



### HEADLINES

The beginning of this term saw the opening of our wonderful new Nursery facility. A team of builders toiled throughout the Summer holiday to erect the new building, which has been very well-received by all those who use it and indeed view it. Certainly at our recent 'Open Mornings' it has been the cause of celebration by visitors as some of the best facilities they have seen. As a consequence and, of course, due to the excellent staff who work here, our popularity continues to rise. The Nursery is currently full and there are only a few remaining places for September 2014 entry.



At half term it was the turn of Glyn House and decorators moved in to

restore the main hallway to its former glory. Despite one or two setbacks along the way, a full programme of renovation and improvement is now underway and is a source of great excitement for me as Head Teacher.

Life at school has moved from Autumn through to Winter at an alarming, yet productive rate, with many highlights, day trips and special activities along the way. Some of my particular favourites being the Grandparents' Coffee Morning, the Harvest Assembly, the visit of the Red Watch Fire Fighters from Epsom Fire Station and, of course, 'Carols by Candlelight' at St Mary's, Ewell.

This term also sadly marks the retirement of Mr Andrew Tibble, our Principal. Mr Tibble has worked tirelessly on behalf of the school for many years. He is a talented professional and an efficient, calm and supportive leader; often affectionately referred to by the very young children as 'Mr Tibbles'! I wish both Mr and Mrs Tibble a happy and enjoyable retirement and look forward to welcoming our new Principal, Mr Peter Harris into our school community in January. Until



then, enjoy the festive season with family, friends and loved ones.

Have a super Christmas Holiday!

Kind regards

**Mrs M Phillips**  
*Head of Junior School*

### WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING



Ewell Castle Nursery and Reception today (27th September) welcomed Grandparents to a special musical assembly and coffee morning in

support of Macmillan Cancer Research's World's Biggest Coffee Morning, to raise money for this fantastic charity. The children, some of which had only joined Nursery a few weeks earlier, sang and performed a variety of different songs in front of Grandparents and other family members. They received a huge round of applause from family and staff and then everyone enjoyed some refreshments.

### HARVEST

Our Harvest Assembly was held at St Mary's Church, Ewell on Friday 20th September 2013. Children from Years 1-6 attended, bringing with them offerings of food for local homeless people. Indeed, the altar of the church was loaded with a wide variety of thoughtful, generous consumables. Immediately after the service, which was led by the Year 6 pupils, the food was taken to the LeatherHEAD START Project which provides a 24/7 service to homeless people, providing not only food but skills training such as budgeting, job seeking, computer and cookery skills, reading lessons and music. Our food gifts were well-received by the chair of the Board of LeatherHEAD START, Myfanwy Tothill, particularly in the present economic climate when it is difficult for some charities to continue to operate successfully.



## GLYN HOUSE PUPILS THANK EPSOM FIRE FIGHTERS

Pupils of Ewell Castle Junior School (Glyn House) visited Epsom Fire Station this morning to thank Red Watch for putting out the fire at Glyn House over the Summer. Head Teacher, Mrs Phillips, and a small group of children presented the Fire Fighters with some chocolates, biscuits and a thank you card which all the children at Glyn

House had signed. After a tour of the Fire Station, the children persuaded the Fire Fighters to bring their fire engine to the School later this year, so that all the pupils can have the opportunity of meeting a Fire Fighter, looking inside a fire engine and seeing the fire fighting equipment.



## SPECIAL FIRE FIGHTER ASSEMBLY

The fire fighters came from Red Watch at Epsom Station. The firemen told us about the clothes they wear. The oxygen tank has pipes that come out of the bottom. This helps to stop them from getting damaged. They also have a whistle to tell them when they are running out of air. Their shoes have metal in them to protect their feet from the fire. The firemen wear gloves and eight layers of clothes to protect them from the fire. They told us how to be safe with fire. If we use sparklers we must always wear gloves. It was very interesting.

*Lily Bowles 2F*

## NURSERY PIRATES AND PRINCESS DAY

On Wednesday 16th October, Nursery children arrived at school looking very different! To reinforce the sound of the week 'p', children and staff, could choose to come to school dressed as Pirates or Princesses. We had a wonderful day playing lots of games and singing our Pirate song. The children then built their own ship and we sailed off on an adventure. A great day was had by all!

*Lily Bowles 2F*





## STREET CHILD AFRICA – ASSEMBLY

On the 14th November, Mrs Josephine Wales came to Glyn House to tell the children and staff about Street Child Africa; a local Thames Ditton based charity she is involved with. She explained that through the support and fundraising contributions that schools and communities in this country make to Street Child Africa, the charity is able to work with local people in countries such as Ghana to offer education, counselling and support to thousands of children who often live on the streets and who don't have a family who can help them.

