

Parents/Carers Newsletter – April 2014

After such a dismal winter it has been great to see a bit more of the sun recently and there is a real feeling that Spring is just around the corner. As the weather improves more of our pupils are being given the opportunity to extend their learning and experiences outside of the classroom and there have been plenty of events going on. Primary classes are currently enjoying the experiences offered through attending Forest School sessions provided by our Trust partners, Widehorizons. This term we have welcomed our new Assistant Headteacher, Paul Shaw, to the Brent Knoll team and he has settled in very quickly and is already making an impact on work around transition and pupil achievement. We are sadly saying goodbye to Lee Franklin, our School Home Support liaison worker, at the end of term. Lee has been responsible for setting up the Home School Support provision at Brent Knoll and has helped numerous families. She will be very hard to replace and we wish her all the best in her new role.

New School Building Update



With the improvement in the weather progress is really being made on the new school building. The bad winter weather resulted in the project being three weeks behind at one point as it was impossible to dig the huge excavations for the foundations and remove the 1500 tons of earth. There have been 500 lorry loads of earth and rubble transported from the site!

However with hopefully the worst of the weather behind us we will see rapid progress and last week with the concrete foundations in place work began on the steel framework for the building itself. We hope to post regular updates on the progress on our school website as we move towards a completion date around this time next year.

The Jack Petchey Foundation Presentation Evening

The 2013 Brent Knoll winners of the Jack Petchey awards were at a special presentation evening at The Albany last month. Accompanied by their parents, carers and guests they were treated to an entertaining evening before being presented with commemorative medallions by special guests including the Mayor of Lewisham Sir Steve Bullock.



Brent Knoll supports local charity

As part of Brent Knoll's Sports Relief efforts it was decided to support the local foodbank which provides help for many local families. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We collected over 100 Kg of foodstuffs which will be distributed to families in genuine need. It is

intended that we will provide ongoing support for such a worthwhile cause. As a cooperative school we hope to develop links with our local Cooperative stores which will greatly increase the support we can offer. We believe that as a community school we should be supporting the needs of our local community as much as possible.

Sport Relief 2014

Brent Knoll pupils took part in a whole range of sporting activities to support Sport Relief 2014 raising money at the same time as having fun. The school was visited by two Millwall FC first team footballers who led a skills session for children. Almost £200 was raised by the staff and pupils which was a great effort and again shows how much Brent Knoll achieves for others less fortunate than ourselves.

Parent workshops

A workshop was held recently for parents to learn how reading is taught at Brent Knoll and how they can support their children's learning at home. The workshop led by Liz Douglas, Primary Literacy coordinator, and Gaynor Eames, Assistant Headteacher, was very well attended. A similar workshop on numeracy is being held at the school on Wednesday 2nd April.

Music Therapy

We are very keen to develop the range of therapies available at Brent Knoll. With this in mind we have a music therapist, Anthony Voelcker, joining the staff team after the Easter break. Anthony will be based at Brent Knoll on Fridays to provide individual and small group therapy to pupils referred to him by staff. For more details on the therapies available at Brent Knoll please look at the website

Nightline

A team of staff are taking part in Nightline to raise money for outdoor adventure activities for Brent Knoll students. Nightline is a sponsored walk of either 25km or 50 km through the night to the Margaret Macmillan Outdoor Education Centre in Wrotham, Kent. The event is being organized by our Cooperative Trust partner Widehorizons who provide many outdoor adventure experiences for our students such as residential school journeys and Forest School sessions for our younger pupils. You can support the Brent Knoll

Important Summer Term dates:

The school opens for the Summer Term on Tuesday 22nd April 2014

The school will be closed for essential safeguarding training on Friday 2nd May

The half term holiday will be from Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May.

Parents Evening is on Thursday 10th July and Achievements Assembly is on Friday 18th July at 10am.

The school will close for the Summer holiday at 1.00 pm that day.

team by sponsoring a member of the team. Details of how to do this will be circulated nearer the time of the event which is on the longest day, Saturday June 21st.

Residential School Journey to the World War I battlefield in France and Belgium

A group of Key Stage 4 students had the fantastic experience of visiting the WWI battlefields in France and Belgium this term for a residential school journey. The trip brought to life the history of the first World War with the group visiting trenches, The Menin Gate for the last post ceremony, museums and battlefields.



We hope to make this a regular feature of the humanities curriculum.

Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust

The Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust has continued to grow and develop. We have been delighted with the relationship with our Trust partners and the opportunities that they have presented for our children. The great news is we have now reached the target of 200 members which means we can establish the Members Forum which will provide members with a direct say in the running of the Trust.

There is Fun Day planned for Saturday 21st June at Watergate School at which it is intended to host a Stakeholder Forum



Wishing everybody a happy Easter holiday!