

# Learning @ Lonsdale

Weekly Newsletter: Friday 1st March 2019



## Dates for your Diary

Please see below details of sports and House events taking place this term:

Tuesday 5th March - Special Schools Table Top Cricket Tournament  
 Thursday 7th March - Special Schools Swimming Event  
 Friday 8th March—World Book Day Dress Up Day (see below)  
 Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th March - House Bake-Off  
 Friday 15th March—Comic Relief Red Nose Day  
 Tuesday 19th March - Wheelchair Dance  
 Wednesday 27th March - House Drama Competition  
 Thursday 28th March - Youth Sports Trust Festival  
 Saturday 13th July—Lonsdale Summer Festival

A list of dates for the academic year can be found on the school website.

## Whole School News



The Swimmer of the Week is Kyra for always getting involved and putting in 100% effort in every lesson - well done!

We are holding our World Book Day week from the 4th to the 8th of March! We have two authors visiting - Vanessa Harbour, the author of 'Flight' for Secondary on Wednesday 6th, and Gemma Keir (author of the new 'Abilities in Me' book) will be visiting school for a Primary assembly on Monday 4th March at 2pm. On Friday 8th, we will also have the World Book Day fancy dress for students and staff so dress up as your favourite book characters, you can find lots of dressing up ideas at [www.bookaid.org/world-book-day](http://www.bookaid.org/world-book-day)

On Friday 15th March, we shall be celebrating Comic Relief Red Nose Day in school, when pupils can pay £1 to come into school in Fancy Dress—we hope that everyone will dress up as their favourite characters!

We have been contacted by Mim Kendrick, the SEND Digital Manager for Hertfordshire County Council, they are running some telephone interviews with parents, to hear about their experiences of SEND processes and support, and have asked if any Lonsdale parents would like to participate. The interviews take around 45 minutes, are held on the phone at a time convenient for the parent, and they will ask questions about parents' experiences of finding out about their child's additional needs, and the processes they've used to get support for them, across education, health and care. If any of our parents are interested in taking part in these interviews, please email Jo Brush, [jbrush@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk](mailto:jbrush@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk), who will send out the appropriate information.

School have become increasingly aware of highly inappropriate videos circulating online which are being viewed by children across the country. These video clips are appearing on many social media sites and YouTube (including Kids YouTube). The videos often starts innocently, like the start of a Peppa Pig episode for example, but quickly turn into an altered version with violence and offensive language. Some clips even encourage young people to hand over personal information and set "challenges" involving self-harming. Please remain vigilant about your children's online activity and help keep them safe.

On Tuesday Bradley, Jemma and Jasmine represented Hertfordshire at the Regional Boccia finals in Harlow. They played exceptionally well and came away with silver medals! Well done to all 3 students!

## Primary News

Ash: This week, Ash Class have started their new topic about animals by talking about pets and animals they might have at home. They have been learning all about the letter 'A', also reading their book of the week 'It's The Bear', and comparing the sizes of different teddy bears, as well as measuring and comparing the lengths of different objects. Children had fun making pizza and doing some gardening with the secondary students whilst enjoying the lovely weather in the outdoor area.

Birch: This week, Birch Class have started work on our new topic 'Animals'. The children have already demonstrated some fantastic knowledge about their favourite animals! We began this topic with a walk to look for and photograph local wildlife, and went 'pond dipping' with some long nets. We collected frogspawn, which we set up in a new tank in class so we can watch the tadpoles develop before releasing them back into the pond. The children chose animals to research, and they have been making masks of their favourites. In English, we have used our research and writing skills to start planning a class story. In Maths, we have been learning about money and set up a role-play shop to sell toys and snacks to our friends. Have a lovely weekend.

## Primary News

Elm: The children have begun work on our new topic for the half term - Animals. They have been looking at the different ways animals can be sorted and have been introduced to the terms; mammals, reptile, amphibian, invertebrate. The children have enjoyed playing 'Who am I?' and writing their own clues to describe well known animals. In Maths, the children have begun work on measuring weight with using a balance to compare heavy and light.

Oak: In Literacy we have looked at various newspapers, picked out their main parts and started to plan our own. In Numeracy we have ordered temperatures, developed our addition skills and played a game to strengthen our times tables. In Topic we have looked at how to classify animals and which ones belong to which group. In Cooking we decorated biscuits to look like an animal group. In Life Skills we walked round the lakes to look for different animals and enjoyed finding out about the different species of duck. We very much enjoyed going to the park, but we were very disappointed to find out that even though it had been recently refurbished, there was only one piece of equipment for wheelchairs- and you could only fit one wheelchair on! We are planning a 'stropky' letter to the council to voice our views. Watch this space!



## Secondary News

CF: In Science pupils have researched how sonar and echolocation works and are creating a short presentation to share with their peers to explain how it is used in medicine and by the Royal Navy. In English we are nearing the climax of Grandpa's Great Escape...the inmates are out and pupils have written or created an annotated illustration to describe how the old folk broke out down the rope of knickers! There was fire, search lights, a coffin and roller skates, not to mention the rather manly team of nurses running the home. In Creative, most pupils have completed a stained glass window effect artwork for display- they look extremely effective with the light behind them. In Food Tech, we responded to a special request for a gluten-free recipe. An adapted version of a Victoria sandwich was made, and although the end product was a little messy (room to improve on presentation Miss F!), the sponge was a great success and to be recommended for a repeat performance.

