



ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
READING

March 2015

# St. Edward's School Newsletter

## FROM MR MOTTRAM

Spring Term

Issue 78

What a fantastic couple of weeks we have had! Book Week was full of fun with dressing as your favourite book character, fabulous workshops with the famous author Paul Geraghty, book swaps, competitions and more. This was followed by a sensational Science Week where we learnt about explosive cooking techniques, hosted a chocolate factory, took part in a Bake Off and enjoyed a hilarious parody of the staffroom at break time by 6J for Red Nose Day.

It's exhausting just listing all of the exciting events let alone planning, organising and delivering such engaging learning experiences, but the looks on the faces of the boys as they soak up the knowledge re-charges our batteries and makes all the hard work so worth while.

I am very lucky to have a team of teachers and support staff at St. Edward's that are always looking for new ways to help the boys to reach their potential. The fact that six of our Year 6 pupils and one Year 8 pupil have secured places at

Reading Grammar, along with a prestigious scholarship at Magdalen College School and places at Abingdon is testament to this.

Whilst we are obviously sad to be saying goodbye to some of our Year 6 boys at the end of the Summer Term, we are delighted that they are moving on to the next stage in their academic career at their first choice secondary school. I would like to say a very public 'well done!' to all the boys who have worked so hard to gain their coveted places and wish them well for September.

We look forward to another exciting whole school event at the end of the month in our interpretation of 'My Son Pinocchio' at The Drake Theatre at Pangbourne College. I look forward to seeing you all there with your family and friends.

*Grant Mottram*

Grade Card Straight As

Ansh Barot  
Matthew Perry

Max Williams  
Owen Warwick

A very well done boys!

### **Red Nose Day Bake Off**

#### **Winners**



**Report to follow  
in the next  
newsletter**

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## 8F ASSEMBLY

Year 8 decided they would like to perform an assembly informing the rest of the school all about studying History at Common Entrance. This was for two reasons; to show the boys exactly what happens in Years 7 and 8, so they had more of an idea when choosing to stay on at Year 6, and also to have a whole lot of fun focusing on four key events in history: the Battle of Hastings, the Black Death, Richard III and the American War



of Independence. The boys entertained us with a video and role-play acting out the events of 1066, and a PowerPoint and thorough explanation of the symptoms of the plague. We were then taken live to a news flash in a car park in Leicester, where the

boys had stumbled upon the discovery of a lifetime – the body of Richard III! The assembly ended with another role-play – this time detailing the events leading up to, and culminating in, the American War of Independence. There was even time for the boys to re-enact the Boston Tea Party, with teabags being an ideal substitute for the real thing! The audience seemed engrossed

in what was being shown, and hopefully have a greater understanding of the fun that can be had in the History Common Entrance syllabus.

J. Fearn

## 5A ASSEMBLY

Year 5's assembly kicked off our Chinese New Year celebrations by telling the story of how Chinese years came to be called after animals and it also gave some boys a sneak preview on how the year they were born in can tell people something about their personalities. The boys born in the Year of the Monkey (2004) are said to be patient and humorous and being born in the Year of the Rooster makes you friendly and kind! The Jade Emperor (Ansh) proudly conveyed his wisdom on what the Years were called, ably assisted by James who narrated the story. So apart from a sleeping lion waiting in the wings to be woken up with the crash of cymbals, banging of drums and whole-school shouting the assembly also boasted a rat, an ox, a tiger, a rabbit, a dragon, a snake, a horse, a ram, a

monkey and a rooster, along with a dog, a pig and an unlucky cat. All in all a loud and happy start to wish in the Chinese New Year.

D. Andrew



## YEAR 1 GALETTE

Year 1 had a wonderful REAL French lesson celebrating Epiphany with two Galettes fantastically baked by Mrs Miot (Ethan's Mum). We learned about the French tradition as well as enjoying the gorgeous cake! Here is some information for you in case it is a tradition with which you are unfamiliar...



### THE FRENCH CELEBRATION: HOW IT WORKS

The Galette des Rois is a way for French people to celebrate the Epiphany, the arrival of the Three Wise men (Magi). Every year, on January 6th, people gather 'pour tirer les rois,' to find the kings. The traditional galette is cut in a very specific number of slices: one slice for each person sitting at the table plus one. The extra slice is symbolic for the first poor person passing by.



The youngest person in the room goes under the table, and announces who gets the next slice. The youngest person is said to be the most innocent one and therefore fair in the distribution of the slices. Such an importance is given to the distribution because of the lucky charm, la fève, hidden in the galette.

