



Dear Parents

This was my first half term as Headteacher of Ewell Castle Junior School and I can safely say I have enjoyed every moment of it. Our school is everything that any discerning parent would want for their child's education. Staff are warm, caring, talented and approachable and the children who started out as little strangers to me are now happy, settled, familiar faces and personalities who will stop and talk to me readily.



It is hard to believe that in only a few weeks so much has been achieved, from valuable lessons learnt in the classroom, to public performances, charity events, church services and day trips. There is always something going on in this purposeful and busy school and, yet, somehow it remains a peaceful, charming place in which to work and live as a school community.

Indeed, the wealth of visitors that have come through the doors both at open morning and for individual tours have commented on 'how quietly the children work'. One such visitor asked me what our school had that the school down the road doesn't. What an interesting and thought-provoking question! My answer is simple: Ewell Castle Junior School has that intangible 'X factor' and I am intensely proud of our school, its continuing success and popularity.

Have a super half term holiday everyone.

Kind regards

Mrs Phillips

Harvest Festival

On Wednesday 26th September, the Junior School held its Harvest Service at St Mary's Church, Ewell. Children from Year 2 entertained the congregation with 'Harambee' – a Kenyan thanks-giving song. This was followed by Year 6 with their own very modern rap, based on the importance of teamwork. During the course of the service, the children donated food gifts, which were shared between the new Epsom & Ewell 'foodbank' for the needy and to Vaughan House in Guildford, an organization which supports the homeless. Mrs Phillips led the service, supported by Rev. Sue Ayling and she was delighted that it was so well received by guests, friends and family.



Outdoor Pursuits Trip

On Friday 7th September Years 3 and 4 visited Three Peaks Outdoor Pursuits centre. The children were split into groups and participated in a range of activities and challenges throughout the day. These included quad biking, archery, high and low ropes and command skills. The visit was a huge success and highly enjoyed by all the children.

Mr P.Young



Football

A mixed start to the season for the Under 10s and Under 11s, with a number of convincing victories, mixed in with some narrow defeats. Against Surbiton Prep the age groups combined and the boys discovered their goal-scoring form with a hat-trick of resounding wins (5-2, 8-1, 8-1). However, it was our excellent passing game that really impressed. Lewis Brown, Jack Davies and Kieran Baynes all received special mention after their respective matches for setting up a number of goals with fine passes.

The Under 11s suffered two heart-breaking losses to Micklefield. Tobi Okuwa was resilient at the back in his match, making strong tackles and passing the ball well to his wide midfielders. Max Day scored the goal with a sharp finish in a 1-3 defeat. In the other match, goals from Samuel Elson and Oliver Whan were not quite enough and Micklefield scored a late goal to steal the match 2-3. Results improved dramatically against Kingswood House, however, with two imposing wins, thanks to both teams reviving their passing game. Daniel Raabe-Branch shone as Captain, setting up the majority of the goals in a 9-0 victory. Whilst Oliver Mooij and Benjamin Stone's hard-work in midfield helped set up an 8-0 win in their match.

The Under 10s have continued their unbeaten run from last season with two hard-fought wins. The win over Micklefield came on the back of a robust second half defensive effort, in which Laszlo Dubois made a string of superb saves in goal. Lewis McLellan controlled the game from his holding midfield role, scoring four goals himself and setting up Ethan Winter for his hat-trick.

An even tougher fixture against Kingswood House followed. Ethan Woodcraft was outstanding in defence, often covering for his out of position team mates and making numerous key tackles. Joe Brown worked hard all match on the right wing, linking well with Freddie Child, who scored a brace in the 3-1 win.

