



# NEWSLETTER

## Autumn Term 2, Issue 1

The first half of the Autumn Term is behind us now and planning for the Christmas period has already begun; scripts are being photocopied, songs being taught, roles allocated and lines will soon be learned. Amongst all of this, staff remain focussed on raising standards and ensuring the best provision for your children.

### FUND-RAISING

The majority of the first half of the Autumn term has been taken up with seeking contractors and quotes for the extension of the trim trail on the KS2 playground. Once agreed upon, we will inform you when the additional parts will be installed as it will mean the area will be out of bounds for a couple of days. Please don't think that Key Stage 1 pupils' experience at playtimes has been forgotten; we are currently looking for contractors to supply new playground markings.

The committee held a successful cake sale on 11<sup>th</sup> November which was very well supported by parents through the cakes provided and the purchase of them! The school recognises that the success of such activities depends on your support and generosity and we are very grateful. Approximately £100 was raised.

Children in Need Day was also a success. Your children learned about the where and how all the monies raised nationally are spent and contributed to this pot of money by participating in the fun activities that were set up and run by the School's Council during the lunch hour. Well done to you all – a job well done! The monies collected remain to be counted.. The day ended with a bake sale organised by a small group of Year 6 girls who baked and decorated their own cakes. The girls were very grateful for the additional contributions that were brought in; thank you to those parents, carers and children who provided them. Altogether, a sum of £60.00 was raised, so well done and thank you to Willow Horner, Katie King and Connie Green who made sure it all happened.

### POCKET TOYS

You will be aware that children are permitted to bring in pocket toys for personal use at break-times and lunchtimes. Whilst the system works well for the majority of the time, of late we have noticed that collectable pocket toys (e.g Moshy Monsters) are creating problems on the playground as a result of sharing and exchanging. Staff are also spending a disproportionate amount of teaching and learning time dealing with the fallout from disagreements over such items, as well as other pocket toys that are being brought into school. As such, we have taken the decision to ban these collectables in school. We are happy to continue to allow the children to bring in other pocket toys for the time being. **Please note, however, that we cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage of these items.** The School's Council will, over the next few weeks, talk with their classes about possible alternatives to individual pocket toys and consider ways in which playtimes can be enhanced. We welcome your thoughts on the matter.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Last Saturday saw the Milton Keynes Cross Country finals take place at Stantonbury. Having qualified a couple of weeks earlier, the team were all geared up for what was to be a successful race with a spectacular outcome. All of the races were over in good time and by 11.00 the last runner had passed the finish line. Staff, parents and participants then had to play the waiting game as the results were not announced for another hour! We are overjoyed to announce that Hanslope came in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the small schools section. This means that the winners shield will take pride of place in school for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year. We are very proud of all the children who represented the school in either the heats or the finals and fully acknowledge the teamwork that all who took part have demonstrated over the past few weeks.

Congratulations and well done to:

Samuel Browning, Samuel Elliott, Ross Curran, George Beesley, Jamie Rice, Jack Evans  
 Claudia Burton, Daisy Johnson, Daisy Bradley, Shamea Boyce, Hallie Ainsworth, Phoebe Sandison  
 Sunny Clayton, Issy Clayton, Sofia Batson, Cleo Munns, Sophie Bird, Eleanor Brain, Cora Ainsworth  
 Alec Common, Mario Colannino, Daniel Thomson, Matthew Float, Joshua Float, Dylan Jewell, Ciaran Phillips, Edward Harvey

Many thanks to Miss Britnell, Mrs Knight and Miss Marriott for running the training sessions, to Mrs Bird and Ms Cheshire for acting as marshalls for the school, to all parents who showed their support in a variety of ways and thanks in advance to Mrs Ainsworth who has volunteered to help run a 'running club' which will continue into the Spring term (for fun) but also in preparation for the athletics championships in the Summer term.

Hanslope truly are the champions!

## CLUBS UPDATE

We have successfully run a number of clubs this term, namely Choir, Cross country, football, martial arts and craft clubs in both KS1 and KS2.

As a school we value extra-curricular opportunities and recognise the positive impact they can have children's confidence. To that end, the following will be on offer in the Spring Term. Keep an eye out for individual letters for each club as some will not begin until Spring 2.

