

Easter News

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King's
ST. ALBAN'S

24th March 2010



Dear Parents,

Today was not atypical at King's St. Alban's and it reminded me of what the school does best. It provides children with a range of challenging opportunities both within and beyond the classroom.

This morning started with a thoroughly enjoyable Form Assembly led by 3D which demonstrated strong team work alongside some outstanding individual performances. The assembly also included a vivid and exciting book review presented by a Year 5 girl – we've been promoting reading as a *must do* holiday activity and she is certain to have motivated some to look up *The Spook's Apprentice* by Joseph Delaney. Later in the morning children visited with examples of three dimensional collage from Art; problem solving in maths and some enchanting creative writing – I'm still trying to puzzle my way through yesterday's riddles from Year 4! In the afternoon Year 3 painted their ceramic rock pool creatures working with the senior school's artist in residence, Kate Prudden. Al Pagan, our visiting media artist, will photograph their work later this week and you will be able to see this as part of the projected backdrop to the Year Group's dance in *Creative Connections*. Across the road in the Pre-prep Hall Year 6 were working with professional composer Andrew Kristy, fine tuning the combination of their music and dance that will support their presentation of ocean issues in *Creative Connections*. The younger children were, of course, fascinated by all that was happening but when I called into Reception I was equally delighted to listen to a *show and tell* session that was an impressive illustration of both the children's individual confidence and their collective support of one another. Down the corridor in the Year 2 classroom the children were far too absorbed working on their design of motorised cars to be diverted by what was happening in the adjacent Hall.

The day finished with an Informal Concert in the Chapel, a lovely venue. The concert included a delightful flute duet, a first-time pianist and an impressive violin solo. Peter Shepherd (x-St. Alban's now in Year 9) accompanied many of the pieces and he has therefore been popping in to school in his breaks over the last week to catch performers to briefly practice – a lovely by-product of our concerts is the relationship the children build with Peter, whose musicianship they admire and, perhaps subconsciously, aspire to achieve. The U'9 footballers returned having come unstuck against The Grange, but both the A and the B team had improved their performance in the second half and all had enjoyed the afternoon's fixture. Later still, the climbing group returned from *Vertical Limit* clearly invigorated and enthused!

It is lovely to see the children making so much of the opportunities on offer and it was good to have Andrew Longley, Head of Year 7 and 8 at King's, encourage them to do so in the assembly he led on Monday that was centred on the true meaning of Easter - beyond chocolate!



Some end of term house-keeping:

On Wednesday May 12th we plan to hold an Open Evening for parents of children interested in joining Reception in September 2010. This will include sample lessons illustrating our teaching approach to numeracy and literacy. Please do let anyone you know who may be interested and ask them to call to book a place.

It has been good to see Ian Fry increasingly back involved in school life over the second half of term. 4F, particularly, have enjoyed his company this week and we look forward to him continuing his recovery. He is grateful for the support he has had from so many of you.

The summer term starts with preparation for and performance of *Creative ConneXions*. An invitation to book tickets will arrive at the start of the new term. The Fête is also an important focus – those Year 2 car designers will, I hope, be fascinated by the enclosed competition. Rybrook Mini is sponsoring the Fête through a competition to design the decorative finish for a mini, template attached – they promise that the winning design will be implemented!

A further distraction for Year 6 will be exams! Most Clubs do not begin until May 4th and we will forward details at the start of the new term; Ballet, Judo and Riding are exceptions – please find details enclosed. You will notice that we have extended Riding Club to children from Year 1 (we feel the finish time is still too late for Reception).

A surprising number of requests for leave of absence for family holidays have been received recently. Please remember that, for senior school pupils in particular, such absence can be disruptive to their learning and that school asks that you avoid such commitments during term time whenever possible.

The timing of the move to summer uniform is flexible. We normally announce a change once the warmer weather has settled, but accept that some children like to make the move as early as possible and that is absolutely fine!

With best wishes for an enjoyable and relaxing break,

Richard Bellfield

Advance warning of some dates:

- April 22/23rd 2010 - Year 6 Exams
- April 28/29/30th 2010 – *Creative ConneXions Performances, Theatre (6.30pm/4.00pm/6.30pm)*
- May 12th – *Open Evening for parents of children interested in joining Reception in 2010 (7.30pm – 9.00pm)*
- May 25-27th 2010 - Year 3-5 Exams
- Year 6 Old Chapel Camps: 6B May 3rd-7th; 6LW May 10th-14th; 6P May 16th (Sunday) - 20th
- Year 6 French Visit: May 23rd (Sunday) - 28th
(a meeting for the parents of those going to France will be held on Tuesday, March 16th starting at 7.30pm)

For the long distance planners, ***all children to attend on the following occasions please:***

- School Fête (YR-6), Monday May 3rd 2010.
- Sports Day (Y3-6), Saturday June 12th 2010 9.00am – midday
- Pre-prep Sports Afternoon, Thursday June 24th 2010 2.30pm-3.30pm, School Gardens
- Open Afternoon (YR-6), Wednesday June 30th 2010 4.00pm-6.15pm.
- King's St. Alban's Day (Y3-6), Saturday July 3rd 2010 9.30am-11.30am & Parents' Party that evening.
- Y6: Mothers/Fathers v Daughters/Sons Rounders, Tuesday July 6th – School Fields, 6.00pm, BBQ to follow.
- Pre-prep final assembly (Y2 leavers' celebration), Wednesday July 7th – Hall, 8.50am

