



News on the Ninth

Issue 81—9 May 2017

Introduction : Mr C D'Cunha

Dear Parents and Carers (but also the whole community).

I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome and continued support for the school. At the time of writing this we are still waiting for Ofsted to release the full report. This is a standard process as the final report goes through moderation, final checking and scrutiny. As soon as the report is released we will email the final version out to you all.

As way of introduction I was delighted to address a number of parents just after Easter. During this time I was able to outline my priorities over this next term. These include ensuring the quality of teaching continues to be of the highest standard, that every child has the chance to make progress and, finally, to hand this school over to Mrs. Claydon in September so that she can continue to make Gusford equally the best school in the country.

As many of you may be aware I am also Principal of Chantry Academy. For those of you who have not observed the transformation of the school over the last two years, we have changed every aspect of the school and these improvement continue to happen at pace. However, whilst leading two schools is challenging, I am delighted that I have an excellent support system, both at Chantry and at Gusford. Whilst I am at Gusford at some point each day, when I am at Chantry Mrs. Clayton (Deputy Head) will act as headteacher.

I look forward to working with you throughout this term to ensure your children make the progress they deserve.

Craig D'Cunha

Colchester Zoo Visit

On Thursday 30th March, Year 6 were lucky enough to go on a spectacular trip to Colchester Zoo to observe the animals closer for our topic.



First of all, we learnt about an amazing Scientist, Charles Darwin, who discovered many bugs and birds worldwide. We were given a classification booklet and the challenge was to identify

a variety of insects. Plastic insects were scattered across the theatre and the task was to find two bugs to classify. It was really fun because when we had finished, we had to camouflage the insects by putting them on a coloured photo of a natural habitat to see how they protect themselves from predators.

A new experience was to uncover a variety of species of dead birds. Three tables had six objects covered up; underneath were dead stuffed birds we could touch and pick up like real scientists. Using our observational skills and the classification chart, we could identify the type of bird as well as the different foods they would eat based on the type of beak.

When we had finished our session in the lecture theatre, our group went to see a number of different animals. Our favourite was the red pandas because we were just in time to hear an explanation about their habits and habitats by a zoo worker. The pandas were placed in tricky locations within the enclosure - they had to climb and reach the bamboo like an obstacle course.

Excitedly, we went over to the safari part of the zoo,



where it was also time to feed the elephants and giraffes. We loved that part of the trip because the giraffe's tongue was slimy and felt weird. The elephant's trunk was very long and we had so much fun because it felt like a Hoover sucking up little bits up in your

hand.

Eventually we made it to the train after a really long walk. We enjoyed the ride on the green and white train, which took us over to the lemur enclosure, so we could observe the creatures laying together in the shade, which made us laugh because they were sunbathing!



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Finally, we went for lunch then afterwards when we had finished, one group at a time went over to the gift shop whilst the other group went to play on the park.

Then we went to see the penguins, that swam in an underwater aquarium. They came up close to our faces - that was really exciting. Also we went through an underwater tunnel and saw numerous seals, which swam above us. It was really cool because one kept staring at us and blowing bubbles!



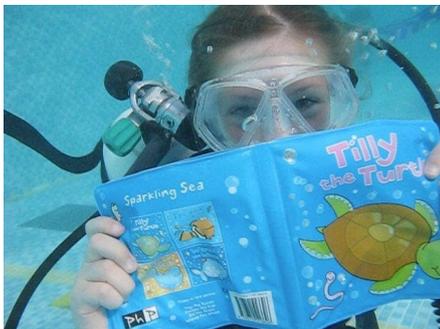
It was a really good day and we really enjoyed it!

Thank you Year 6 teachers for organising this amazing day!

Amy Matthews and Isabelle Yellop

Extreme Reading Challenge

Don't forget to take photos for our "EXTREME READING CHALLENGE". We have had a few entries – thank you very much to those of you who have given them to me.



Here is a great example of reading in an extreme place from Tilly Shand. Reading underwater whilst diving! Thank you Tilly.