Ewell Castle School has pledged to work with Street Child Africa as one of a handful of charities to support throughout the year.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We have all been finding out about the work of Operation Christmas Child and their shoebox appeal for children who would otherwise not receive any Christmas presents. Over half term the boys and girls were busy decorating and filling shoeboxes with small gifts and items of clothing. Thank you for making such a great effort – we donated 125 shoeboxes to the charity and I'm sure there will be lots of happy recipients.

*Mrs N Ludlam*



## THE EWELL CASTLE PSFA FIREWORK DISPLAY ON 8TH NOVEMBER

With all 500 tickets sold, this year's PSFA Firework Display was not only a sell out, but this ever popular and hugely enjoyable social evening included a hot supper and refreshments for all attending, and saw in the region of £900 raised for the School.

## CHARITY DAY

The Junior School held a special impromptu Mufti Day to raise funds for the survivors of the terrible typhoon in the Philippines. After school, teams of willing mums set up two wonderful cake stalls at both Chessington Lodge and Glyn House. Not only was it a fun day, but as a school we demonstrated how much can be achieved through co-operation and collaboration (co-incidentally our learning themes for this half term). I'm sure that you'll be delighted to know that we raised £624. Thank you to all who helped, contributed and joined in to help this worthwhile cause.





## THE TRIP TO HENLEY FORT

On Friday 6th September Years 5 and 6 went on a trip to Henley Fort. When we arrived we had to walk up a really steep hill and were exhausted when we reached the top.

Peter was talking to me about an investigation 'til we got there and the instructor showed us around. Then we were split into groups. I was with the main instructor with some other people like Peter and Klechi. Our first activity was the low ropes. In the low ropes in every section two people were blindfolded and couldn't see. When it was my turn to be blindfolded with Henry it was weird and I had to get to the other section without falling. IT WAS HARD!!!!!!!!!!!!!! But I got it on my first go. The second challenge was basically team challenge but a little different. We had to stand on a log and sort ourselves into name order without touching the floor which I was the first to act and we did do it. It took us a bit of time but we did it. Afterwards it was lunch. We sat down had lunch and then my team went climbing. We all went up the wall but Ewan. He didn't want to. I had a go and loved it but I didn't go very high. But at least I gave it a go. Our next task was team challenge. It was my favourite one! We had to get the ball around the pipe in a certain time and then get across the skipping rope without touching it with it moving. That was the last activity at Henley Fort but I had lots of fun.

**Callum Barnes 6L**

## PSFA QUIZ NIGHT

Firstly, thank you to everyone who supported the Fireworks evening in November. Despite the torrential rain, which did not stop until just before the gates opened, it was a fantastic evening and for the first time in recent years, it was a sell-out! Our next event is the Quiz Night, which will take place on Saturday 25 January 2014. Tickets will go on sale after the Christmas holidays but now would be a good time to start thinking about your teams, as places are limited to 100 tickets - teams of 8 maximum please!

We are aiming to come up with a selection of new events during 2014 and we will promote these through the PSFA section of the website and via the weekly email bulletin. As ever, if you would like to know more or make any suggestions for future events, it would be lovely to hear from you. Please email me at [v\\_craig@hotmail.com](mailto:v_craig@hotmail.com)



## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

St Mary's is an apt and beautiful setting for Christian services at any time, but hosting the Carol Service there always brings a sense of awe, wonder and occasion to our Christmas celebrations. The children sang a range of different carols beautifully. There were songs with interesting tempos and rhythms, some with a contemporary twist and some more traditional. The service was ably led by the Year 6 children who retold the Christmas story effectively, clearly and audibly. It was an uplifting occasion enjoyed by all and definitely put us all in the Christmas spirit!

## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Pupils and Staff of the Junior and Senior Schools came together shortly before 11am on 11th November for a Remembrance Day Service, to pay their respects, and remember all those who have died for their country in the many wars and conflicts since the First World War. In particular they remembered the twenty four Old Ewellians including Flight Sergeant Edward Budgell, Able Seaman Ronald Ayton and Flight Sergeant Richard Alderton who were killed during World War Two, whose names are engraved on the plaque that is displayed in the Tudor Lounge in the Castle building, and who we remember each year at this time.