Activity	Aimed at .....	Led by.....
Choir	KS2 pupils	Mrs Czornyj
Football	Year 5 and 6	Mr Higgs
Dance	KS2	Mrs Doherty/Mrs Bishop
Nature Club	Years 1 and 2	MrsMacfarlan/Mrs Clanfield
Art	KS2	Miss Suckling
ICT	KS2	Miss Marriott
Running club	KS2	Mrs Ainsworth, Miss Britnell and Mrs Knight

## CYCLE TRAINING

Year 5 successfully completed their cycling proficiency and have received their 'passing out' certificates. We are pleased that we have been able to afford the children this opportunity; we trust they got from it what was intended.

Linked to this matter is a recent request from two School's Council members for a bike shed. Whilst Governors are willing to give this serious consideration, it is important that we gauge very carefully the numbers that would use this facility. Given the availability of space, it is likely that a bike shed could only feasibly be installed on the KS2 side of the school and, as such, I would like to find out how many pupils in **KS2** would cycle to school regularly and use the bike shed should it be installed. If you believe that your child would, please can you make a note in the Home School book or alternatively send the school an email in order that we can consider numbers. If you believe you would not use this facility, there is no need to respond. We look forward to hearing from you.

## SCHOOL POLICIES

The consultation period for the Food policy has now ended. I would like to thank those parents who brought to our attention the point about school provision of water bottles. The policy should have read that *'all pupils joining the school in the Foundation Stage are issued with a water bottle.'* The amendments will be made accordingly and the final draft will be available on the website in due course.

The school is currently in the process of reviewing the school's Behaviour policy and following a review with staff and Governors early in the Spring Term 2012, the document will go out to consultation; we look forward to hearing the views of both pupils and parents on this very important policy.

## PARENTAL SUPPORT

We are always grateful for any help and support that parents (and friends) are able to offer and we are fortunate at Hanslope School because not only is it forthcoming, we have a number of parents with specific skills or expertise from which the children can learn. On this occasion, Mrs Clanfield would like to thank the following for their contribution to the Key Stage 1 curriculum so far this term:

Mr Beesley, Mr and Mrs Scarlett and Mr and Mrs Brice for helping with the transport project.  
Mrs Watts, Miss Slack, Mr and Mrs MacDonald, Mr Dunlop and Miss DaCosta for their input into Creative afternoon

## PARENTAL VIEWS

The revised OFSTED framework for inspection is due to be implemented in January 2012. Produced in collaboration with a panel of parents, a new online facility known as 'Parent View' gives parents and carers the opportunity to give their views on their child's school, and to rank 12 key aspects such as quality of teaching, behaviour, level of homework. It is considered that Parent View will help parents make decisions about school choices, but will also give OFSTED information about schools that will help them inform priorities for inspection. For more information, visit <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>.

## **INDUSTRIAL ACTION**

You will be aware that industrial action is due to take place nationally on 30<sup>th</sup> November. This is to inform you that Hanslope School will be open on that day.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Hanslope Children's Centre News**

Sadly, due to the current economic climate and the lack of grants available, the Children's Centre project has wound up. The project was to build a purpose-built Centre on the school site for use by the 326 Club and the Pre-school. Many people in the local community put a lot of time and effort over several years into planning the Centre and organising fundraising events, many more people contributed to funds raised and gave their support to the project. We are grateful to all involved. In accordance with the constitution, the funds raised have been returned to the 326 Club and to the Pre-school.

*Anne Gambles (Treasurer, 326 Club) and Kerry Lancaster (former Chair, Hanslope Pre-school) former Children's Centre Group Members*

### **School Choir**

The choir will be performing at the Hanslope Christmas Lights event on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

As a school we are not always aware of the different events being held locally. Should you wish to promote a local community event, please contact the school as we may be able to include the items in the future newsletters.

## **DIARY DATES**

**Tues 6th Dec:** KS1 Christmas Performances – 9.30am and 1.30pm

**Tues 13th Dec am:** KS2 Christmas Performance in church. 10.30am

Evening school disco KS1 from 4.30 – 6.00 and KS2 from 6.30 – 8.00pm

**Weds 14<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS1 Christmas party p.m.

**Fri 16th Dec:** School closes for Christmas holiday.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012** – School resumes

Debbie Doherty

24<sup>th</sup> November 2011