacher from tomorrow. Good Luck!



Sports Relief/Charity Stalls

We are currently organising our annual charity stall event. If your child has shown an interest in running a stall at this event he/she will already have brought home the relevant information. Once we have received signed forms from parents we will notify you early next week, if your child will be doing his/her stall on either Monday 7th or 14th March at 3.20pm. Funds raised from this year's charity stalls will go towards Sports Relief and Young Epilepsy, so even if your child is not running a stall – he / she can still bring some money to spend at other stalls. Wrist bands for Sports Relief and Young Epilepsy will be sold by charity reps each Tuesday/Thursday break time when the pupil council shop is open. Items are £1 each. Correct change would be appreciated. You are probably already aware that the official date for Sports Relief is Friday 18th March 2016. We are not planning any other events on this day, so please ensure your child wears full school uniform.

Easter Holiday Clubs

This Easter, Mr Showell will be running Holiday Sports Clubs again. They run from 10am-3pm, and pupils will play a wide variety of sports including: football, table tennis, gymnastics, basketball and cricket. The holiday clubs are open to all pupils who attend the juniors and the cost will be £12.50 per day.

The Holiday Clubs will run on the following dates; 29/3/16; 30/3/16; 31/3/16; 1/4/16; 4/4/16; 5/4/16; 6/4/16 and 7/4/16

If drama is your thing – Sarah Esser will be hosting a week of drama based activities.

Residentials for Y3 and Y4

Dates for the summer residentials for Y3 and Y4 are: Y3 Friday 22nd April – sleepover at school and Y4 Friday 13th May – overnight at Lodge Hill. Further details will follow soon.

Y6 NCT meeting

Please remember the Y6 NCT (SATs) information evening is on Tuesday 15th March at 6.30pm. Please do come along with your children. We envisage the meeting will last for about forty minutes and you will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Y3 at Preston Manor



Before half term Year 3 visited Preston Manor in Hove to learn about the life of a domestic servant. The children experienced a day as a footman, housemaid, kitchen maid or oddman in the Victorian times and they were excited to see inside the historical building. Activities included polishing shoes, washing clothes by hand, churning milk and making gingerbread. At the end of the day four children from each class were chosen to be employed as servants at Preston Manor. The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip and the hands on experience gave them fantastic insight into their topic.



A-Life



On Friday 5th of February, Year 4 welcomed the group 'A-Life' who came in and worked with them in relation to their Superhuman/Superhero topic. The day consisted of a 'healthy workshop' in the morning which enabled the children to have a hands on experience at learning the benefits of having a healthy lifestyle. This covered things such as the importance of a balanced diet, cleaning teeth and the dangers of smoking. This was followed by a fitness workshop in the afternoon. This enabled the children to use specialist equipment, inspiring them to try out new forms of exercise. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and found it not only exciting and enjoyable, but also a worthwhile learning experience.



Sports Update

Our three **basketball** teams have had made excellent starts to their seasons. With the A and B team competing excellently to ensure they will play in the A division in the final round of fixtures, and the C team being promoted to the B division after some brilliant performances. The final league meeting takes place on Thursday 17th March, with each of our three teams having all to play for!

The **Hockey A and B** teams also made an excellent start to their season, with both teams winning 2 matches, and losing 1 in their first league meeting. The second meeting takes place this Friday, held again at Tanbridge. Good luck to all involved!

Both our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 teams enjoyed great success at the recent **Sportshall Athletics** competitions held at Collyer's. Both teams performed brilliantly to finish as runners up out of 10 schools and both teams came agonizingly close to winning the event, but both came up just short in the end! Well done to everyone who competed!

The **netball** teams have competed excellently again throughout this term, enjoying mixed success, going in to the final few league meetings.

In **table tennis** congratulations go to Harry in Y5 for qualifying in the West Sussex Championship for primary schools. His next step is to go to London where he will be seeing if he can attain the title of West Sussex Champion! Who knows – we may even be finding ourselves as national champions again next year!

