



Crabtree Junior School

20th March 2015

The blogs

In addition to this newsletter, the blogs are a primary source of information from the teachers. They are updated at least fortnightly. Click on your child's year group to find out more.

**Year
3**

**Year
4**

**Year
5**

**Year
6**

Weekly timetables

If you would like to see the weekly lesson plan for your child's class, please visit the school website at:
http://www.crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk/teaching_learning/timetables.html

This term's school value is "Hope".

Diary Reminders

Monday 23rd March

Year 4 visit to St Albans Abbey

Wednesday 25th March

Year 6 Crucial Crew visit

Thursday 26th March

Tag Rugby Tournament

Friday 27th March

Non-uniform Day in aid of The Harpenden Trust: come to school dressed in House Colours

Gym Display dress rehearsal to school

School letters (email)

Please ask the School Office if you require a paper copy

Dinner bill reminders

Mini tennis (hard copy)

Golf club

Jousters Summer holiday club

From the Headteacher

It has been a very busy week, with Spring Festival, two major sporting events, parent consultations, Year 4's assembly and the day-to-day business of school. I am particularly grateful to all my class teachers for giving up two evenings to meet with parents and for working so hard to ensure that the consultations were informative and meaningful for you. One Year 6 parent wrote to me to say, "It is by far the most welcoming, professional and well prepared parents evening I have ever attended."

My Inbox received another lovely note from a parent in connection with Thursday's netball event – read Mrs Mercer's report below:

I felt I have to write to you and say how proud I was to support the superb Crabtree netball team this afternoon at their tournament. I never realised netball could be so exciting! Their level of play and teamwork, even after 4 hours in the biting cold, showed off their talent and hard work. ... Overall they were an absolute credit to the school, performing and behaving very enthusiastically and respectfully. Their performance was also a great reward for all of Mrs Mercer's dedication.

Very often, we only hear from parents about things they think we could do better, so it is especially nice to receive communications of support and thanks from parents and it is a very nice part of my job to be able to pass on the message to the staff concerned.

Year 4's Assembly today saw an army of Romans assemble in the hall and it is clear the children have learnt a great deal from their topic work this term. Many thanks to the children for their performance and to the Year 4 Team for putting the assembly together. (I particularly enjoyed the "Hail Patrick!" – perhaps it is something to be encouraged from all year groups ... what do you think??!!)

Our teaching students finished their placements with us today. Both Miss McLauchlan and Miss Hickson have fitted in really well in Year 5 and Year 4 respectively and have been an asset to the school. We wish them well with the rest of their teacher training.

Finally, I have written separately to Teak parents with some more 'sad' news. Miss Simmons is leaving us at Easter and heading to the seaside! She is relocating to teach at a school in Bournemouth – our loss is their gain.

Ian Patrick, Headteacher



Click on the WisePay logo for online school payments; or the Spend and Raise logo below to raise funds for the PA when you shop online.



Harpenden Trust Charity Event

On Friday 27th March, the school will be having a fundraising day for Saturn House's charity, the Harpenden Trust. This is a local charity helping people in the AL5 area. We are going to have a 'Wear your House Colours' day. This could be a T-shirt, hoodie or any single item in your house colour ... or it could be your whole outfit! In return for this, please could children bring in a voluntary donation for The Harpenden Trust.

The House Colours are:

Saturn	Red	Mars	White
Neptune	Blue	Jupiter	Black

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported the book fair. We appreciate you buying the books at this event when we know that the titles can often be purchased more cheaply elsewhere; the book fair books are sold at RRP, meaning that the school can benefit from significant commission, all of which contributes stock to the school library.

Comic Relief cake sale

Well done to the Year 5 children who organised the cake sale for Comic Relief last Friday and to Mrs Wheeler who made lovely cakes for the staffroom. The proceeds from these two events totalled a magnificent £120.35, which will be added to the non-uniform donations and sent off to Comic Relief.

Primary Maths Challenge, *from Mrs Morris*

Last month, four of our Year 6 pupils (Charlotte, Edward, Ben and Suse) took part in the Primary Maths Challenge's Bonus Round, an annual event set by the Mathematical Association. Of 79,000 children who took the original challenge back in November, they were among just 1,184 who achieved a high enough mark to be invited to take the Bonus Challenge. We are delighted with all their results and especially proud to share with you that Charlotte has been awarded a Bronze medal for her outstanding score – quite an achievement. Well done to all.

Sports notices

Indoor Athletics, *From Miss Thomas*

Sometimes it is very hard to express how proud a teacher can be about the pupils and school they work for ... but I will try!

Once again, we have had an amazing sporting week with football, netball and indoor athletics. On Tuesday this week we had the county indoor athletics finals in Ware. After six months of training we were up against the best schools in the County (450 schools started in this event). We had qualified for both the girls' and boys' events which in itself was amazing. The athletes take part in both track and field events and all the scores are added together. On the track we could see just how good our pupils were. There were 12 schools in the final and we won quite a few of the races. The standard was incredibly high but, in the field events, it was impossible to tell how we were doing, so the results were always going to be a surprise. I am delighted to tell you that we finished Runners Up – silver medal positions for both girls and boys. No other district/school managed to get both girls' and boys' teams in the top four and, as a result, as a school/district we are overall County Champions – a magnificent achievement by every athlete.



Thank you to Mrs Brooks for this photo and the netball photo below.

CRABTREE COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Please note that these notices are provided as a community service and Crabtree Junior does not take responsibility for or seek to endorse any of the advertisements printed in this section.