P.E. Week—Year 1

The children in year 1 enjoyed their time with Tommy Ramdhan during PE week. The children joined Tommy in a warm up with exercises like: spotty dogs, jumping jacks, push ups and running on the spot. Tommy spoke to the children about healthy eating and its importance, his journey and his training routine.

The children had the opportunity to ask him questions and saw him around school for the rest of the day. To conclude our PE week the children took part in a PE tournament, working in teams to complete the activities, cheering on their teams and congratulating each other on their achievements.

The children took part in, kick rounders, dodgeball/bench ball and a bean bag game, all of which kept the children active throughout.

P.E Week

On Monday 24th April, we started PE week. First, we went to a whole school assembly with a Team GB athlete called Tommy Ramdhan who told us about his life in sport.



He told us about how important it is to never give up. Later on in the day, each year group had a sports workshop with Tommy and Joe

(from Inspired Through Sport) where we completed our sponsored activity. We had to do spotty dogs, jogging on the spot, star jumps, jumping jacks and press ups. It was really tricky to keep up with the athletes, but we remembered how important it was to never give up and we made it! Joe then talked to us about how important it is to have a growth mindset so that you can reach your potential.



Lots of people got sponsored in the school to complete the circuit with the athletes. Miss Soames is going to reveal the final amount in assembly and then everyone who raised more than £2 will get a prize. Some of the money will go to Inspired Through Sport, who brought Tommy into our school, but some of the money will come back to our school so that we can buy new equipment, to help keep us fit and active, and a set of school hoodies for when we go out on school sports trips like Cross Country and Quad kids.

Also in PE week, we had to do the Golden Mile every day. This meant we had to run around the field or playground. A mile was about five laps of the field or thirteen laps of the playground. On the first day, it was really frustrating and difficult because we kept running out of breath. But as the week went on, we were able to run for longer and



work at a better pace. Miss Soames wouldn't let us stop completely. She encouraged us to at least walk around the track to keep our hearts beating and our fitness up.

Finally, each year group had an afternoon of tournaments. We learnt to play goalball, which is a game where you roll a ball with a bell in towards the other team and have to stop them getting a goal. The tricky thing is that you have



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to wear blindfolds! Listening for the ball was tricky. We also played games of dodgeball and cricket. It took the whole afternoon and was so much fun. It was the best part of the week!

By Mae, Sophie, Alana, Sophia and Miss Soames (3S)

Netball

Congratulations to all the Gusford netballers they managed to come 4th in the IPSSA Large Schools Netball League.

Also I want to say a big thank you to all of the netballer's parents/carers who contributed donations to our mini netball tournament. We successfully raised £31.90! All the money will go towards a brand new netball kit.

The Spelling Bee

On the 22nd of April we attended the Spelling Bee Championship. It was an extraordinary experience and boosted our confidence: standing on the stage and speaking through a microphone in front of crowds of people.

Our slot was in the evening. Whilst we were there, 9 other schools were competing for the trophy. Fortunately there was a last minute reserve team, who was not expecting to perform, who also competed for the big prize. The first challenge we faced was a singular effort where elimination took place. We were either allowed to select easy, medium or hard words: easy is 1 mark, medium 2 marks and hard 3 marks. After that, we were introduced to something called the quick fire round where even if you do not successfully spell the word, you get to have another try afterwards .

Out of the 9 teams competing in the evening session, we came second which we were really proud of. Overall we did not win however it's not the winning that counts it's the taking part. We enjoyed our experience and very grateful for our visit to East Bergholt.

Phoebe Mills, Georgia Burgess, Kloie Fountain, Chloe Anten.

off for their daily round of SATS tests. The pupils have responded really positively to this facility and it has been really good to see so many of them taking part in this start to the day. It has enabled them to relax and be in the best possible frame of mind to ensure the best outcomes for themselves and reflect the effort they have put into their school work throughout their primary years.



Year 6 SATS Breakfast

Each morning this week we have been providing the Year 6 pupils with the opportunity to come into school at 8.00am and share breakfast with

their friends and staff before heading