

# Garden Fields School Newsletter

Happy, Caring, and Inspiring

22nd June 2018



Summer Term No 2

## Summer Days

After my last newsletter back in May and the excitement of the Shine talent contest, we entered a rather quiet period around the time of SATs in mid May. We were soon back on our usual merry-go-round of excitement however! Firstly- with our wonderful PTA May Fair, and then our residential trip 'season' including our Year 5 trip to France, our Year 6 trip to Manor Adventure and finally our Year 4 trip to Phasels Wood.

We have also been represented at both the recent St Albans Half Marathon Fun Run event (a rather shorter 1.5 miles for children and families than the 13.5 miles version!) and last week at the annual St Albans Primary Schools' District Sports event.

All of which and more I will cover in this newsletter...



St Albans Half Marathon and Fun Run



## France 2018

We continued our summer tradition of taking Year 5 to France just before half term. We were very fortunate with the traffic and made really good time arriving early enough on the Wednesday afternoon to have a decent length of time at the newly expanded aquarium at Nausicaä. We then met our wonderful host Francois at the Hotel Moulin aux Draps and spent a pleasant evening playing in the hotel terrace and grounds.



On the Thursday we spent the morning at our French 'twin' school, Ecole Madame de Sévigné in Desvres. Our children attended classes with their French pupil counterparts having already written to them from Garden Fields earlier in the school year. It was interesting to find out about the French school day and for the children to compare it to their own.

After sharing lunch with our French companions, we set off to le Village des Metiers d'Art de Desvres, an art museum at which we took part in printing workshops including lino and wax concrete printing. And as if this wasn't enough activity for one day, we also visited the Boulangerie Le Fournil and learnt all about bread making including a lesson in how to make croissants by the legendary 'mad baker'!



After a huge 4 course dinner on Thursday evening, we packed ready for the home journey on the Friday. Even our journey back included two memorable visits on our way to the Chunnel. The first was a moving visit to the war cemetery at Etaples followed by a chance to do some souvenir shopping at the outdoor market in Etaples.

Then it was back to Garden Fields and then home for half term to recover!

An enormous thankyou must go to Mr Ryan for organising the trip so superbly. Many thanks also to all of the staff who supported: Ms Lee, Mrs Huntley, Mrs Khambatta, Mrs Rowson and also to Mr Francis for his great assistance over the three days.



## Manor Adventure

*By Lucy and Abigail Year 6*

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June, Year 6 went for a week to Manor Adventure at Norfolk Lakes. On Tuesday – Thursday, we did 5 activities per day. On Monday and Friday, we did 3 activities as we were on the coach for the rest of the day. We did a series of different activities, alternating between water and dry ones. It was all very fun and everyone had a great time. We got to sleep at night with our friends and play with them in our free time. The food was amazing (which most people weren't expecting) and we got a choice between different options.

### High Ropes

One of our dry activities was high ropes. This was a really fun obstacle course with some difficult challenges such as "The UFOs", "The Flying Rings" and "The Tunnel". These were quite hard because they were hard to balance on and they were very wobbly. This activity was relatively high up, but when you were up there you didn't really notice because you were too focused on the obstacles.

At the end of the obstacles there was a "free fall". This was when you had to jump off a platform but you were connected to a bungee so it felt like you were going on a trampoline.

### Rafting

One of the water activities was rafting. As we were in groups of twelve, we split into two sixes. We then got two pieces of rope and two barrels. We tied the two barrels together with the rope. We then got back together and put all three (the instructor made one) end to end. Then, we slid six logs into the middle and pulled them down either side of the raft.

Finally, we pushed it into the water. We used SUP (stand up paddle board) paddles to push it around, and played lots of games, including: head shoulders, knees and jump. It was great fun and it was really easy to fall in. Someone in our group lost their shoe so be careful! He did eventually find it though!

### The Rooms

We slept in groups of 2-6. We were put with our friends and spent a lot of time playing games and eating sweets! In each room there were 3 bunk beds and we were inspected each morning for tidiness. The room that was the tidiest overall got a prize.

### Prizes

On the last day, the best group and the tidiest room got awarded a tube of sweets. The tidiest room was judged by Mr Berman. Surprisingly, he is quite fussy even though his desk is messy!

### The Talent Show

On Thursday night, anyone who wanted to could perform an act to try and impress Mr Berman. The winning act was Jemma S and Jessica S doing singing (Fight Song).

We hope you enjoyed reading about Manor Adventure and that you will look forward to going there in the future.



Many thanks to Mrs Girdwood, Mr Berman, Miss Cole, Miss Ellwood, Mr Fryer and Mr Farrell for all of your hard work to give us such a great trip!



## Phasels Wood 2018

We have been very fortunate with the weather so far this summer term but as we all gathered together on the Thursday morning of our Year 4 residential trip to Phasels Wood, we were met by a sea of grey clouds and a fair smattering of drizzle!

Fortunately the drizzle soon disappeared and later on so did the clouds, as our intrepid Year 4 explorers embarked on a range of exciting outdoor activities! It was great to see how they worked together with fantastic teamwork encouraging others if they were having difficulty.



After the afternoon's event, we had a big play time, drinks and snacks as well as enjoying some lovely food prepared by some of our parents to mark Eid.