E-Flyers:

Girls Cricket – Free trial sessions

Harpenden in Bloom: Wildlife Photography competition

Easter 2015:

Fit for Sport, Westminster Lodge

Frogmore Paper Mill

Woodland Trust Easter Egg Hunt

Flyers:

Luton Town FC

Saracens Rugby Camp

Thu 16th Apr 15 - Fri 17th Apr 15

Time: 09:30 - 15:15

Venue: Old Albanian RFC

Ages: 6-16 years

Boys and Girls

Cost £60

www.rugbycamps.co.uk/saracens

The athletes and 20 noisy parents who attended were amazing. Everyone supported everyone. I was so proud to be a part of the event. Thank you all so much.

Netball, from Mrs Mercer

Another proud moment on Friday after school last week: playing against the Grove Junior School, the A team won 13-8 and the B team lost 9-4. The girls, as always, were a pleasure to take and had clearly listened during training sessions as they applied good skills and teamwork.

Crabtree netball A team then competed on Thursday this week in the district tournament alongside 14 other teams. The teams were grouped into A and B so we definitely had five matches to play in our group of six. The results were as follows -

Crabtree against St. Helens: 3-3

Crabtree against High Beeches: 3-3

Crabtree against Manland: 7-7

Crabtree against The Grove: 8-0

Crabtree against St. Nicholas: 4-4

Crabtree against St. Hilda's: 11-0

On goal difference we were thrilled to make it through to the semi-finals where we met Wood End and won 6-3. So into the final we ventured.



The girls were looking absolutely fantastic; they were driving for the ball, passing accurately and into space and the shooting was fabulous. In the final we met St. Nicholas School again and played 5 minutes each way culminating in a four-all draw. This led into extra time where it was one all until the other team scored just before the siren sounded.

A high energy game, played with an excellent attitude. It was a delight for the parents and me to see the girls playing to such a high standard but, as it was so close, a tricky one to watch. (It certainly aged me!)

Thank you for all the wonderful support on the side-line; it was appreciated both by myself and by the girls.

Football reports, from Ben, Bobbie, Charlie C and Tom S

Monday 16th March, v. The Grove Junior School

Both A teams were equally desperate to score the first goal and win the game but it was Grove who went one up due a great header. We kept our heads and started to dominate the game but great saving denied us a goal. Following a great through ball, Grove found the back of the net again. In the second half, although we felt we had the better play, we couldn't put the ball away and the match ended 2-0 to Grove.

The B team match saw many shots from both teams but with good goalkeeping by Jake and great defending by tom and Edward the first half ended nil-nil. In the second half we upped our game and were finally rewarded with a goal: Jasper received the ball from a Grove corner shot and crossed it to Charlie who volleyed it into the bottom corner of the net. Soon after Alfie managed to slot the ball past the goalkeeper and the score stayed 2-0 until the final whistle.

Thursday 19th March, v. Wood End Primary School

The A team was expecting a tough match, so was determined to win. Wood End started immediately with some great passing but with some great

pressure from Ronnie and Alfie, Crabtree gained possession. Nevertheless, it was Wood End who scored the first goal and it was 1-0 at half time. In the second half, with only 30 seconds to go, Bobbie unleash a looping shot that proceeded to hit the underside of the crossbar, bounce in and then bounce out again ... but due to some fantastic reactions from Alfie the goal was secure and the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

The B team's match saw Wood End attacking hard but our defence stayed strong. Good saves by Charlie H kept the half-time score at nil-nil. In the second half we raised the tempo but Wood End still didn't give in and unfortunately we were unable to score before the final whistle blew and the match ended 0-0.

From the Parents' Association

Open PA Committee meeting on 28th April – everyone welcome

The PA Committee would like to invite all Crabtree parents to come along to the Skew Bridge on 28th April from 8.30pm. This is an opportunity for parents to chat to the PA Committee at an informal meeting, hear more about the work we do to raise money for the schools and how we spend your money. We would also love to hear if you have any suggestions, either for fund-raisers or for how we can spend PA funds. We hope you can join us.

Summer Fayre Help

We are still looking for helpers to coordinate raffle prizes, create a playlist of music and desktop publish a Fayre booklet. If you think you have the skills and time to do any of these jobs please contact heather_wilton@hotmail.com

PA Quiz - Best Bid for Manure and Woodchip

At the PA Quiz Night on Saturday 28th March we are delighted to offer hippobags (dimensions 1m x 1m x 1m) of manure and wood chip for a 'Best Offer Wins' Auction. If you aren't attending the quiz but would like to make an offer on either the bag of manure or the bag of wood chip please email chloeandclaudio@yahoo.co.uk by the end of this week. Many thanks to Jon and Zoe Franks of Franks Forestry for the donation.

Stars of the Week



Cedar	Matilda , for excellent focus and working hard in all lessons.
Rowan	Ralph , for great concentration and focus.
Ash	Gabriella , for being such an active learner at all times.
Birch	Thomas , for excellent effort and fantastic writing in English.
Teak	Meg , for superb effort in all subjects and wonderful creative writing.
Redwood	Annie , for fantastic effort in all aspects of school life.
Elm	Alfie , for excellent work in maths.
Elder	Stefanos , for excellent work in maths.

Challenge Champion

Miss McLauchlan and **Miss Hickson** for being absolutely fantastic teachers. We will miss them

Contact us:

Crabtree Junior School
Crabtree Lane
Harpenden
AL5 5PU

www.crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk

Telephone: 01582 623501

admin@crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk
governors@crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk

For further information about events at Crabtree Junior School – including term dates and copies of previous newsletters – please visit the school website at www.crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk

If you have any comments on the newsletter or items for the Noticeboard, please contact the School Office.

