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National Art Competition win for Zoe!

Zoe Sutherland's ceramic portrait entitled 'my Brother' was the winner of both the ISA North and National Art Competitions earlier this year and was displayed at the Lowry, Salford Quays on Saturday 5th March. This piece is amongst three from school that were selected by Living Edge magazine to be displayed at this prestigious event.



The other pieces that could be seen are a corset designed by Dolly Croot and a Batik piece designed by Sophie Welch, depicting a fish.



Royal Society of Chemistry

The Chemistry Department had a very interesting visitor this term when a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry visited us to talk to Senior 3 and 4 about opportunities in Science in Higher Education, the UCAS system with particular emphasis on Chemistry. The girls found the talk very informative and hopefully some will apply to join the Royal Society themselves.

Senior HISTORY

During National Schools film week Senior 2 & 3 saw 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' (adapted from John Boyne's novel). This is an unforgettable story seen through the eyes of Bruno, the 8 year old son of the Kommandant at a concentration camp. His forbidden relationship with a Jewish boy on the other side of the camp fence has startling and unexpected consequences. The film gave an insight into what life was like for over six million Jews who lost their lives during the holocaust.

On a lighter note Senior 4 & 5 History students joined the Business Studies Department on a trip to Cadbury World, where as well as eating chocolate, we learnt about the history of the factory. We also saw the very smart nearby houses, schools, churches and parks that George Cadbury had built for his workers at Bourneville, three miles south of Birmingham.

Lowry visit



Classes 5 & 6 visited the Lowry Art Gallery this term and it proved to be a very successful trip. The children sketched many of the paintings and certainly from the work we have done since, they were captivated by what they saw. Class 5 have made a large collage for their room and Class 6 have done a variety of things including sketches, posters, drawings and have researched the life of the famous L S Lowry.

When in ROME - February 2010



Nursery and Reception - Snowmen

What happens when you put a coat on a snowman? The Nursery and Reception classes conducted an experiment on a snowy day to investigate this. Reception built the snowman without a coat and the Nursery built one with. The children thought the answer was the snowman would be cosy, hot and that he would melt and turn into water. However, after the end of the experiment they found that this was not the case and in fact the coat kept him cold!



Over the February half term holiday, a group of 34 Senior Girls enjoyed a three day break in Rome as part of their RE and Art studies. It was an exhausting stay as we packed as much as possible into the time available - the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Forum, the Vatican and the Castel Sant Angelo to name but a few of the sights we saw. There were many lighthearted

moments too - as we given roses at the Spanish Steps, travelled back to Ancient Rome on the flight simulator at the Rome Experience (the rats running across our legs felt extremely real!) and last, but certainly not least, we threw our coins in the Trevi Fountain and sampled the speciality - Italian ice cream. The weather was disappointing - but happily nothing else was.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe



Children from the Pre-Prep and Junior Departments were treated to a theatre visit to see a production of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. Hannah Fryer, Class 6, gave us this account of the visit.

'On Wednesday 20th January, Classes 1 - 6 visited a theatre in Stoke. We travelled to the theatre in coaches and there was lots of singing and talking on the way there. We eventually arrived at the theatre and took our seats inside. We peered down on the stage to see a map of Europe with little German planes printed on it. Then the lights dimmed and the play began. I laughed when Lucy went into the wardrobe and people with coats on their heads danced around. My favourite part of the play was just before the interval when the White Witch gave Edmund some Turkish delight and told him to bring his brother and sister to her.

At the interval we all had some ice cream,

a snack and a drink before the play started again. The next scene went fast and then Aslan came on with his bright orange mane and his golden cloak shimmering in the spotlight. Then as if by magic, the stone table actually rose up from the floor of the stage! Aslan jumped onto the stage and roared.

The instruments on the corner of the stage played and everyone clapped and cheered. Then Aslan killed the White Witch and all the characters cheered. At the end Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter were crowned Kings and Queens. After the performance ended, we went back to the coaches and made our way back to school for the rest of the day.

G&T Mathematics Challenges

Every year at Cransley School our best Mathematicians participate in The UKMT mathematics challenges.

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school pupils.

They were established in 1996 and last academic year over 600,000 pupils from 4000 schools took part in the three individual challenges, the UK's biggest national maths competitions. Each challenge leads into a follow-on Olympiad round and finally a team of six to represent the UK in the International Mathematical Olympiads.

All our Senior 3 girls attempted the Intermediate Challenge on Thursday 4th



February 2010. This Challenge is aimed at the top third of pupils in Year 11 or below in England and Wales. The challenge involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour and is sat in school under normal exam conditions.

The Challenge is marked by UKMT. Questions from the Intermediate Challenge can be used as enrichment material in the classroom across the ability range. Senior 3 did very well as this is their first attempt at Intermediate level and the best three girls

achieved good scores. (Pictured L-R Emmie Nicholas, Eleanor Storey, Olivia Hammond).

