



St Egwin's C.E. Middle School

Newsletter



December 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We have almost reached the end of the Autumn term and indeed 2016 itself. Please take a few minutes to read of some of the school's recent news and highlights.

Once again I was delighted to read so many excellent interim reports. The vast majority of pupils at this school are industrious, working to achieve their very best. Some Year 8 pupils have done particularly well in securing a much higher score than in Year 7. This is so important as transition to High School is looming and every pupil needs to step up to the serious business of High School and Public Examinations.

In November two Middle School Head Teachers, Mrs. Crossley and Reverend Leach visited St.Egwins to carry out a performance review. They were particularly complimentary about the behaviour of our children. They found their work ethos in the classroom outstanding with pupils enjoying their learning with a commitment to doing well, many working both independently and collaboratively in a manner beyond their years. Pupils came across as polite and courteous and very proud of their school.

We believe in recognising our pupils' efforts. Over 200 children took part in a circus skills session. This fun activity was as a thank you for youngsters who had kept all their stamps since September.

Please do read the news from our school, especially our fabulous PE department that continues to go from strength to strength in a range of sports.

Pupils return to school on Wednesday January 4th. I wish all our families a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2017.

Best wishes

C.S.Kennedy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.S. Kennedy" with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS – READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Amidst our regular English curriculum and assessment programme, Reading has had an extra push this year. Some of our initiatives...

REVIEWS ROCK!

St Egwin's New Year 6 pupils have settled well. Our newbies were asked to complete a 'gap task': read a book and review it for us over the holiday. What fabulous, creative work was received! Some of the reviews can be found in the library and corridors around. Please take time to read them and be impressed. If you like the review... the book will be available in the library!

READY, SET, READ

A Reading Reward Scheme was introduced to all Year 6 pupils at the start of this academic year and we have seen an increase in daily reading as a result – well done, everyone.

Year 7 and 8 pupils weren't left out, either. A new monitoring and reward system was put in place for them, too. We have been delighted with the increased engagement and enjoyment of reading this term; could it be due to the Regular Reader Raffle? Or simply the power of a good book? Great work, KS3.

BOOK BUDDIES

Students from PHHS have been coming into school on Wednesday afternoons as part of their Citizenship development. They asked us if they would be able to hear a range of pupils reading and target their progress. Another winning collaboration; many thanks to all involved for their positive participation in the project.

GET SMART AND SAVE MONEY

Finally on reading, Mrs Viggers has taken delivery of more new titles from the Book Trust. All free to borrow from the library.

PHSCE

The global political landscape at the moment has provided some of our older students with interesting discussion material in PHSCE, particularly the recent elections in the USA.

Year 7 pupils have recently completed a unit of work on any Citizenship issue that is of interest to them, as we encourage them to be good citizens. Jessica Brownlee and Sophie Webb decided to raise money for Children in Need by organizing a colouring competition. They demonstrated great initiative and organisational skills as well as raising money for this worthy cause. Some of the pupil presentations shared during lessons have been thought provoking on a range of topics from footballer's salaries to homelessness.

RE

Pupils in KS3 have been broadening their horizons through learning about 2 places of pilgrimage. They began by exploring the experiences of a pilgrim at Lourdes, before finding out about pilgrimage in Islam (Hajj). During the latter topic pupils were invited to become 'tour guides' which has led to some interesting presentations.

EDDIE THE EAGLE

Key Stage 3 students were given the chance to see the recently released film about the life of Eddie the Eagle (you remember – the British Olympic ski jumper). 3 coaches transported us all to Malvern Theatre where pupils were treated to a funny, but in places sad film. It was a great choice as it was truly inspirational in places and taught some valuable life lessons. It was heart-warming to hear the spontaneous applause from our pupils as Eddie managed to stay on his feet after coming down the 70m slope. Very emotional.

Mrs C Gordon

GEOGRAPHY

In the new year, Mr Jordan will be creating a Weather Watching Club. Members will play an active role in creating an interactive weather display that will hopefully link into the school the website and stream live data around the globe! Any interested pupils or parents with a keen interest are welcome to join.

TREK 17

For the past four years, Mr Taylor and Mr Jordan have led the residential trip to Shropshire where we undertake a trek over the Longmynd and the Stiperstones followed by high energy mountain bike down some very intense trails. All this is preceded by a day's bell-boating down the River Avon. So if you fancy 3 nights camping and a real challenge then look out for more information in January.

Mr S Jordan



What an amazing performance by the cast of Mary Poppins at the Arts Centre.



Mrs R Sadler

COMPUTING - SAFER INTERNET DAY

Mrs Higgins recently attended a CEOP course in Birmingham to become a CEOP Ambassador for the school. As part of this role, Mrs Higgins, alongside Mr Pullan, will be co-ordinating activities for Safer Internet Day. This is taking place on Tuesday 7th February next year. The day is intended to raise awareness of Safer Internet practices amongst the pupils and to increase of their knowledge and understanding of dangerous situations that they may be exposed to online.