"La fève!"



The person that gets the slice with the lucky charm becomes "the king" for the day. French bakeries sell the Galette with a paper golden crown. The king of the day is supposed to wear the crown as a symbol of royalty. Even if becoming a king for one day does not have a real influence, children (and adults!) still get excited about it because of the fun of it. In the end, the most important part remains the gathering and sharing of something delicious with friends and family.

Adhrit was chosen to sit under the table as he was the youngest in the class and he dictated the distribution of the Galette. It was exceptionally lucky that he was the first person to find the feve! He wore the golden crown accordingly.

The second cake was cut and this time it was Ethan who found the feve and could wear the crown!

We had a fantastic time learning about this wonderful French tradition and extend a heartfelt thanks to Mrs Miot for her thoughtfulness in sharing with us.

R. Daley-Franks

## YEAR 3 GENTLE DENTAL

Year 3 was lucky enough to have not one but two trips to the dentist during January and February! We were invited to visit Gentle Dental in Tilehurst where we met dentist Benda McMillan. She gave an informative talk to the boys about why it is important to clean our teeth and what happens if we don't. We were shown some gruesome pictures of tooth decay which certainly encouraged the boys to think carefully about brushing thoroughly and regularly.

We were introduced to the 'sugar lump game' which proved to be fun and surprising. We learnt that a can of Coke contains 10 sugar lumps, a McFlurry contains a staggering 22 but possibly the most startling of all is that a small box of raisins contains the equivalent of 8 sugar cubes! We were all shocked by this and may have to rethink our snack boxes...

Once in the examination room work began. On our first trip Isaac Sperrin was the lucky candidate who had to chew on a disclosing tablet and reveal his plaque to the rest of the class. Brenda then demonstrated how careful cleaning can help remove it. To our surprise (and horror for some!) everybody then had a brief examination to see how well they cleaned their teeth. They were given a score between 1 and 3, 3 being the best. Unfortunately we had rather too many of our class scoring only 1 but the incentive was to improve by the second visit. To help achieve this the boys happily received 'goody bags' full of dental paraphernalia including a toothbrush, a handy timer and some hints to help keep teeth clean and healthy.

Our second visit had the fun of re-examinations. It was clear that some of the class had worked really hard to improve the way they brush their teeth and had jumped up a level. Of particular note is Tom Hewitt who was the only boy to achieve a level 3 on both visits. Well done Tom!

Going to the dentist has never been so much fun!

M. Swift



## SWIMMING GALA

This year, the St. Edward's Prep Swim Gala was held on Thursday 12th February 2015 at Reading Central Pool.

The event took place to demonstrate the strokes and skills the boys have been developing with their coaches and to allow the boys to compete against each other for their house teams. Since the start of the year, all the boys in Year 3-5 have been developing and working extremely hard in their swimming lessons. Although formal swimming coaching is now not part of their PE & Sports curriculum, boys in Years 6-8 demonstrated what superbly committed performers they could be. The gala performances and results this year have yet again shown that competition can be a means to stretch the ability and efforts of all concerned.

The enthusiasm in every race proved just how committed and supportive the boys were towards each other. The races were very competitive and many of the heats finished with very little distance between the often six lanes of swimmers.

A special mention this year must go to Joe Pollard, who broke two school records at the gala:

Year 6 freestyle – 15.14 (previously 15.8)

Year 6 Individual Medley – 1.06.13  
(previously 1.10.81)

It was a superb performance by Joe, and just another indicator of how far he has come thanks to brilliant work by his swim coaches both in and outside school.

The gala proved to be fantastic afternoon of swimming for everyone involved and showed how far many of the boys have progressed and improved in their swimming. I was particularly proud of a number of boys who, despite intense fear about getting in the deep end, managed to swim a whole length. They received generous applause and should be proud of their efforts.

I have been involved in a number of galas during my time at the school, but this was the first I had run, and I would like to thank all the administration staff who contributed a great deal of their time during the planning stages and of course to all the boys for such a determined, committed and spirited effort throughout the afternoon. I am very grateful to the swim coaches for their consistency and dedication to the boys during lessons and to all the staff who assisted with the time keeping and scoring. Finally, my thanks go to all of the parents who attended and supported the boys.

Mr. J Fearn, Head of PE and Games



# CHINESE NEW YEAR



## BERZERK NEWS



BERZERK PRODUCTIONS  
PRESENT

# "LET IT GO!"



A 'FROZEN' INSPIRED EASTER THEATRE SCHOOL  
7- 10 APRIL | SOUTH STREET ARTS CENTRE

Let yourself go in dance, drama and singing  
in this four-day theatre course based on *Frozen*.