Senior 1, 2 and 3 girls also took part in a 'Cluedo themed' Mathematics Challenge from Liverpool University and we are awaiting our results as we go to press.

Other Mathematical Activities we have all enjoyed included: World Maths Day 3rd March (www.worldmathsday.com) Pi Day 14th March, to celebrate this very important mathematical number!

CHINESE New Year

The Nursery and reception begin to know about other people, their cultures and their beliefs. This is introduced by drama, mask making, story telling and tasting their traditional food. We celebrated Chinese New Year with noodles, seaweed, prawn crackers, duck spring rolls and prawn toast all using chopsticks (until we explained some were finger foods). Fun was had by all although seaweed needed an explanation!



Cransley School Parent Teachers Association

The PTA has raised an incredible £3,528 since the start of term in September 09 which added to the money already in the bank account has given us the chance to authorised some significant spending at our meeting on 10 March.

We have made a donation of £5k to school which will pay for the refurbishment of the changing rooms for the senior girls.

The plan is to improve the existing changing rooms with the installation of new shelving for safe storage of gym bags, redecoration of walls and new flooring.

The new changing rooms will be located at the top of the concrete stairs (closest to the gym) where the toilets and showers are. Works planned include replastering, removal of the old cylinder, showers, pipework and heaters, installation of a new drinking fountain and new electric wall heaters, partial reglazing of two full arched Georgian windows and new woodwork which includes skirting boards, boarding for changing hooks, etc. The refurbishment will provide the girls with a significantly improved facility.

The money will also enable the dining room floor to be re-sanded, repaired and resealed. We have also agreed to purchase six extra laptops for the History, Geography and English Departments at total cost of £3k. The PTA will also be purchasing 10 new art tables for the Art Department at a cost of £1k plus £150 to Miss Davies which will enable her to purchase some outdoor play equipment for the Juniors. A total spend of £9150.

Following the Easter Fayre and Summer Soiree we hope to be able to purchase six projectors for each of the Junior classrooms at a cost of £3900. Ideally, some in time for the start of the September term.

Thank you to everyone who generously supported the Easter Fayre by making donations for the stalls or coming along on the day to support the event. At the time of going to press we do not have all the figures ready to announce the surplus but hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Plans are coming together now for our

Summer Ball which will take place on Saturday 3rd July at school. There was some considerable debate within the PTA as to the location of this year's event. Some members wanted to hold the Ball at a nearby hotel, whilst the majority voted to keep the Soiree at school. We are working closely with a catering firm to ensure the food this year exceeds expectations and will ensure we have live music and a disco. All the money generated from ticket sales simply covers the overheads of the event, i.e., equipment hire, catering, entertainment etc. As a result the ticket prices will be more than last year but we feel that providing a better quality meal and entertainment will outweigh the extra ticket cost. If you are able to help organise the event or have any views or suggestions please come along to our next committee meeting on Friday 26th March at 9am in the Common Room.

Any profit on the night comes from bar sales and the money raised through the prize draw and auction. If you can help by donating a prize this year you will make a real difference. Please contact the school office and a member of the organising committee will call you.

The PTA Non Uniform Day on 12 February raised £138 which will be divided between Senior and Junior School - the pupils have yet to decide how they would like to spend the money but we will keep you informed when a decision is made.

As you know we had hoped to produce a Cransley Cook Book before Easter, however, as there were only 10 recipe entries the book is on hold for the moment. We would like to produce the book in the future so please do complete the form which was sent home or simply send your recipes in via admin@cransleyschool.org.uk. However, the Calendar is coming along and we hope to have it ready for November. The teacher shots are fantastic and those staff who have been photographed so far have been very good sports. Our thanks go to them and Debbie Croot who is our photographer.

The next Bag2School collection is on 20 May so please keep saving any unwanted items of clothing and shoes. Every pupil will be given a bag to take home as usual but there is no limit to the number of bags the company will collect from us so you are not restricted. Just in case there is any new parent unfamiliar with this initiative, Bag2School are a company who specialise in collecting good quality second hand clothes for reuse. They collect clothes, soft toys, bedding, any textiles, belts and paired shoes. The items are then reused and are mostly shipped to Eastern European countries such as Latvia and Lithuania. We are paid £400 per tonne and have so far raised £1,252 for school funds in this way. Please return your bags on 20 May and leave them by the tennis courts as usual.

The PTA has also organised a Book Fair for week of 11 - 15 October, more details will follow nearer the time.

We are also looking to finalise the date for the Christmas Dinner Dance. You may recall last year's event proved very popular with a waiting list for tickets. Once the date is announced, if you are interested, please book your place early to avoid disappointment. We aim to spend money we raise wisely and are guided by the wishes of the staff and senior management team. Everybody is welcome to have their say on how we spend money raised by the PTA and listed below are the meeting dates through to the next AGM. Please come along if you are interested, we will be very pleased to hear your views and see new faces.

