



Summer Days

We are now in what football commentators might call the 'business end' of the term'!

Last week we had two exciting events in one day - the Year Two end of year play and our International Food Festival.

This week we have had a special assembly from Year 3 and Celebration Evening and next week we have our Sports Days and Transition Day.

And then we will be in our final week - watching our Year 6 perform their farewell performance at the Sandpit Theatre.

In this penultimate edition of the school newsletter, we take a look at just some of the key activities from over the last few weeks.



Year 2 Play: The Great Fire of London

This year rather than squeeze three year groups into our KS1 Christmas Show, our Year 2 children had their own special end of year performance—all about the Great Fire of London, and they performed brilliantly!

They each used the microphone to say their lines—and they managed this really well, carefully passing the mic and putting it down without a sound!

We learnt lots of facts about the Great Fire in a play full of music, dance and jokes. Many thanks to our Year 2 staff team for their many hours that you put into this and of course to our Year 2 children for a very professional show!



Happy, Caring and Inspiring International Food Fair



We had, our now annual, International Food Fair last Friday. Our children, from right across the school, from Reception to Year 6, were given the opportunity to sample a range of international cuisine from Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas and Oceania.

For each food that they tried, they received a stamp in their special food 'passport'. At the end of the afternoon parents and carers were able to join the proceedings and we were also entertained with Indian, Ghanaian and other traditional dances including some from our children choreographed by Jenny Marie.

Thank you to everyone involved in the organisation of such a fantastic event for the GFS community.

Year 3 Assembly

Our Year 3's performed an impressive assembly this week in which they shared some of their learning from their year. This included singing, dancing and acting - some on the theme of The Stone Age - but also some excellent African drumming orchestrated by Miss Wray.

How they managed to keep so many children drumming such complex rhythms in time was astounding!

Thankyou Year 3 and your teachers and support staff for a splendid performance.

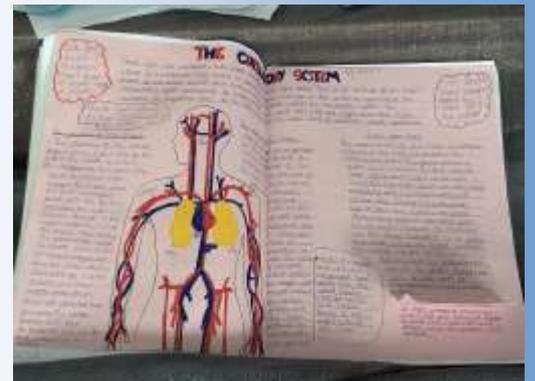


Celebration Evening

I must thank our staff for their outstanding efforts to display such an extraordinary variety of excellent work last night, right across the school.

The work really showcased our Creative Curriculum to fantastic effect.

Thank you to all of you who came and looked at the work.



Happy, Caring and Inspiring Community Heroes

It's always great to hear about so much excellent community and charity work by our children - and many of our parents - from our school. These are just some of the stories that I have been told about recently. Ollie completed an eleven mile cycle ride for charity CRY (Cardiac Risks in the Young). When I last checked, he had raised around £2,000 with his bike ride! As such, he was given this month's Maltings Community Hero award.

Also, another of our pupils, Uzair, was in the news recently for his volunteering efforts to mark the recent Eid festivities. He worked very hard collecting donations for the local food bank, sorting clothes for distribution to refugees in Calais, volunteering at the London Open Iftar at Trafalgar Square, where he even met the London Mayor! He also raised money and purchased Eid gifts for children in foster care in Hertfordshire, litter picked in and around the Sopwell ward and distributed meals (and companionship) to the isolated elderly in St Albans. Uzair was also invited to speak on Radio Verulam today about his Eid memories and the event.

Also, parent Stacey Turner bravely climbed up Mount Kilimanjaro highlighting her It's OK To Say mental health campaign and raising funds for Cancer Research UK (CRUK).

Do share any of your own stories with us here at school—it's always great to hear about all that you do!



Fun Run 2019



It was another good turn out for Garden Fields at this year's annual one and a half mile family fun run (a small selection of the children are pictured above) as part of the special, annual St Albans Half-Marathon event at Verulamium Park.

It was a glorious morning and great fun was had by all.

One school had just over 50% of their children take part and they won the annual prize for the school with the highest number of children—this is based on their total turnout as a percentage of their overall pupil number.

For us to do this we would need about 260 of your children to turn up to the event which is held every June.

But come on Garden Fields - we can do this! You don't even need to run the whole way - walking is fun.

So please put into your calendars the date of Sunday 14th June 2020.

You can sign up at:

<https://www.letsdothis.com/e/st-albans-half-marathon-18207>

Many thanks to all who came this year and also to the following children and their parents for helping out bright and early on a Sunday morning to marshal the 5K race and raising around £300 for the school: Lyla and Sam C, Eva and Lauren F, Joseph and Adam L, Daniel and Martin N, Zachary and Oliver H and last but not least Holly and Samuel B together with mum Suzanne for yet again orchestrating our team!

Girls Kwik Cricket

As many of you will know, I enjoy contributing to School Sports at Garden Fields by doing the odd bit of coaching and helping out at sporting events. We have a lot going on over the summer and this requires a lot of teacher support. I just wanted to highlight one particular event this year which was the District Girls Kwik Cricket competition. Firstly, it was great to see so many teams participating in what would once have been a rather minority event. But I also have to say what a pleasure it was to take this group of girls that day. They were well-behaved and their enthusiasm was absolutely infectious!

They also played some very decent cricket, winning 3 out of their 5 matches.

They also entertained everyone with their GFS Chant!



Have a great weekend everybody. I will see some of you bright and early tomorrow morning at The Girls Football 6 aside tournament at Fleetville Junior school!