



St Lawrence Headlines

December 2018

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life" - John 3.16



Dear Parents/Carers



It is now the end of a very busy but fantastic term at St Lawrence. Children and staff are all looking forward to the Christmas holidays for a well-earned break. I would say rest but, in reality, the excitement of the Christmas season comes with its own special challenges. It is our hope that throughout this holiday time you do all have a chance to relax, enjoy the company of family and friends and are able to focus on what is truly important.

This term has been packed with lots of fun-filled learning across all year groups. Despite the increasing and worrying pressures on school budgets across the country, all the year group curriculums have been enriched with a number of activities and learning experiences. These have included a variety of trips, a wonderful Book Week with a visiting author and of course the Year 4 production of 'Bethlehem - the Musical', which was enjoyed by all. Our thanks go out to all the members of staff who work tirelessly to put all these extra things on as well as teach. We also wish to thank the many parents who have supported us as well; they have taken children to swimming lessons, made and provided costumes, accompanied children on school trips, led some of our sports clubs, helped out in the library and listened to readers.

A further thank you goes out to our wonderful PTA who continue to work hard raising much needed funds for the school. It was great seeing all the children dancing away at the school disco last night!

This term we have also developed the role of Class Ambassadors. At the beginning of the term, each class selected a child who embodies our school motto: **Achieving, Believing, Caring**. These children have helped out with a variety of events, really showing off our fantastic school to the wider community. This term it culminated in them attending a Community Christmas Lunch at St Paul's church where they served the elderly guests their lunch, chatted to them and sat with them whilst they listened to a number of songs by the school choir.

One lady said to Vicar Anne afterwards,

'The school should be so proud of their young people.' We are!

Please take the time to read more about many of the exciting things we all got up to this last term. All of us here at St Lawrence wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year celebrations.

We look forward to seeing all the children back at school on
Thursday 3rd January 2019.



S Cary

Mrs S Cary—Deputy Head teacher





Year 3 Recent Events



Year 3 recently enjoyed a Prehistoric day with dressing up and a visit from the Chertsey Museum:

"On Prehistoric Day, we had lots of fun. I felt really lucky because I got to hold a real Stone Age artefact! My favourite part of the Chertsey Museum workshop was matching real fossilised animal bones to the model bones on the table. The boxes had clues on so it was a bit easier to identify them."

Issy D. Robins

They also went to the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon to watch a production of 'Wind in the Willows':



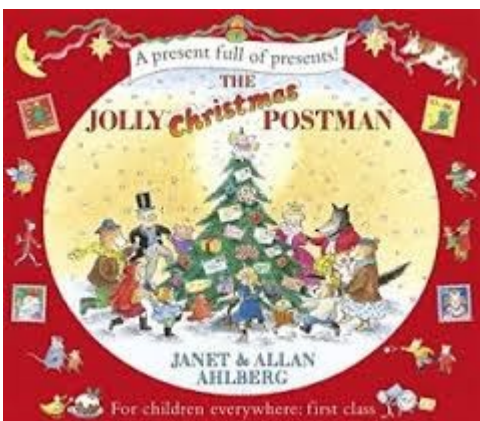
"We went to the Polka Theatre to watch Wind in the Willows. The main characters were Ratty, Mole, Toad and Badger. All the actors were funny and played their parts very well. The story was about Ratty and Mole meeting and then Toad leaves in this motor car. While he is gone, his home is taken over by the weasels, so he has to get help from his friends to get his house back. We all really enjoyed the production." - **Talullah F. Robins**



Continuing their theme of creative and hands-on science, Year 3 made skeleton puppets to investigate the function of bones and joints.



Year 4 Recent Events



Along with performing their Christmas production 'Bethlehem - the Musical' (see page 5) Year 4 visited the Riverhouse Barn to see a different show 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. They also had the chance to see a display of the Christmas cards that they made in a recent workshop.



Year 5 Recent Events



This term Year 5 visited the British Museum, worked with the Strangeface Mask Workshop company and even found time for 'Greek Democracy'



"For our Ancient Greek Democracy we were in our classrooms where one person per table made up 2 or three rules and we voted for the one we thought had the best rules. Our class had a talent show as one of the rules"
Otto M and Aidan C.— Toucans



Year 6 Recent Events



Year 6 took a trip up to London this term to attend a special enactment of a court case at the Royal Courts of Justice. They also spent an afternoon going on a bug hunt.





Whole School Recent Events



The choir have been busy attending events and showcasing their beautiful singing voices around Molesey. They visited St Paul's Church along with our School Ambassadors singing to the local community and helping to serve food.

They also attended Magical Molesey, the Carol Service at St Paul's and performed to the residents of the Cambridge Care home.

Thank you to Mrs Cary for organising the choir and Ambassador events.



This year's Christingle service was organised and led by Miss Carter. It took place on the afternoon of Friday 7th December when all the pupils participated in the service at St Paul's church.

