



## Newsletter 8 Spring 2 - End of term review

As always, the children have been incredibly busy this term and there have been some fantastic achievements. Here's a summary of some of the things they have been up to.



We are preparing to become space biologists and embark on a voyage of discovery by growing seeds that have been into space.

In September, 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station (ISS) on Soyuz 44S where they will spend several months in microgravity before returning to Earth in March 2016. The seeds have been sent as part of Rocket Science, an educational project launched by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

Our school will be one of up to 10,000 schools to receive a packet of 100 seeds from space, which will be grown alongside seeds that haven't been to space, and the differences measured over seven weeks. The children won't know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and analysed by professional biostatisticians.

The out-of-this-world, nationwide science experiment will enable the children to think more about how we could preserve human life on another planet in the future, what astronauts need to survive long-term missions in space and the difficulties surrounding growing fresh food in challenging climates.

We are very excited to be taking part in Rocket Science. This experiment is a fantastic way of teaching our children to think more scientifically and share their findings with the whole country.

Follow the project on Twitter: @RHSSchools #RocketScience

**Mrs Savage**

### Year 3 Trip to Caerleon

As part of our topic 'The Roman Invasion', a few weeks ago Year 3 went to Caerleon, South Wales to visit the Roman ruins and museum. We spent the morning looking around the amphitheatre, the barracks and the baths. In the afternoon we tried on lots of armour and weapons. They were very heavy! We also pretended we were at a Roman dinner party and shared out food such as dormice, pheasant brains and chicken livers – yuck! We had a great time and learnt lots.



### Year 6 - A Midsummer Night's Dream

This term year 6 have been studying William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.'

After weeks of 'getting to grips' with Shakespearean language and the story behind the play, several rehearsals later we were finally prepared for participating in the Gloucester Primary Festival production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Gloucester Academy. It sounds like a tremendous challenge: five schools performing a play together, having never met until the dress rehearsal immediately before the performance! However, it worked seamlessly and was well received by the audience. Once again year 6 children were a credit to the school.

### Science & Technology Challenge



On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, the Waterwells Science & Technology Team (Year 6 pupils: Harry Collingbourne, Jess Palmer, Harry Thomas and Antonio Webb) represented the school at the annual Gloucester Science & Technology Challenge. Along with fifteen other schools they were set the challenge to construct a device powered by wind to lift as heavy a load as possible - using only the equipment provided. The team had just two hours to design and build their invention before judging commenced. Although they did not win, their design was excellent and their teamwork was fantastic. The team enjoyed the event so much that they want to challenge the rest of Year 6 to a similar challenge in the summer term - on the understanding that they can be the judges!

## Sports Round-up

This term we have welcomed a specialist floor gymnastics coach into school, as well as an archery team. The children in Years 2-6 have had a fantastic time learning new skills and shooting arrows!

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, Waterwells hosted the annual Quedgeley Primary Schools Year 2 Sportshall Athletics event, welcoming over 40 Year 2 children from local schools. Our team performed brilliantly in a range of running, throwing and jumping events. 'Team Waterwells' finished joint 1<sup>st</sup> with Meadowside Primary – a superb achievement, well done all! Our Year 2 team consisted of: Lola Allen, Riley Brooker, Daeshaun Dixon, Lloyd Nwosu, Nevaeh Ryder, Benjamin Snaith and Rhys Thomas.

With summer just around the corner, we have lots of sport to look forward to next term. Key Stage 1 will be taking part in a multi-skills event and we will be benefitting from some specialist Zumba coaching too.

Looking ahead to Summer Term 2, Waterwells will be running a Race for Life charity event for all the children to take part in. A fantastic opportunity to raise lots of money, as a school, for a truly great cause. (More details will follow later).

### Gloucester Primary Schools Girls' Final

In our first girls' cup competition we have had a superb cup run. In the first round we travelled to Shurdington winning the game 9-1. Meg Prout's goals drove us to victory to give us a great start to the competition. Our second round match was a totally different contest against Meadowside. With the scores level at 2-2, thanks to an own goal and a goal from Keira Penrith, we went into extra time. Leilani Ryder scored a fine solo goal dribbling past 4 defenders to complete a 3-2 victory. In the final the girls produced a determined display despite losing 4-0, with goalkeeper Olivia Otterwell keeping Highnam at bay with some wonderful saves. The final against Highnam was a wonderful experience with pre-match photographs and trophies and medals after the game. All the girls that represented the school this year should be very proud of their performances and should look forward to next season. Well done girls!

**Miss Dando & Mr Henesey**

## Notices

### Parents of Reception Children

It has now reached that time of year where we begin to prepare the children for their transition to year 1. Therefore, in the mornings we would like to encourage parents to leave the children at the Reception classroom door, which will help to develop their independence and prepare them for the set up of Year 1. The TA is on the door in the mornings to support the children in the first instance and can take any messages that need to be passed to the class teacher. This enables the class teacher to be available for the children when they enter the classroom. Class teachers can still be spoken to on the door at the end of the day. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Drop Off and End of Day Collection

We would like to remind parents to leave classroom doorways clear so pupils can easily get in and out of the door safely and so that their parents can be clearly seen. As I'm sure you will appreciate, pupil safety is of utmost importance. Staff are happy to speak with you but on occasions there may only be one member of staff available, in which case, please wait until all the children have been dismissed safely to parents first. This will help speed up the going home process. As a result, staff may ask you to wait a couple of minutes to speak with them. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter.

### Gardening Volunteers

We have been successful in joining with The Royal Horticultural Society to set up a volunteer gardening club. Mrs Savage and Miss Forecaste will run this during the summer term. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Merryn Preece ([merrynpreece@rhs.org.uk](mailto:merrynpreece@rhs.org.uk)) who works on behalf of RHS and helps to organise school volunteers and training, she will be able to give you more information about the scheme.

### FOW

Friends of Waterwells would like to thank everyone for their continued support with fundraising and events so far. A FOW newsletter will go out next term with details of how much has been raised from recent events and will also include information about forthcoming events too. Everyone would like to thank both Tuul and Victoria for their hard work. They have both chosen to step down from their roles but will continue to support the work of FOW in a more informal capacity. Deborah Westcott (previous vice-chair) has now stepped up to take the role of Chair.

Well done to Meteor - the House where the children collectively earned the most house points this term for Believing, Engaging, Succeeding and Trying. The children voted for their reward – an extra 30 minutes golden time, which they enjoyed earlier this week. The counting will start afresh when we return after the Easter holidays.

Have a lovely break and we will see you when the children **return on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> is an Inset day).