

In House Specials

African Art Day

On Tuesday 15 January Year 6 were given an opportunity to learn more about the Art of Africa from visitor Monika Wengraf-Hewitt, a Tribal Art collector. The children learned about the use of, and customs connected with, her collection of sculptures, masks and other artefacts before having an opportunity to draw them.

Year 6 Maths Competition

Eight Year 6 mathematicians who all attend the Maths Extension Club displayed their considerable talents by completing a tough paper for a nationwide Maths Challenge. All achieved high marks with James Nash and James Middleton narrowly missing out on the top honours, Richard Tatum, Tola Akanbi-Onasanya and Alex Nicholson received Bronze Certificates, Rajiv Patel and Edward Davenport received Silver and Amy De Zoysa a Gold Certificate.

Later in the year Rajiv Patel achieved a Silver Certificate, Alex Nicholson and Edward Davenport achieved Gold Certificates in another nationwide competition which included pupils up to Year 8!

Disco

This year the Family Society decided to include karaoke as part of the Prep Disco. In the days leading up to the big event, on Friday 25 January, eager performers gave their names and chosen song titles to Mrs Poole. As the list grew ever longer the question was posed; how many karaoke performances can be fitted into 90 minutes and still leave time for dancing? The answer was not enough and several budding Pop Idols were left disappointed. The weather on the night was also very disappointing but this did not deter the children from sporting their latest creative outfits and hairdos.

Musical Moments

Singers and musicians in the Prep Dept were given opportunities to perform in school as well as outside venues.

The first informal Prep instrumental concert took place on 15 November. Over 30 children took part and for some it was their first solo performance in public. The variety and skill of the performers thrilled the audience.

An impressive performance by the Recorder Group gained them second place in their class at the Beckenham Festival on Sunday 18th November.

As daylight faded on the afternoon of Saturday 24 November the Prep Choir made their way to St George's Church to sing in the Beckenham Festival. Their smiling faces and enthusiasm captured the attention of the audience for a repertoire which included some impressive two and three part harmony conducted by Mrs Davies. Their instantly appealing performance attracted very favourable comments from the adjudicator, parents and

Mrs Harper who accompanied them. This experience inspired our singers to rehearse new songs for the end of term Carol Service. One choir member Callum Gallagher (4W) had a particularly busy day as he dashed from the Beckenham Festival to the Broadway Theatre Lewisham where he performed several pieces with nineteen other violinists. The group, coached by our Head of Strings Julia Atkinson, provided musical accompaniment for the Anerley School of Dancing show. The choir also made it to Number One in the Pop charts as part of the backing vocals on an S Club 7 single, which was released to raise money for BBC Children in Need. It was difficult to identify individual voices as choirs from all over the country were included but nevertheless we had confirmation that our tape was used.

Instrumentalists including the Percussion Band provided suitably festive musical accompaniment and the choir performed seasonal songs as part of the Christmas Carol Service held on the last day of the Michaelmas Term at King's Church, Catford Hill. The Junior School Orchestra accompanied all the carols sung by the Prep Department and ended the carol service with a medley of Christmas music.

The Prep Lent Concert was another excellent showcase for the talented musicians and singers. In the first half the ensembles performed began with the orchestra who tackled some complex music including the theme from the *Water Music* by Handel. The talented Year 4 brass group, directed by Mr Thompson performed with gusto and they have now made their own CD! The string groups have gone from strength to strength this year and played with enthusiasm demonstrating some very neat bowing in *Knickerbocker Glory*. Composing is a big part of class music and Year 4 recorders played two pieces written by pupils, Jodie Keily and Callum Gallagher. The fife group worked hard and produced some impressive sounds including their favourite clown dance. The Choir has worked very hard this year and has achieved a high standard of part-singing beautifully displayed in *So Fa Jazz*. *Sunny Island* played by the recorder ensemble transported the audience to the tropics leaving the dull March weather behind.