The Under 8s and Under 9s have so far only played one fixture – a triangular against Homefield Prep and Aberdour Prep. The A team won both their matches, and particularly impressed in the win over a strong Aberdour team. Tommy Barrell was commanding in midfield, passing well and taking on defenders with his dribbling. Kelechi Nwoko took all three of his goals very calmly, whilst Joe Blakeman in defence and Ben Richardson in goal withstood the waves of opposition attack. The B team was unlucky to lose both their matches, going down 1-2 and 0-2. Darren excelled in goal, whilst Sidarth, Harry, and Kane worked tirelessly in midfield.

Mr M. Darlow



Thames Young Mariners

On Wednesday 12th September our Year 5 and 6 pupils took full opportunity of being offered the experiences of raft building, canoeing and team challenges. The children learnt how to work together, use their initiative and overcame fears to stretch themselves with the outdoor pursuits, even capsizing into rather cold water didn't deter them!



Thames Young Mariners looks out across a placid 10-acre lake that adjoins the River Thames as it snakes its way through Richmond towards London. The site itself sits within the Ham Local Nature Reserve, which features some of Britain's best preserved heath land.

A great day was had by all and valuable lessons learnt, whilst having all important fun!

Mrs S. Laws



Netball

Our netballers have come up against some tough opposition this term in their two matches. Against Greenacre the team passed the ball very well, creating a number of chances for the shooters, Georgia Gunson and Yoojin Nam, who scored five. Kelsey Way and Ethan Moran, as always, worked very hard to track their opponent in a tight 5-7 defeat. Despite losing to Micklefield in the next match, there were encouraging performances from Sophie Carthew in attack and Pearl Faust in defence. Sophie and Zac Conibear scored the goals. The Under 8s and Under 9s will get their chance for matches after half-term.

Mrs C. Cope

Thank you

Thank you to all those parents who have supported us at fixtures, both home and away, this half-term. Thanks also to the catering staff for providing fine match teas for us following home fixtures.

Mrs C. Cope & Mr M. Darlow

Festival Choir

On Saturday 13th October 2012, the Junior School Festival Choir took part in the annual "Schools' Concert" at St. Mary's Church, Ewell. The children entertained the audience with their performance of *Day by Day*, *One Step Closer* and *Make Someone Happy*, before joining with local schools to sing numbers from *The Jungle Book* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Miss Brack also led the Senior School's Castle Ravens in a selection of songs from their repertoire.

The members of the Festival Choir thoroughly enjoyed themselves and did extremely well. This was reflected in the high praise from members of the audience, as well as the lovely comments from parents and staff from the other schools. Our thanks go out to Mr Leeson, Miss Schram and all the family and friends who came to give their support. It was a very enjoyable and successful event.



PSFA

Many thanks to the parents who attended the AGM on the 9th October. Minutes of the meeting will be published on the website. The next PSFA meeting will be held on the 19th November at 7pm in The Castle. We are looking for a volunteer to run the PSFA theatre club, please do let us know if you are able to help.

Tickets are now on sale from the School Office for the fireworks evening at the Castle on Friday 9th November.

Don't forget to order wrapping paper and ribbons for Christmas – the deadline for orders is Friday 16th November.

The Quiz night, Saturday 2nd February, is always a great social occasion and an excellent opportunity to meet other parents, whilst testing your general knowledge.

Grandparents' Coffee Morning

Nursery and Reception children entertained and delighted the huge audience of grandparents, family and friends who gathered to attend the annual Grandparents' Coffee Morning on Friday 12th October. They sang and danced their way through a number of contemporary songs in aid of Macmillan. Afterwards, delicious biscuits and cakes were enjoyed by all, provided by the dedicated members of staff at Chessington Lodge. It was an uplifting and memorable event which generated over £150 for this worthwhile charity.



Contact Information Details: All parents/guardians are reminded to check and update as necessary their contact information details held on the **Parent Portal**. Any queries, please contact the School Office. Thank you.

Pupil Medical Conditions: Please ensure that the School Office is notified of any current medical conditions. Copies of the Individual Pupil Healthcare Plan and Parental Agreement for School to administer medicine forms can be found on the School website/Login/Parents Quick Links.