

THORNGROVE NEWSLETTER

26th March 2010

We have arrived at the end of another busy term and it is lovely to think that the summer months will soon be upon us. The children have worked incredibly hard this term and have managed to pack in so much. I am sure they have all deserved this Easter break and I hope that they will return revitalised in April.

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Miss Lucy Walker as **Head of Science** from September 2010. She was educated at Headington Girls' School before studying for her BSc at Bristol University. She did her PGCE at Cambridge in Middle Years Science, where she was also awarded a Blue for Netball. She has worked at The Dragon School, Oxford since 2007. I am sure that you will get a chance to meet her at a gathering in the summer term.

We recently had the **second hand uniform sale** and Angela Davies and Jennifer Boulton would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the sale. They took just over £1,000 which resulted in a contribution of £325 to the school. They would especially like to thank the people who helped on the day (Claire Mitchell, Sarah Nelsen, Julia Nicholl, Lynda Bywater, Kerrie Bailles and Sarah Franklin). The next sale will be held on 'Move Up Day' on the 15th June. The Friends of Thorngrove Committee will help me decide what these funds should be put towards. I will be sending out information about this Committee and its composition and purpose early next term and hope to have our first meeting in May.

The **Newbury Weekly News** popped in on Wednesday to take photos of our Form 9 Scholars. A write-up will hopefully be in the newspaper next week. In addition to this, I'd like to remind parents of Form 9 that there is a follow-up seminar with Mr Righetti on revision and memory techniques on Wednesday 21st April. I am sure that it will be just as useful as the one at the start of this term. On another note, please make sure (Form 9 parents) you sign up your child's name for the C.E. surgeries at the start of next term. The idea is that you don't just book them in for the whole day but choose carefully the subjects your child might need the most help in.

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Whilst I was on tour in Yorkshire I sadly missed the **Art Exhibition**. On my return I was stunned by some of the work on display around the school and, from your comments, the evening was a great success and must continue to be a permanent event on the calendar. Well done to all the boys and girls who entered and thank you to all the judges for giving their time- in particular Mr Coles (Jasmine's daddy) who stepped in so kindly at the last minute.

The **Music Festival** was also a roaring success with so many entrants and categories. It was lovely to spend the day walking between venues listening to splendid music making. The judges were impressed by the high standards and this was evident in the concert at the end of the day. Music at Thorngrove has always been strong and, judging by the calibre of performance on show at the festival, music is still very much flourishing under the direction of Mrs Gough, our Head of Music.

On Tuesday Form 3 were involved in some '**eggtastic**' fun. Several competitions were held and fun was had by all. Hal West proved to be an outstanding egg rolling competition winner, with Anna Gomez rolling another decent distance to come in second. Sam Exelby had managed to find a very unique and inventive way of dropping an egg from the balcony in the Old Hall, without it smashing, using just freezer bags and water! Other great inventions were seen from Fraser Hart, Barney Woolley, Lucy Pope and Minnie Feather. Davie James and William Bywater were both winners in the egg decorating competition. Davie had created a bee out of her egg and William had changed his egg into a parrot. The final competition was a mad race around the school to solve riddles and clues leading to a chocolate egg prize. A'ishah Shaikh and Ralph Franklin worked well as a team and arrived first to claim the prize, shortly followed by Izzy Brown and Jacob Ryder. A great afternoon was had by all and a big thanks to Miss Byrne for arranging the entire Egg Olympics!

Mrs Worrall has been delighted with the response to the new **Eco Club** starting next term. The plot has been dug next to Mr Riley's shed and 31 children have already signed up to be involved in the club. Mrs Worrall has told me that there are still a few places left on Thursday after school. She also has a wish list for gardening items which is up outside 6W or

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Your children's reports will be in their bags or book bags. There is also a hard copy of the calendar for next term. This will shortly be uploaded on to the website. Please note that on the hard copy **Celebration Day** on Friday 14th May was missed off. This is a wonderful day of enrichment, where all the children throughout the school follow an alternative curriculum. Last year's day was smashing and I am sure that this year will be just as good. I would also like to draw your attention to **Open Day** on Friday 28th May. This is for current parents only and you will be invited into the school to see your child at work and play and also have a 'school lunch'. Details of this Open Day will follow at the start of next term. One more date for your diary is **Speech Day** on the last day of the summer term- Wednesday 7th July. In a change to previous years all the children will attend and all parents will be invited.

The **School Development Plans** are nearly complete and you will soon be able to view them on the new parents' login which will be on the website towards the end of April. As I've mentioned before, the parents' area will contain useful information including: school policies; parents' handbook; current letters; clothing lists; book lists; holiday/sick work to download and much more.

I am pleased to announce that **Sports Relief** raised £485.13. This is a fantastic amount of money for a worthy charity, and the **Form 5-9 disco** last night raised an impressive £410 for Haiti. I was also pleased that the DJ commented on the wonderful behaviour and manners of all the children.

No, it is not a mistake on the calendar-there really is a **Masai Warrior** coming to school to talk to the children next term. It should be memorable.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 20th April.

Kind regards,

Adam King
(Headmaster)