Then, after dinner, we enjoyed songs by the campfire (including a special Eid song taught by Miss Wray) followed by toasting marshmallows.

Just to ensure that the children used up lots of energy before bedtime we had games of aeroball and 'human table football'.

We then had a bedtime story and in my dorm I also shared a match report from that day's opening World Cup game!

On the Friday the boys dorm woke very early and enthusiastically resulting in an early morning pre- breakfast football session at about 7.15 a.m. in the morning!

After breakfast and a fun play session in the Phasels Wood grounds, we embarked on our second day of activities and came home in time for the end of the school day and hopefully everyone then had a restful weekend to recover!

Many thanks to Mrs Johnson for her excellent organisation of the trip and also to the staff that helped over the two days including: Mrs Huntley, Mrs Kemp-Robertson, Mrs Ralph, Mrs McCaffrey, Miss McMahan, Miss Orviss, Mr Farrell, Miss Clarke, Miss Wray, Miss Cole and Mr Fryer.



## District Sports 2018

Last week some of our Key Stage 2 pupils represented Garden Fields at the annual St Albans local District Sports event at Westminster Lodge.

We had some notable individual contributions to the team effort including Raphael and Adam finishing in 1st and 2nd place in the boys' high jump and Amy and Daisy finishing 2nd and 4th place in the girls' high jump. Poppy won the girls' 600 metres and Adam finished 3rd in the boys' equivalent.

We also had a number of individuals who finished first in their heats in the sprints to qualify for the finals in which Raphael (Y6) finished second and both Ella (Y4 girls) and James (Y4 boys) finished third.

Both Y4 relay teams, boys and girls, qualified for the finals as did the Y6 girls. It was a great combined effort and we amassed enough points for Garden Fields to finish in second place overall, which meant that we won the Stokes Shield.





## PTA Summer Fair



**Our May Fair was brilliantly organised by Carlee and the PTA Committee as usual. We faced a key potential obstacle this year in that a certain royal wedding had been organised on our original date!**

**There were a few ideas about when to change it to and the Sunday after was the one that we finally went with.**

**It turned out to be a great choice as we had fantastic weather and a high turnout! As well as stalls, games and inflatables, it is always great to see all of the musical, dance and gymnastic performances by both our own children, excellently led by Miss Wray and Mrs Johnson but also from some of the music and dance groups who use our facilities here at Garden Fields. Such as Mamas With Voices.**

**Not only does the event raise a great deal of money for the school at a time of financial difficulties in schools—an incredible £10124! - but it is also a great way to bring the whole community together and for this year at least, bring everybody together in the sunshine!**





## Sports Day 2018

On **Tuesday 10th July** we have our Lower School Sports Day.

Reception parents are invited to join us on the field straight after drop off at 9.00 a.m. in time for the start of our reception class activities at 9.15 a.m. We estimate that we will finish at about 10.30 a.m.

In the afternoon, parents of children in year groups 1 and 2 are welcome to join us from 12.30 pm for a 1.00 pm start. Children are to be collected at the end of the school day in the usual way, but there will be refreshments available from our PTA if you would like to stay and mingle on the field.

On Wednesday 11th July we have our Upper School Sports Day and parents are welcome to join us from 1.00 pm and we will finish in time for the end of the school day. Children in KS2 should bring a packed lunch today.

Good luck to all of our houses!



### Scooter Alert!



It is great to see so many children walking, cycling and scooting to school resulting in less congestion on our local roads.

However, please can you encourage your children to dismount and walk with their 'vehicles' when they are in school. This includes some of the younger siblings—some of whom appear to be the scooting equivalent of Lewis Hamilton!

A number of us have had some near collisions and it is only a matter of time before somebody gets hurt!

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



## **Goodbye to Miss Chakma, Miss Ralph, Mrs Hooper**

**We are sorry to have to say some goodbyes today.**

**Miss Chakma has been at the school for 3 years, initially as a teaching assistant and over this academic year she has undertaken her teacher training with us. Mrs Ralph joined us for this academic year to do her teacher training with us as well. Both have been both very successful in terms of passing their training but also a huge asset to the school in terms of the support that they have given to our children and also their colleagues. We will miss them but also wish them every success for their forthcoming Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) probationary year.**

**Also, we said goodbye today to Mrs Hooper who has been a great Learning Support Assistant for us this year. We would like to wish you all the best Mrs Hooper for the future!**

## **Multi-Cultural Story Telling Week and Food Festival**

**Hot off the press!**



**Today we have the culmination of our Multi-Cultural Story Telling Week.**

**We have had lots of story telling sessions this week on a multi-cultural theme including from parents such as Mrs Hill who told the Aboriginal story of the Sea Serpent.**

**We celebrated some of this work in assembly this morning in a special assembly.**

**This included contributions from every year group including a marvellous shadow puppet show from Year 4 telling the Hindu story of Rama and Sita.**

**We had contributions from all over the world including Africa, Asia, Australia and... Wales!**

**Also today, children were invited to wear national or cultural costumes and we had some incredible examples on show from our children.**

**By the time you have read this we will have had our Multi Cultural Food Fair.**

**Many thanks to Miss Cole for organising an amazing week and to the support of all the staff and parents who have contributed and given their support to put together such a fantastic week!**

