

Minchinhampton Primary Academy

Newsletter No 7 2016/17

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope you all enjoyed time with your family over the Christmas break. I don't know about you but I'm never quite sure how much relaxing I actually do- it's always a bit of a whirlwind and then, before I know it, I look up and find myself back at school.

Over the last few weeks we have had varying news accounts of our school's performance compared to others locally. The Times put us 9th in the South West while SNJ left us off a list of schools who had passed the government's new floor standard. Please know the SNJ have now corrected the mistake online.

News

Year 3/4 held an immersion day last week for their Ancient Greece topic. They had the chance to try out lots of activities associated with Ancient Greece including tasting food, acting a Greek play, playing some mini sports. They also had their thinking stimulated by open ended questions about Ancient Greece.

Some of our children from across KS2 took part in a song-writing workshop last week. They wrote and performed their own song extracts. We will be placing the resulting song on the school website.

Our new kitchen in the KS2 shared area has been completed over Christmas on the back of Sophie Muir's unquenchable drive and the goodwill of three fathers who put their Christmas holidays on hold for a day to put it in: Stephen Draper, Neil Wood and Lee Wilmott. Our thanks go to them all for giving so generously of their time and energies as well as to all parents who helped to fund the project through the PTA. Last year we ran three separate cooking clubs as well as running one off cooking projects during 'topic' immersion days. Amanda Legg is more often than not involved in the mix when it comes to cooking and we are very lucky to have her in our midst, given her culinary expertise and her skill with the children. Two staff members have started their own clubs also now. As teachers we recognise what rich learning there is to be had from any cooking session but are naturally reluctant without a proper space for doing it....now, of course, we have the space. I am sure the combination of Amanda and the new kitchen is going to take cooking to another level here at Minch.

The new MUGA is living up to my expectations. Our plan is that it will provide for more sport opportunities for our pupils both during curriculum time and beyond in clubs and house sports. Our next phase is to look at ways to section off parts of the pitches to allow for a number of games or sports to be played at once.

Our new house captains have taken up their posts. House Captains have a broad remit these days – anything from showing visitors around to helping to keep the younger children feel safe and happy at lunchtime to helping manage the school. These days they have to attend an interview with the head teacher if they want to

become a house captain. This year there was an unprecedented level of interest in the role; in fact every Year 6 pupil put themselves forward. This left me in a quandary. I was really pleased that they all wanted the job—I think it's a really positive sign – and felt all of them would gain much from the opportunity, but if they all got the job, then what was the point of an interview. In the end I gave them all a job but I was insistent they all gave a good account of themselves and their intentions in an interview situation.

Information

Forest Green Rovers

Hello my name is Josh Braune and I am the school's Forest Green Rover's rep. I just wanted to say that children currently can go free to FGR's matches and I have put half price tickets for adults in the school office- if you would like one. Their next home game is on Saturday 21st January at 3 pm against Braintree. You can check the FGR website for more information about their matches.