The week filled with games, mime, music, singing,  
dance, team work, make-up, costume and crafts.

Looking at the songs and dances of 'Let It Go', 'Do You Want to  
Build a Snowman' and 'In Summer'.

This Easter school promises to be a Frozen spectacular, working  
on a script, songs and dances from the Disney extravaganza,  
'Let It Go' and jump straight in, meet new friends and go berzerk!



### EASTER HOLIDAY 2015

7 - 10 April | 10am - 4pm  
SOUTH STREET ARTS CENTRE  
21 South Street, Reading RG1 4QU

AGES 6+

Limited places available  
£125 per child

**EARLY BIRD PRICE:** £100 if you book before 1 March  
Book online at [www.berzerkproductions.com](http://www.berzerkproductions.com)



## SULGRAVE MANOR TRIP

After a long journey to Banbury, Year 5, accompanied by Mrs Andrew and Mr Fearn, entered the grounds of Sulgrave Manor. It was once owned by Lawrence Washington, the great, great, great, great, GREAT grandfather of America's first President George, and the boys were instantly impressed by its grandeur. We were met by Tudor maids, dressed appropriately, who would be our guides for the day. Everyone was given their Tudor clothes to change into, and the boys all seemed to jump into character as soon as they changed outfits! They were then treated to all sorts of exciting activities, including a tour of the house and its grounds. They learnt a great deal about the history of the manor, and how rich and poor Tudor people lived. The boys also took part in a role-play involving Henry VIII and his six wives, and although no one dressed up as girls, most were forced to act like them at some point!



All the boys seemed to really enjoy the experience, and it was a thoroughly useful and

entertaining trip.

J. Fearn

## YEAR 2 TORCHES



**Year 2 had fun making torches as part of their topic on 'Electricity'**



## CHICK OUT WHAT WE THOUGHT!

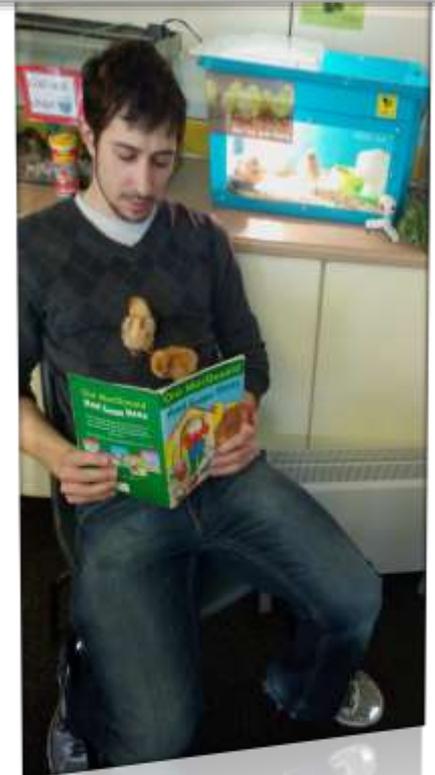
What did we learn from rearing the chicks?

We learnt about the life cycle of the chicken from starting as a fertilised egg and hatching using a bump on their beak called the egg tooth to becoming twice their newborn weight in a week. We did an experiment and found out that the chicks liked the green peppers because their feeding bowl was the same colour! We measured their weight and mass on the second and eighth day. This showed us that they grew much less than they gained weight!

A story about one of the chicken's life in the classroom:

Okay. Since the author of this writing piece is Ansh, I thought I would write this for him about my experience in the classroom. First, I formed in a fertilised egg. Slowly, I started to form and after around 21 days, I was born. To crack the egg, I used my egg tooth which is a small bump on my beak. When I was born, I was moved into a humid, warm place called an incubator. This helped me to fluff up. All around me, I saw other creatures like me, most very scared like me. Later, we were marked with a felt tip to identify us. I was named Chickened Out. Slowly, after feeding, I started to grow heavier in weight and grew accustomed to a lot of men and boys looking and staring in wonder at me. On the seventh day I was carried by the science teacher to the floor. All around me, there were different coloured foods. After much worry, I finally ate them. After another day or two, some of us were taken back by the farmer. We enjoyed the classroom so much and they looked after us so well. The other chicks were named Social Network, Dash, Eggy, Flappy Bird, Fluffy, Quack Junior and Roast Phillet.