COMPUTING – COMPUTER SCIENCE WEEK

Computer Science Week took place during the week of 5th December 2016. It's a worldwide initiative backed by Mark Zuckerberg, Serena Williams and Barack Obama among many others. Every child in school was given the opportunity to take part in the Hour of Code as part of Computer Science Week. Pupils learnt to program various games such as Minecraft, Flappy Bird and Star Wars. It leads to the coding and programming work that they will be doing during their Computing lessons in the Spring and Summer Term.

Mrs A Higgins

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Pupils in year 7 and 8 enjoyed learning about French fashion designers during ACA day. They particularly enjoyed taking the role of a fashion designer in order to design their own range of sports clothing.

Following on from the success of our year 6 beginners and advanced French clubs this term, we will be launching a drop in "French Clinic" every Tuesday lunchtime for those pupils in all years who are finding any aspect of learning French particularly difficult.

Plans for next year's trip to Normandy are progressing well. The travel company is working on our proposed itinerary and parents should receive passport and medical forms to complete in February.

Mrs S Butler

MIDLANDS AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY (MAAC) FUNDRAISING WEEK

A very big THANK YOU to all those who supported the fundraising week. Through donations and purchases of the merchandise we raised a fantastic total of £493.92 for the Midlands Air Ambulance.

Thank you as well for the items brought in to school to enable the Air Ambulance Charity Shops to be restocked.

A colouring competition was held during the week and the winner was Eve Pearson who won a MAAC Paramedic Teddy Bear. Well done Eve. The winning entry and others are on display in the school Library. There will be more opportunities to support this worthy cause in the new year, as MAAC is one of the designated local charities adopted by St Egwin's for this school year.

SAVING LIVES BY SAVING TIME- MIDLANDS AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY

Mrs Viggers TA/Library Manager/ Local Volunteer for MAAC in Evesham

PE DEPT NEWSLETTER.

Welcome to Miss Quinn who has already made her mark on the PE dept with a great new Handball scheme of work. Miss Quinn joined us at the start of the year bringing experience from Pershore High and a tough inner city school in Birmingham. She is also a Zumba instructor and has had many pupils dancing their way to fitness through her very well attended Zumba lunchtime club. Our girls netball teams are also coming back up to full strength under the guidance of Miss Quinn who is a netball player herself.

We welcome back Mrs. Robinson after recovering from injury and already our fantastic hockey teams are beginning to train hard. Miss Quinn and Mrs. Robinson will be working together to deliver PE so some of our pupils whilst I begin to introduce some mental health and well- being courses into our intervention curriculum early next year.

This year sees Mrs Hoskins join the PE department. She has been creating some excellent dance performances with the year 6 girls of Zircon and Jade. We look forward to seeing their performances at the dance festival!

Many thanks to all staff who run so many varied and exciting after school clubs for pupils, on behalf of the PE dept. Mr. Langley and Mr. Jordan have already begun to shape up our year 7 and 8 boys rugby, Mr. Pullan has been working on football skills for the girls and for year 6 whilst Mr. Plane and myself have had some great successes with year 7 and 8 boys football.

We have had excellent success once again with our under 13 boys table tennis team winning the county championship round again this year under the captaincy of Ben Robinson and his team Owen Bates, Sam Lyons and Brady Smith. Many thanks to John McKay who comes in to St Egwins to help coach our players with me on a Tuesday after school. The club is open to all pupils and finishes at 4.30pm.

I'm in the process of organising the South Worcestershire school badminton competition currently. This will be played at Prince Henry's on January 12th, the same day as our whole school Performing Arts Festival. I'll be looking to place 3 or 4 teams of boys and girls into the competition who will face very stiff competition from previous St Egwin's pupils who are now in year 9, as this is open to all Key Stage 3 pupils (year 7-9).

Look out for my fitness club, open to all pupils, that will run in the sports hall on Thursdays after Xmas. It's a great fun way to stay in shape and it will help improve performance whatever your sport is.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas.

Stu Taylor and the St.Egwin's PE department.

EASYFUNDRAISING

This year, we have raised £35.45 just by shopping online! You can help us to raise funds by joining easyfundraising. When you shop on a site that supports easyfundraising, a task bar appears at the top of your page and you can choose to donate (it does not increase your spend – the shop you are buying from donates the money). Simple! and extremely helpful to school.

The graphic features the Easyfundraising logo at the top left, with the text 'easyfundraising.org.uk' and 'feel good shopping' below it. The main headline reads 'Help out when you check out' in large, bold, teal letters. Below the headline, there are several shopping-related icons: a green M&S shopping bag, a white Tesco shopping bag, a stack of colorful books, a black and white soccer ball, a blue John Lewis shopping box, an orange Amazon.co.uk shipping box, a purple OSOS box, a white Expedia box, and a yellow AA logo. A small white airplane is flying in the sky above the Expedia box. At the bottom of the graphic, it says 'Join, shop and raise here:'. Below the graphic, there is a line of text 'As featured in:' followed by logos for 'the guardian', 'The Telegraph', 'Daily Mail', 'The INDEPENDENT', 'Evening Standard', and 'MAIL'.