## PANTOMIME VISIT

As an end of term festive treat Years 1 to 6 enjoyed an animated and highly amusing version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves at Redhill Theatre. The children's faces were a picture as the slapstick comedy unfolded and the encouraging shouts to guide the characters were heart-felt and, as the teachers will verify, deafening! Everyone had a lovely time and it was wonderful to have the whole school community together, 'Oh yes it was! Oh no it wasn't!'





## MUSIC

The Festival Choir took part in the Annual Schools' Concert at St Mary's Church in October. They gave a spectacular performance, which included their rendition of *Eye of the Tiger*, before joining with other local schools and the church choir to sing a Disney medley. Our thanks go out to all of the family and friends who came to show their support at what was a highly enjoyable evening.

Year 5 and Festival Choir had a great day out at the Primary Proms in October. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to visit the Royal Albert Hall and enjoy what was, for many of them, their first experience of live music.

The school's new Chapel Choir gave its debut performance at the Senior School recital on Thursday 5th December. After only four rehearsals, this was a huge achievement for our talented students, who opened the show with a moving rendition of Rutter's *The Lord Bless You And Keep You*.

## NURSERY AND RECEPTION NATIVITY SHOW

Reception were very excited about performing the Nativity Show to the parents. We had all enjoyed learning our words and all the lovely songs in our show "A Little Nativity". There were a few little nerves beforehand but the children were all very brave!

The children enjoyed acting out the characters from the Nativity story. Some of Reception were parents telling their Nursery "children" what happened next. Mary and Joseph (Daisy and Alfie M) enjoyed their walk through Nursery with their toy donkey – causing many smiles amongst the audience! The angels all looked beautiful. The innkeepers

enjoyed singing their song and Toby loved singing his solo. After their arrival in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph were very busy as they received visits from the shepherds, with their animals and the three wise men, who had trekked through the audience guided by a Nursery star and Mrs Way!

Thank you to all the parents for helping children to learn words and for coming to see us. We really enjoyed performing our Nativity to you.

**Miss Leadbeter, Bluebells and Poppies**





## NETBALL MATCH REPORT

On Tuesday 15th October 2013 Ewell Castle played a netball match against Micklefield.

We had first centre pass. I passed to Hyunseo who passed to Ananya who passed to me again and we managed to get it to the circle. Unfortunately Ananya couldn't score from where she was standing and Micklefield reclaimed the ball.

Micklefield passed the ball to each other whilst we defended. There was some really good defending by Sarah, Mandy and JD but Micklefield scored to make it 1-0. It was Micklefield centre pass next and they were able to keep the ball down their end for a while until they shot again, making it 2-0.

It was Ewell Castle centre pass next and I passed to Ananya who passed to Hyunseo who passed to me and I passed to Sophia who passed to Ananya who scored, 2-1. Then it was half time and Mr Darlow gave us some good advice whilst we ate some oranges offered by Micklefield. JD and Tara swapped places so that Tara could have a go at playing.

It was Ewell Castle centre pass when we came back on to the court. Micklefield got the ball but could not manage a shot because our defenders were doing so well. With a couple of shots from Ananya and Sophia, we managed to score our second goal, making the end score 2-2.

I accidentally said three cheers for Ewell Castle instead of three cheers for Micklefield! My player of the match is the whole of the team for doing so well.

**Isha Sinharay, 4Y**



## FOOTBALL MATCH REPORT

On 20th November 2013, Ewell Castle played a football match against Kingswood House at home. We lost the toss and they kicked off. We were playing really well but sadly they scored the first goal. From the kick-off I passed to Ethan who passed back to me and I did a 1-2 with Tommy and I ran down the wing and I crossed it to Joe who passed to Tommy and Tommy scored, 1-1.

It was half time and Mr Wellsted gave us some good advice. From the kick off I ran down the wing as fast as I could and I crossed to Joe who scored a cracking header and it was 2-1 to Ewell Castle. Sadly we conceded two more goals, making the score 3-2 to Kingswood.

We were so determined to score so I passed to Tommy who passed back to me and then I passed to Ethan who passed to Joe who passed to me and then it was two-on-one, with me and Kelechi against the goalkeeper. The goalie came out so I passed to Kelechi who scored in the open goal. The final score was 3-3. The players of the match are Tommy for his excellent goal and passing and Joe for his cracking header.

**Lewis McLellan, 6D**

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents for your support at home and away fixtures this term. Your assistance with the serving of match teas is also greatly appreciated.

