



Brundall School News - 6

December 2009

With the closure of the ice rink, my sporting efforts have transferred to Canada's other national sport, the game of the First Nations known as Lacrosse. Each time I return from training, I experience a reminder of the power of play, and the vitality of working in a team. I run faster, harder and for longer than I would training by myself, and I also come away mentally 'lighter' with a feeling of well being. It's a funny mix of 'playing' at something and for that hour having it be the most important and serious thing in the world, although it's only running around throwing a ball...

We are very aware at school that this is a serious business - statistical evidence points to the importance of a secure education in Literacy and Numeracy and obtaining qualifications as vital for future economic well being; and the importance of good habits in healthy eating and exercise when young for long term physical well being. Add in the emotional aspects of learning to relate and work with others, and the spiritual dimension of finding some purpose larger than yourself to care about, and a Primary school is preparing children for well being in their future life.

Yet the way we achieve this must keep the dimension of play in the curriculum throughout the entire school. Sometimes this is as simple as a recent lesson where I saw a 'Whoopee cushion' used to reinforce the teaching of the 'w' sound. Memorable! In other situations, it is the children organizing their own fund raising games for Pudsey Bear, or working together to prepare an Assembly or performance.

By learning through Play, and keeping learning real and related to life, we do achieve good outcomes. The recently received data from the government shows that for the past five years, the school consistently outperformed national attainment for Literacy, Numeracy and Science. Last year nearly 90% of our Year 6 pupils achieved the expected Level 4 or above. In English in particular the school scores "significantly above" expectations, and last year this raised the overall school performance to "significantly above" national attainment expectations.

Our overall Maths performance, although over 89%, was not as high as English. This year our main professional development will be focused on Maths, including training in Calculations and Contextualising Maths for Mrs Sutton, Miss Peers, Miss Glover and Mr Morgan. Miss Hewitt, who works with Mrs Thomas as Maths Leader, will begin training in March to gain a qualification as a Specialist Maths Teacher in the school. Mrs Alderton has been working well with an intervention in Maths programme, and Mrs Odell is also doing 1:1 work with Year 6 pupils in Maths. In the New Year, we expect to share a newly drafted Calculations policy with parents to clarify ways of working. All of these, I expect, will lead to increased attainment and achievement in Maths throughout the school.

The most important element of learning, in maths or language (or lacrosse) is the thinking and practising. It's most effective when we give children take up time, whether to figure out an unknown word or puzzle over a maths problem. By giving time to think, and then talking through processes of thinking, and encouraging them to stick to it even when they don't know, is the best way of giving them ownership for their own learning.

**Please note that Monday 4th January is a Staff Development Day
The last day of term for children is Friday 18th December.**

Term Dates

School Closes for Christmas	18 th December
Spring Term	4 th January
Staff Development Day	4 th January
February Half Term	15 th - 19 th inclusive
School Closes for Easter	1 st April 2009
Summer Term	20 th April 2009
May Day	3 rd May
May Half Term	31 st May - 4 th June incl
Summer Term Ends	23 rd July



Christmas Lunch
10th December

Diary Dates

8 th December	Year 6 trip to Cinema
10 th December	Christmas Lunch
10-11 th December	KS1 Christmas Productions
15 th December	KS1 trip to Puppet Theatre
15-16 th December	KS2 Christmas Productions
18 th December	Celebration Assembly

Children In Need

Well done to everyone who took part in our fundraising for Children in Need.
We raised a total of **£555.56!**
Thank you.

Your Invitation to our Christmas Productions



Key Stage 1
Penguins & Robins - 10th Dec.
Kookaburras & Yr2 Puffins - 11th Dec.

Key Stage 2
Years 3 and 4 - 15th Dec.
Years 5 and 6 - 16th Dec.

All performances at 9.30 a.m.

There will be a charity collection after each performance.

CHOCOLATE PROJECT

In our class (5s) we made our own chocolate companies. We made our own food packaging, looked at different names of chocolate, researched what chocolate children liked, made our own lovely melting chocolate bars with marshmallows and other yummy ingredients.

We did Dragons Den in the hall and found out that Mr Morgan hated Marshmallows and would not give us any money. Thank goodness for Miss Peers and Miss Bond who did invest but wanted a whole years worth of our chocolate.

We wrote letters to different companies to see if they were interested in our Chocolate bars. We have had a letter back and Sainsburys have sent the letter to their head office. You never know, we may be selling our chocolate in their shops soon.

Our favourite bit of the project was licking out the bowl and trying all the different types of chocolate.

By Bailey Steadman and Ted Pinder.

Spring Term starts on Tuesday 5th January

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