The first half ended with a splendid and rather complicated performance of *Mirrors and Cannons* by the percussion group which entailed a huge amount of counting. The relief on the children's faces at the end brought a smile to the faces in the audience!

Every one took part in the second half where the Prep Dept sang their hearts out adapting brilliantly to the different styles of songs from the shows. It was a most successful evening enjoyed by all.

Informal concerts continued through the Summer Term, the Orchestra played to a large gathering of parents and friends who also stayed to enjoy tea.

SSD

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



SCIENTIFIC SCENARIOS

The main event this week was our Science Focus Day which had been superbly organised by Miss Neal. Year 3 spent the day in the bracing countryside to observe birds of prey and handle reptiles at Eagle Heights. The enthusiastic, knowledgeable staff ensured that the children gained maximum benefit from this informative visit. For the other three year groups it was the animals that did the visiting as reptiles, insects and cold blooded animals made an appearance in a variety of workshops about the Junior School. These creatures accompanied three excellent speakers who helped develop the pupils' knowledge of habitats and food chains. The fourth specialist was known as the Water Wizard who explained the water cycle through practical tasks. All in all it was a very successful day with plenty of interest for all.

Science Day

On Science Day we did lots of different things. I am going to talk about one of them.

Our first activity was the reptile Razzmatazz. Chris showed us a number of animals. My favourite was the corn snake.

The first reptiles he showed us were the scorpions. He told us about where the scorpions came from and how strong the venom was. The difference between venom and poison is that venom comes from living creatures and poison comes from things like berries.

Next the tarantulas. Chris showed us the different sized skins. Chris said that he couldn't take the tarantulas out of the cage because if they turned around they could fire hairs into the air. This would create a very fine dust, which if it goes into your eyes can make you go blind. He said he had to make the cage fit the creatures' habitat.

The third reptiles were lizards. On some lizards to save themselves from death they lose their tails. That way the predator would eat the tail instead. Snakes, which were next, was my favourite part of the talk. Parts of the boa constrictor were as thick as a drainpipe! Chris said the end of the snake was a different colour because it was going to shed its skin. All the snakes liked to hug up to Chris because he was warm. I enjoyed the day but this talk was my favourite.

Greenwich Environmental Centre

Year 5 spent an enjoyable, informative day at the Greenwich Environmental Curriculum Centre set in nine acres of grassland and woodland just outside Eltham. The children study the habitats of minibeasts and have an opportunity to collect, and safely return, many different species from under logs, in leaf litter and tree canopies. A woodland walk allows the children to view minibeasts in situ and meet some of the Centre's larger animals including Pod the pig, the goats, geese and cats



Year 6 Science Museum Trip

James Nash (6R) reports on a visit to the Science Museum:

6R was a great year. What I really enjoyed was the Science Museum sleepover. It was an experience you can never forget. There were activities at night that were really fun. There was launching a rocket and the team with the most points would win. We also tried out some of the exhibits there, mostly the hands-on ones. We had dinner in the Cafeteria and after that we watched a show in the theatre. It was interesting and sometimes funny. At the end of the show the Museum celebrated their 100th night. There was cake that was being given out and they talked a bit about how nice it was to have us. After that we went to bed and most of the boys stayed up half the night and talked to each other. Some went to sleep but it was quite uncomfortable.

We got up in the morning and our part of the Museum was a mess. There was cake everywhere and sleeping bags all over the place. We were made to clear it all up afterwards, but we made it fun by cracking jokes. After tidying up, we went into the toilets and cleaned and dressed ourselves. After that we went to the cafeteria and had breakfast. We had pain au chocolat and apple juice to drink. After breakfast we went into a room full of planes and did some drawings. At the end prizes were given out, but no one from our school got it, despite some very good drawings. After that we went to the Imax cinema for our last activity. We watched an incredible video about digging for fossils. It was very realistic and we all enjoyed it. We said goodbye to the instructors and packed our bags. It was definitely an experience I would never forget.