This year Book Week took place from 19th-23rd November and the theme was 'Remembrance'. Along with different reading activities, the children were lucky enough to watch an assembly with the author Brian Moses. There were also some workshops with him. We had our very successful Scholastic Book Fair raising funds for new books for the school. Thank you to Mrs Whitfield for organising Book Week.





Year 4 Christmas Production



“Bethlehem – the Musical”, the Year 4 production, promised and delivered the traditional nativity play, although from a slightly different perspective. On the afternoon of Wednesday 5th December my wife and I joined Year 5, and a full house of parents and relatives, to be treated to the first public performance of this innovative play.

The unusual twist on the traditional Christmas story was to tell it from the point of view of the residents of Bethlehem, subsequent to a decree to carry out a census by Caesar, to appease his daughter. We were then transported to Bethlehem, where the reactions of the local populace and all of those required by the decree to register there, were recorded. The full range of human reactions were shown, with some of the local population exhibiting generosity and willingness to show their town to the best advantage but also some recognising commercial opportunities and how to take advantage of the visitors. The appearance of Mary and Joseph, their taking up residence in the stable, the arrival of the baby Jesus and the subsequent visits of townsfolk, shepherds and wise men were all faithfully recounted with the usual mixture of humour and song.



There were a huge number of songs, many of them requiring solo performances, all of which were delivered with gusto ensuring that throughout the hour long performance, the audience were held spellbound. There were too many stand-out performances to nominate any single person or group for specific mention, as everyone contributed with skill and enthusiasm. A production of this nature requires substantial input from parents, relatives and particularly, the teachers, Mrs Searle and Messrs Hall and Stacey, with considerable support from the rest of the staff and Sue Langwade, who wrote the musical together with Mark and Helen Johnson. I would like to express our warmest thanks to everyone and, of course, to the children for a memorable performance, which again tells the Christmas story from a unique perspective.



George Cameron (Governor)
December 2018



Thanks to all the generous donations given over the course of the two productions, we raised over £300 for our school charity Down's Syndrome Association



School News



Top of the Form 2018 - 2019

A group of keen masterminds in Year 6 have joined together with Mrs Uwai to start practising for this year's Top of the Form competition. This is an annual competition between local schools where a selected team of four children are challenged to answer questions on curriculum subjects plus sport, spelling, general knowledge and current affairs. The children have been meeting weekly to practice questions and our first match is in February 2019 against Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School.
Good luck to all those swotting up and taking part!



By donating to wear a Christmas jumper last Friday the children and staff raised over £200 for the Save the Children charity. There were some very festive designs on show!



SEN News by Mrs Uwai



All school teaching staff benefitted from a training morning on 'Understanding Autism' in November during our INSET day. The training was run by specialist teachers from Surrey County Council and we covered various areas including the background of Autism, gaining a diagnosis, difficulties faced by children and parents, strategies to help/support and a range of provision ideas for mainstream classrooms and interventions. Whilst many teaching staff have attended training in the past at Linden Bridge Specialist School, we found it useful to come together as a whole staff and be given an opportunity to learn, discuss and plan our whole school approach to supporting children with (or without) a diagnosis of Autism.

If you would like any support or advice regarding Autism then please feel free to contact me via the school office.
Mrs Uwai—Inclusion Leader



Attendance for the second half of Autumn Term:



Robins — 98.5%

Swifts — 97.4%

Merlins — 98.5%

Ospreys — 96.4%

Peregrines — 96.9%

Parrots — 98.4%

Quetzals — 96.0%

Toucans — 97.9%

Eagles — 97.0 %

Kites — 96.9%

Owls — 93.5 %

**Congratulations to Robins and Merlins Classes
on achieving 98.5% attendance!**



Sports News by Mr Parker



With Christmas just around the corner and our sports teams all doing wonderfully, we are ready to celebrate.

In football we have had success with all our teams: Year 6 boys are undefeated and were first to qualify from the regular season into the finals; Year 5 boys have played a number of friendlies against local schools and, whilst winning the majority, have always performed excellently and shown great spirit and attitude; the girls' Year 5/6 teams have also shown a winning attitude and been excellent in all their games, winning most of them. The Year 6 boys' team attended a 7-a-side football tournament and reached the semi-finals, losing to the eventual winners on penalties. Meanwhile, the girls' team attended a football tournament and went one better, finishing runners-up by a single point. A big thank you to all the parents who have given up their time to run training sessions and attend the matches.

Netball has proved very popular and the team has taken part in the Esher District league. They have been growing in strength and, having been narrowly defeated in their first game, came back and won 14-0 in their second! Mrs Whitfield and Mrs Rey clearly know how to coach winners.

As well as carrying on with the football season, we aim to attend the annual Cross Country event at Garson's Farm; information for this will go out next term.



Congratulations to **Beech** house who are the House cup winners for the Autumn term. They have earned themselves a mufti day on Friday 11th January!

**Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!**



Spring term begins: Thursday 3rd January 2019