The latest minutes from the last meeting which was held on 10 March are available for your perusal on the notice boards outside the office and in the Junior playground. Thank you for your continued support - it is very much appreciated by the whole PTA Team.

Future Meeting Dates: commencing at 15:45 in the Languages Room

Thursday 29 April 2010

Thursday 10 June 2010

Thursday 16 September 2010 AGM !!

Buildings Update

Junior School

Following on from last term's buildings update we are delighted to advise you that our Planning and Listed Building Consent Application for the new Junior School has now been submitted.

As we go to press we are awaiting the outcome of the Council's decision and this is expected within the next month.

Senior School

As you may have already read the PTA have donated some of their funds to help with the refurbishment of the changing rooms for the senior girls. The changing rooms are to be re-located and provided with new lockers and other facilities. The existing changing room can then be used by Miss Davies as a storage area for gym equipment.

During the Easter holidays work will commence on the school dining room, which is to be re-plastered and decorated; the floor will also be stripped and varnished. This will create a much brighter dining room, which is of course used by all the pupils in the school every day. New dining tables are also to be provided and again much of this work will be funded by our donation from the PTA.

Our thanks go to them for their help with these two projects.

Our next big project in Belmont Hall will be the re-decoration of the corridor running along the back of the building where the school offices are located. This is an area of the building used by everyone, pupils, staff and parents. The corridors will be re-plastered and re-decorated to create a much brighter and lighter area.

It is hoped to complete all these works before the end of the summer term so that 'fingers crossed' once we have our planning consent we can put all our efforts into the Junior school buildings.

ALL ABOARD THE SANTA SPECIAL 2009 Christmas trip

Early last December two school minibuses filled with excited, chattering children from Nursery and Reception (and their equally excited chattering teachers!) set off in search of Santa! We didn't have to travel far, Santa enjoying temporary residence at High Legh Garden Centre!

When we arrived we quickly spotted Andy, our enthusiastic train driver and Santa. Santa looked magnificent, resplendent in a beautifully elaborate costume, complete with his own long white beard, bushy eyebrows and a twinkle in his eye! Perfect.

We all piled onto the train, Andy blew the whistle and off we went around the track

to Santa's less elaborate chalet! Santa was absolutely marvellous, chatting easily to the children before presenting them with their present. We clambered onto the train again and off round the track once more. Andy took us on several circuits and we all enjoyed it immensely. Rosie dropped her present and Poppy's hat fell off! Both were safely retrieved at the end of the journey.

We waved goodbye to Santa and Andy - who was going to have a rest before heading onto his main job as a BSL interpreter, currently working the pantomime season at the Liverpool Empire that evening! Back at school it was time to eat our picnic lunch and talk about our lovely morning.



Children Challenging Industry

Children from Class 6 have been taking part in the 'Children Challenging Industry' initiative learning about how industry deal with waste water doing experiments in the classroom and paying a visit to Deeside Power station. Below is an excerpt from an article written by Lydia Horn Class 6.

'When I woke up this morning, I suddenly remembered it was our trip to Deeside Power Station today! After what seemed like hours, mum finally got her act together and bundled me and my next door neighbour into the car. I closed my eyes, willing the car to go faster. As it was, Mum ambled along at what seemed like two miles an hour. Finally, Mum came to a standstill outside my classroom and I raced inside. We all piled into the minibuses and drove to Antrobus school to collect our new friends who were to join us. When we arrived our teachers were whisked away to have a Health and safety talk and we were given a presentation about how the power was

made. When the teachers came back they were very impressed with our new-found knowledge! After lunch we were fitted with high viz jackets, hard hats and ear protectors and were given a full tour of the station. We even saw the control room and were allowed to ask the men on duty some questions.

Before we left, we had a little quiz on power and were rewarded with some prizes including a ruler, pen and a high viz band.

As we sailed out of the gate, I sighed with satisfaction. I'm sure that this would really contribute to our science lessons.



Senior Religious Studies



On a recent visit to the Liverpool Cathedrals, Senior 1 were very excited to find a traditional red telephone box tucked away in a corner of the Anglican Cathedral. Giles Gilbert Scott, the Architect, designed both

the cathedral and the phonebox, our guide describing it as 'Scott's smallest creation in his largest creation'. It was most successful day which was most instructive and enjoyed by all..

Pre-Prep Science Day



Classes 1 and 2 took part in the Shell Education Science workshop programme earlier this term. The children worked in groups and completed a set of five investigations based around the theme of a circus.

It was a very 'hands on' experience and great fun was had by all. The most popular activities were using weights to balance clowns on a high wire and using pneumatics to shoot rubber ducks off a bench.