Report by  
Ansh Barot



## BOOK WEEK



R is for Relaxing, E is for Enjoying, A is for Appealing, D is for Dragons and Dreaming, I is for Imagining, N is for Narrating, G is for Going –for - it – READING of course!

These are the words Year 2 came up with when we were devising our Book Week Assembly. I think it sums up beautifully what Book Week is all about!

Book Week began on Monday 2nd March when Pre-prep travelled to Battle Library to learn how books are organised. The librarian, Brenda, told the boys what sort of books could be found in the library and they completed a quiz to find particular books using the numeric system.

Brenda read a couple of stories and then the boys found a book they wanted to read and a cosy nook in which to read it!

On Tuesday the whole school had a visit from charismatic author, Paul Geraghty. He held three age-related sessions

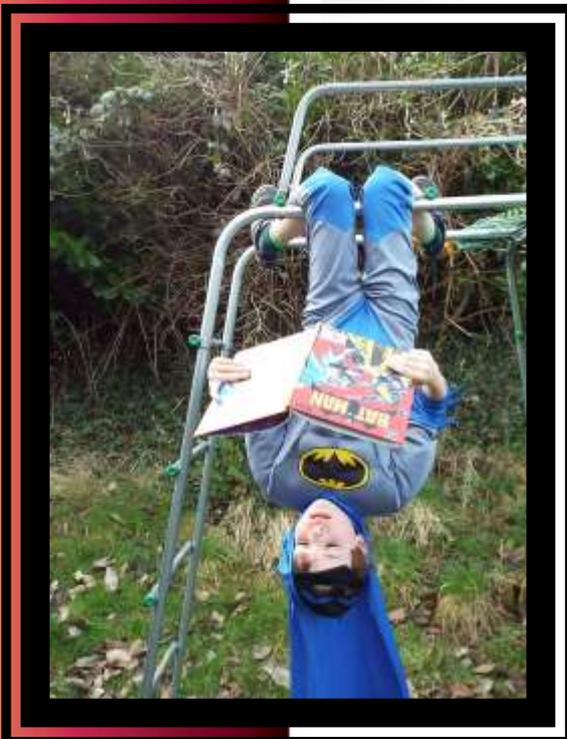


throughout the day of storytelling and illustrating while he spoke. The wonderful sketches can be seen in the Pre-prep library at present. Paul showed the boys how to incorporate writing, illustrating, and using ideas from their knowledge of the world to create fabulous stories.

On Thursday which was World Book Day, Pre-prep had another exciting outing to Waterstones Bookshop on Broad Street in Reading. The booksellers remembered the boys well from previous visits and were very complimentary about their behaviour. Cheryl and Holly were dressed in Where's Wally themed outfits and helped the boys exchange their World Book Day vouchers for a £1.00 book. They also read some new and interesting books to the boys' obvious enjoyment.

As part of the whole school involvement in

Book Week, a Reading Tree was created with book tags attached recommending good books to other boys. Have a look at the wonderfully decorated pine



## BOOK WEEK—CONTINUED

tree in the school garden!

The Prep teachers came to Pre-prep to read stories to the boys who really appreciated hearing teachers they do not normally see reading their favourite stories. We also had 'Guess the Book Your Teacher is Reading' which made us appreciate how well the boys in school know us. No problems guessing at all!

We also had a wonderful opportunity of bringing in a book no longer needed to swap for another in the Great Big Book Swap.

The whole school responded to a bell for Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) where we all read a book for 15 minutes, including teachers and Office staff...a very quiet and peaceful time to have visited the school!

The Extreme Reading and Shelfie photographs were well received and the winners were Aniket Sampath (Year 2), James and Matthew Perry and Tom and Daniel Hewitt for some wonderful photographs of reading

books appropriate to their situation. (For example, Aniket was reading a book on bugs while covered in grasshoppers, beetles and flies! James was reading a book called 'Arsenic for Tea' while Matthew poured him a cup!)

On visiting Pre-prep you would also have seen classroom doors decorated as book jackets! Reception as Hairy Maclary by Lynley Dodd, Year 1 as The Night Pirates by Peter Harris and Year 2 as George and The Dragon.

The week culminated with an Assembly led by Pre-prep sharing the excitement of the week to their parents and the whole school dressed in their wonderfully eclectic costumes of book characters!

Book week is always one of the most exciting weeks in the school calendar and just underlines the enjoyment that books and reading give to all!

R. Daley-Franks



Drop Everything  
And Read!