**Mr M Darlow**



## YEARS 5 AND 6 ESB

The English Speaking Board Examinations have been the 'Speaking and Listening' focus for Years 5 and 6 this term in English. All children performed their talks, learnt poems and gave us exciting snippets of their favourite, most recent reads in class, with most pupils choosing to take on the challenge of taking the ESB exam on 14th and 15th November, in front of an examiner. It never ceases to amaze me that I am treated to such a variety of subjects and how knowledgeable and confident the children are, at delivering their information. We achieved a fabulous set of results with 10 out of the 24 children achieving the highest grades of Distinction and all the others achieving the next highest grade of Merit Plus.

*Mrs S Laws*



## ARTWORK



## CHRIS GRAYLING CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



## CHRISTMAS RECIPE – YEARS 1 AND 2 CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

Years 1 and 2 provided us with our very own Christmas cookery class. A "Cat" and a "Dog" demonstrated how their special Christmas recipe which included; Wise Men, Robins, Shepherds, Elves, Snowflakes, Presents, Santa, Camels, Pages, Cooks, Mary, Joseph and a Donkey together with love for one another, was all that we need to create the perfect Christmas.



## THE YEAR 6 BUSINESS GAME

On Thursday 10th October, Year 6 went into Glyn Hall for the Business Game. They were introduced to various helpers dotted around the room to help them with their business. First they had to decide what role they were playing. There was a Sign Manager, Business Director, Accountant, Marketing Manager and Sales Manager. Then they had to think of a company name and a logo for it. They were starting up a book mark

company! It was just like real life, as the accountant had cheques, money and deposit slips. They had to keep track of their money and pay money into the bank for a current account and deposit account.

After lunch they stopped the actual business and made a presentation using a poster to show how they thought they would run a small business. They were allowed to use anything for the poster but this time

they did not have to pay! At 2:05pm they gave our presentations.

Congratulations to the winners of the game: Calum Barnes, Victor Songui, Joseph Davies, Ethan Woodcraft, Sion Kwon, Joe Brown and Ewan Gentle and the winners of the presentations: Henry Tappenden, Noah Sanders, Elliot Moore, Thom Atmaciyan, Tobi Adefidiya, Sam Ellis and Lazslo Dubois.

*Mrs S Laws*

## FAREWELL – PRINCIPAL A J TIBBLE

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Ewell Castle, and for that I am grateful to so many parents, pupils and colleagues. My only sadness is that these words will only reach a proportion of those people without resorting to social media – which I will resist!

I leave after some twenty-one years, eleven as Principal, with mixed emotions. One does not work in an environment like Ewell Castle for this amount of time without forming strong attachments, but I feel fulfilled in what I have achieved and that towards which I have contributed. I am confident of future success of the school under the leadership of Mr Peter Harris and the colleagues I leave behind.

I am enthusiastic and excited about the future for my wife Deborah and I, as we both leave Ewell Castle. Deborah came to help out in administration for a day a week some fourteen years ago, since which time she has also assisted in the Bursary, and for the last seven years has been Examinations Secretary. Our children, Ben and Harriet, also remember their time at the Junior School fondly.

I am grateful for the kind words offered and the presentations made on behalf of parents by the PSFA, and by colleagues and Governors.

The future of the PSFA, incorporating 'Friends' of Ewell Castle, and the developments of the Old Ewellians Association will be of great benefit to the school and all those involved. I am proud of the building development programme that has been sustained through good and more challenging times. Our success in this regard has been in no small way the result of wise counsel and direction offered by the Governors (and Trustees) of the school. I am particularly grateful for their voluntary contributions and welcome support.

Rising academic standards and a vibrant extra-curricular life of a school are that to which we aspire. We achieve both, but most of all we retain the focus upon pastoral care which is the foundation of all we do. Increasing percentages, international athletes and professional artists in the world of music and drama give great satisfaction, but we have always, and will continue to, take the greatest satisfaction from Value Added measures and the development of someone less fast or not quite 'note perfect' ie. pride in all the blossoming young men and women that leave the school.



For me personally, it has been a most rewarding experience to have spent some thirty-six years in service in schools. It has been an opportunity for which I feel blessed. Teaching is a true vocation and you and others represent much of an extended family. Apart from perhaps the fields of medicine, the armed or emergency services, where else could one gain so much satisfaction in the service of others, and in our case with young people in particular.

We view retirement as the next phase of our lives. I feel a little less anxious than at the beginning of other phases, in good health if a little slower, and excited at the prospects. My children have extolled the value and pleasures of a gap year(s), ..... so here we go! You will appreciate that we have every reason to be grateful to you and Ewell Castle School, and we offer you all our very best wishes for the future.

*AJT*