ALLSORTS CLUB

Allsorts Club, or Messy Club as Class 1 children like to call it, meets every Thursday after school. We have a lot of fun doing absolutely allsorts. Some of the activities we have enjoyed include making paper bag masks, baking Valentine heart biscuits, dancing and party games, outdoor games (toilet tag is a firm favourite here!), collage, laminated bookmarks, salt dough plaques and pine cone bird feeders.

We are looking forward to much more fun and frivolity in the forthcoming weeks, doing things such as designing tie dye t shirts, making play dough robots, nature trail and I spy walk plus more cooking to name but a few.

Baby Gaskell

Mr Chris Gaskell, one of our peripatetic music teachers, has recently become the very proud father of a baby boy who has been named Henry. Congratulations Mr and Mrs Gaskell - it's not too early to put his name down for the school!



Ukuleles to the fore

Mrs Easton is always looking for new ways to get our students interested in music and also persuading them to try something new. Here are a group of Senior 3 students playing with the new Ukuleles. Mrs Easton is hoping to have one group of students from each Department perform at the Prize Giving ceremonies in July.



SPORTS ACTION

UNDER 13 NETBALL

The Under 13 team shone in the recent North ISA Championships

and were runners up in the competition.

They won 7 matches beating Tower College, Abbeygate, Hulme Hall,

Beech House, Bridgewater, Scarisbrick Hall and Hillcrest and only lost to the Grange, the eventual winners, well done girls.

Team members: Milly Colyer, Phoebe Peachment, Alex Newton, Abi Ferrabee, Natasha Plumpton, Frankie Holmes, Georgina Newton, Freya Houston and Emma Bradburn.



Tag Rugby and Football



Mr Aleali who teaches Chemistry to the girls in the Senior Department, has been coaching football and tag rugby to pupils from the Junior Department at Cransey. The children are very enthusiastic and have kept Mr Aleali extremely busy. Both teams will be entering local tournaments over the next few months. Good luck!



HOCKEY SUCCESSES

Miss Davies has organised a number of 7 a side tournaments for Mid-Cheshire Schools at Woodford Lodge.

At the end of January and in March, the **Under 13s** were 2nd on goals in their first tournament but won their final end of season tournament by beating Hartford, drawing with Bridgewater and defeating Weaverham in the final by 2-0.

Team members - Katie Morrison, Milly Colyer, Phoebe Peachment, Emma Bradburn, Abi Ferrabee, Alex Newton and Georgina Newton.

The **Under 14s** also won their end of season tournament by drawing with Leftwich and Weaverham and beating



Tarporley and St Nicholas.
Team Members - Rachel Cottier, Charlotte Acton, Dolly Croot, Olivia Hammond, Hannah Ferrabee and Georgina Blackshaw

The Under 14 X1 have also taken part in the Cheshire Schools Tournament at Wilmslow on Saturday 27 February.

CROSS COUNTRY



SENIORS

The **ISA North Schools Championships** were held at Kingswood College on a very cold, snowy Friday afternoon at the end of January. The teams ran very well on a difficult course (wet, woody, as well as up

and down!). The best runner in the **Under 14 group** was Natasha Plumpton 32nd, other team members Amy Jones, Phoebe Kershaw, Alex Cornwell, Faye Williams, Alex Newton, Georgina Newton, Frankie Holmes, Freya Houston and Dolly Croot

In the **Under 16 team** Emma Tate was a star. She came 6th and was well supported by Olivia Hammond who came 18th. Other team members were Rachel Cottier, Giverny Newman, Georgina Harrington, Hattie Shotton and Charlotte Acton.



JUNIORS

Again it snowed and was bitterly cold! The teams ran at a new venue at Highfield Park on 2nd February. The children ran with determination on an increasingly soggy course. We also did some celebrity spotting - footballers from Man Utd and Everton had their children running too!

Best Under 11 Boy - Joshua Gibson 32nd

Best Under 11 Girl - Sophe Catterall 6th - a brilliant run, well done!

Best Under 12 Boy - William Mansfield - Hickman 30th

Best Under 12 Girl - Emily Sproston 32nd.

Other team members **Under 11s** Felix Palin,

Liam Rowlands, Sullivan Dunne, Kaine Heaps, Katie Bradburn, Rebecca Acton, Lauren Collett, Megan Harrison, Samantha Platt, Lily Peachment and Eniola Williams

Under 12s - Jacob Brown, Ellis House, Jake Humphrey, Joe Murphy, Olivia Brown, Charlie Cooper, Hannah Fryer and Caitlin Taher

YOGA relaxation

Mrs Colyer (Mum of Milly in Senior 2) has been in to teach Senior 5 some Yoga moves. They really enjoyed the course and seemed

to take the relaxation techniques to heart (all wrapped up in a blanket in the dark!) but being calm and quiet took a while to achieve!