

# THORNGROVE NEWSLETTER

**26th May 2011**

I am sorry that I did not send out a newsletter last week. I will do my best to give you two weeks of news in this edition.

On Monday, 40 children in the Upper School travelled to **Stowe School** to participate in an athletics meeting against several other preparatory schools. The children performed magnificently and their behaviour was also impeccable. The girls ended up 2nd overall in the competition and the Form 9 boys won their age group overall. Although the weather was cold and windy the children's spirits remained high all day.



**Mr Brown, Ukasyah, George, Faiq and Cameron at Stowe**

Last week Form 6 went to The Houses of Parliament. They toured both houses (just like President Obama) and met our local MP, Sir George Young. The children also visited the Cabinet War Rooms in Whitehall where Churchill planned much of the Second World War campaign. The children had an exciting and informative day.



**Form 6 standing outside No. 10 Downing Street**

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On Monday 16th May, **Form 5 visited Highclere Castle** to see the Egyptian Exhibition. Mrs Watkin reports:

'It is always an enjoyable trip with the afternoon being split into three different sessions. The pupils begin in the 'hands on' room where they dress up in replica Egyptian costume and jewellery, handle artefacts, build pyramids and make cartouche with their name in hieroglyphics. The children then walk around the exterior of the house to the Secret Garden (helpfully signposted). The final part of the trip took us to the discovery area itself and the treasures found by Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter.'

Mrs Watkin said that the guides at the castle were impressed with the children's knowledge and behaviour.



**Form 5 Egyptians**

I am pleased to announce that **Geraldine McCaughrean**, the children's author, will be our guest of honour at Speech Day on Friday 8th July. Just like last year, all parents are welcome to attend.

Our **Founders' Day** is fast approaching on Monday 27th June. In a change to last year, we have invited Paul Rankin, a celebrity chef, to come to Thorngrove for the day. He will be doing cookery workshops with many of the children. At 2.30pm parents are welcome to attend the 'Ready, Steady Cook -off' between Paul Rankin and myself (I will have to start practising), followed by afternoon tea in the New Hall.

**Move Up Day** is on Tuesday 21st June. As in previous years, this will give the children the opportunity to spend the morning with their new form teacher and the children who will be in their form in September.

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I do hope you have been ordering the **form photos**. After discussions with the Form Representatives, it was decided to move to a more informal setting. I do hope you like the results. However, the whole school photograph remains traditionally formal and will be available soon to purchase.

I believe that many parents and children enjoyed a **fun sports event** last Saturday. Well done to Neil and Sam Warren for winning the overall parent and child award. I do hope that this event is set to continue and will be supported even more next year. It also managed to raise £120 for FOT funds. Well done to everyone involved and particularly James Mitchell and Paul Brown for doing all the organising.

## **Reminders!**

There will be **no After Care** on the last day of term. School will finish at 3pm (after Speech Day).

Please bring in any **china** (cups, plates, tiles etc.) for the Art Project starting after half-term and leave it in the box on the terrace. We need a lot to make the seat!

Please **give to charity** (either FOT or your own choice) by signing up to the 'easy funding' website on [www.easypundraising.org.uk](http://www.easypundraising.org.uk). So far 6 parents have signed up for us!

Finally we have a lovely family joining us in September from Holland. They are looking for a large (they have 5 children!) family house to rent in the Highclere area. If you have or know anyone who has a house, please contact me and I'll pass on the contact details.

Kind regards,

Adam King  
(Headmaster)

P.S. The school will be in the Newbury Weekly News this week with a report on Geraldine McCaughrean's visit and our scholarship success.

P.P.S. Results for matches will follow separately.