JB: In this week's Art and Design Session, those 4JB Class pupils unfortunate enough not to participate in a Maths Exam, enjoyed commencing a national Art Competition, choosing from the given alternative themes of *Africa* or *My Future*. Here, Grace and Chasya chose the latter and began to create respective digital collages based upon their dreams, hopes and personal interests, and Andres and Robbie chose to portray African animals, where Andres began work on an expressive painting of a landscape featuring elephants, and Robbie ambitiously began working on representing a gazelle in clay over a wire framework; all excellent stuff! In Maths, 4JB have been finding equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions and learning how to convert mixed numbers to improper fractions and vice versa. Several members of the tutor group have been completing a second round of Maths mocks - 3 papers that are an hour and a half long each - we wish them luck. During Biology, they have been studying methods of cloning both, plants and animals, and have had some interesting discussions around the moral and ethical concerns raised by this interesting subject.



JW: In History pupils have recapped their learning about the life of a village villain in the medieval times and created a timetable to show all the tasks and activities needed to function in their daily lives. They have come to understand that life was tough and quite dangerous at times and that their social standing was easily identified by the colour of their clothing. We have been learning about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, which came in handy when we had to defend our honour against Mrs Baker's class with our newly forged swords on Tuesday afternoon. In Science this week, we have been looking at adaptations in animals and how this enables them to live in different habitats, and in PSHCE we've started looking at personal hygiene. Perhaps most excitingly, some of the pupils brought in fantastic creations they've built at home as part of an ongoing homework project, I've been very impressed!



MB/SH: It was lovely to see everyone back after half term and hear all about the fun you had. We continue to share weekend news every Monday, to help develop sentence building as well as speaking and listening skills. Please write in the diary to help us support your child with their work. Any photos really help them to recall. Thank you in advance. In English we continued our work about

## Secondary News

the medieval period and have recalled knowledge on castles, developing fine motor control with mazes, and word recognition matching to pictures and comprehension. Pupils continued this in Creative by making their own sword and having a battle with 3JW class. In K&U they looked at how the different parts of a suit of armour protected the body and worked together to make a breast plate, shield and helmet. In Science we are learning about 'Evolution' and have looked at how animals have evolved over the years. We have listened to information about Charles Darwin. In Maths pupils started a series of lesson on weighing using terms such as heavy and light, and heavier and lighter with practical activities using the balance scales.



MW: What a lovely week! The students have been enjoying themselves out on the playground at lunchtimes! In lessons we are continuing with our medieval theme in English and K & U, where we have been learning about knights, why they wore armour and about jousting! In Maths we have revised our weighing skills ready to develop them next week! We all enjoyed making the chocolate chip cookies - we hope you enjoyed eating them! In Drama this week, students rehearsed and performed their final scene learning about how to deal with bullying issues in school. Students developed their tone of voice, facial expression and movements to show their characters.

SP: It has been fantastic to hear the news about what the students got up to during their break, some wrote diaries, some wrote poems and some used their machines. This week we have started our new topic 'Evolution and Inheritance'. We have learnt the key terminology and a little about Charles Darwin's life and work. We have made a start on understanding how fossils are made and why they are important to us now. In English this week we have been looking at reading comprehension linking to our Science project of fossils. In Maths the class have been working on functional skills papers looking at their strengths and weaknesses. In Science the class have been looking at Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution.

## Upper

BTEC Drama students have started their final exam preparation, looking at some past papers and developing their evaluation of the skills and knowledge they have gained over the course.

5LH: In ASDAN 5LH have been busy this week researching different types of bug hotels and bird feeders to construct from recycled, natural materials, they are keen to improve the outdoor environment at Lonsdale and attract more bugs and birds. They are also evaluating their roles and the contributions that they have made to working together as a group trading as 'Rogue Traderz'. In Maths they have been using a variety of instruments and units to measure the height, width and length of objects and distances. In ASDAN 'Community Action', students developed their communication, literacy and ICT skills by writing emails and letters to invite pupils to their Action Project 'Buddy Club' and researched local community action groups in their hometowns, to develop their understanding of how these groups support a wide range of people in the community.

SN: In Literacy this week, students learned to recognise letters and associate them in context by completing a treasure hunt around the school and developing letter writing skills, by writing a letter to Robin Hood. In Life Skills, Cooking and in association with ASDAN, students chose fruit and veg that they would like to grow in our school greenhouse, learning how to pot seeds and the health and safety rules associated with gardening. In Life Skills, students went to the local café to buy an ice-cream or lolly in this lovely weather, developing their application of the Green Cross Code, whilst developing communication and money skills.

## REP

Following the successful Ofsted inspection in REP, every child who stays was given a letter from our Inspector, thanking them for making her feel so welcome, and for showing her some of the exciting activities that take place.



The boys on Redwood are starting to learn more independent skills and are starting to do their own washing, and delivering towels to all the flats. They have also organised their own meal, which they are going to cook next week. The students on Redwood collectively chose the starters of halloumi or butternut squash soup or watermelon. The boys then chose to cook Chicken Pie for the main course, and the girls chose to have either strawberry trifle or chocolate Malteser trifle for dessert. We hope to have some photos of our culinary feast to show you in next week's newsletter.