This year we are once again collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Last year we were able to buy some fantastic new equipment, used by every single child, and we would love to be able to do the same thing again this year. Please send any vouchers in with your child and leave them at the office, or give them to Mr Showell.

Parking

Parking continues to be a huge concern for the Academy. We are hoping that it is not going to take an accident to highlight how dangerous and irresponsible some people's parking is. Thank you to those of you who park at Lintot Square (or walk to pick your children up). Please park responsibly and give thought to the safety of pedestrians, other road users and to the local residents.

Decking

AS you may have noticed, the decking has been removed from the playground. This has been done primarily for safety reasons as the decking was frequently very slippery. Its removal also allows access for lorries onto the top playground. Mr McIntyre will be planting some trees donated from The Woodland Trust in the area and we will be installing a bench for those of you who are not in a hurry to get home!

Governors' Corner

The children were educated and entertained when five SJA Governors took part in a question and answer assembly. The children had prepared some very searching questions requiring thoughtful answers, as well as a questions best answered in a quick fire round against the clock. I do however want to clarify one point – if we had a pot of money – an ice cream parlour would not be top of the list to buy.



Spring Term 2016

Spring Term 2016	
Friday 26 th February	Y4 Music Festival Rehearsal @ Kingslea; Hockey Tournament 4-6pm; Table Tennis B Team 4-6pm
Monday 29 th February	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 2 nd March	Parents' Evening ; Swimming gala – 12.20 -3pm
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day – Dress up as a character from a book; Cross Country 1-3pm
Friday 4 th March	Table Tennis B Team 4-6pm
Wk beg 7 th March	Y3-5 Assessment Week; Charity Stalls
Tuesday 8 th March	Netball Tournament 1-3pm
Wednesday 9 th March	Netball @ Collyers
Thursday 10 th March	Gymnastics Tournament 10.15 – 1pm
Friday 11 th March	5PW Class Assembly - 2.45pm; Y5/6 Football and Hockey Tournaments 4-6pm Table Tennis B Team 4-6pm
Monday 14 th March	Charity Stalls
Tuesday 15 th March	Y6 SATs Meeting -6.30pm; Tag Rugby Festival 1-4pm

Wednesday 16 th March	Netball @ Collyers
Thursday 17 th March	Basketball Tournament 4-6pm
Friday 18 th March	Y4 Music Festival Rehearsal @ Arunside; Y3/4 Football Tournament; Table Tennis B
Monday 21 st March	Climbing Wall
Thursday 24 th March	Y5 Decades' Day; Y4 Superhero Day
Summer Term 2016	
Monday 11 th April	First Day back
Wk beg 18 th April	SJA run clubs start
Thursday 21 st April	6.00pm Y5 Dalesdown meeting 7.00pm Y6 IOW meeting
Thursday 28 th April	6.30pm Science Workshop for Y3
Friday 22 nd April	Y5 Roman Day; 2.45pm 3CE Class Assembly ; 6pm Y3 Sleepover
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday
Friday 6 th May	2.45 5RF Class Assembly
Monday 9 th May	National Curriculum tests for Y6 – until Thursday
Friday 13 th May	Y4 to Lodge Hill
Monday 23 rd May	Y6 to IOW Y5 to Dalesdown
Wednesday 25 th May	Music Festival at The Hawth
Friday 27 th May	2.45 4AER Class Assembly
Monday 30th May	Half Term
Monday 13 th June	Y3-5 Assessment Week
Monday 20 th June	Y5 Greek Day
Friday 24 th June	INSET Day
Wk beg 27 th June	Last week of SJA run clubs
Thursday 14 th July	Evening: Y6 production - The Capitol - Horsham
Friday 15 th July	Evening: Y6 production - The Capitol - Horsham
Thursday 21 st July	9.15am Y6 Leavers Assembly Y6 Leavers Disco
Friday 22 nd July	Last day of Term