



28 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

This has been a rather short but extremely busy term and as you will see from this newsletter, a lot has been going on. It is only when I look at what we have been doing and look through the diary that I realise just how much we have packed into a few weeks! In fact, a parent remarked at the Easter Fair, "you do so much here and it is good to be reminded of just what a fabulous school Goat Lees is".

This was certainly the case when it came to my recent birthday celebration as I was thoroughly spoilt by the school community for a birthday ending in a 0! I had a lovely assembly, some incredible cards from the classes, cake, balloons, banners and flowers that filled every vase we had. Having my favourite roast dinner on the top table at lunchtime was an absolute highlight and I was thrilled to wear my first ever tiara! Thank you to everyone that made it so special.

On Friday 1 March we were visited by our local MP, Damian Green. He met with me and we were able to discuss some of the current issues we are experiencing in schools. He also congratulated me on my milestone birthday as I was still surrounded by all of the decorations! I was able to take Mr Green on a tour of the school and it was an absolute pleasure as the children were engaged, respectful and keen to share what they were doing. He remarked on the level of support the children receive and it certainly brought it home to me that we are currently in a fortunate position in having such a level of additional adult support. We make the very most of this for the benefit of all the children and the staff really do an incredible job as managing over 200 children and meeting their individual needs can be a challenge, but one we gladly rise to. Mr Green commented on the lovely learning environment that we have and I do think the school still looks incredible, given that it was built in 2013. After his visit, Mr Green visited another one of the CARE Trust schools and apparently remarked that he had a thoroughly enjoyable visit to Goat Lees.

Environmental Workshop

On Wednesday, 6th March we had a visit from the extremely talented French musician, Etienne Sibille. Etienne came to our school to deliver the very important message on why we should look after our planet. His interactive show was delivered to our Year 3 & 4 children, with the help of an unexpected guest who crashed on to our planet from outer space - Scott, a little robot. *'Scott tells an important and a bit sad story of his planet which suffered from waste, climate change and destruction and he encourages children to take care of Earth, our own planet.'*



French Visitors

Pygmy Class have become pen pals with some French children from Ecole Notre-Dame - Dourdan. We were lucky enough to have a visit from them as they were at Kingswood for the week. We took them on a tour of our school, ate some typical English biscuits, and played games with them. We were impressed with the English that they spoke!



Bug Hotel Competition Winner!

Dylan in Year 1 won a competition which was run by Ahsford Borough Council. His design, which he made with his grandad, was based on Willesborough Windmill and it was brought to life at Singleton Environmental Centre. Dylan went with his family (including his grandad) and some friends from his class to fill the windmill with natural materials which will encourage a variety of bugs to take up residence. This will be displayed in the Designer Outlet Centre so look out for it when you are doing a spot of shopping!



KIC theatre

We started 2024 off with a visit from KIC theatre. This is always really enjoyable and a great way to start our learning for the term. Our focus was on our Geography and History topics.



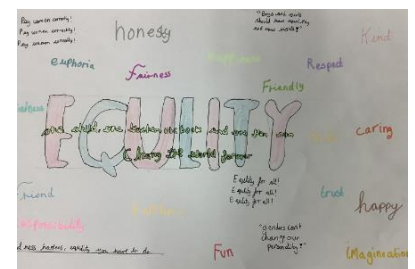
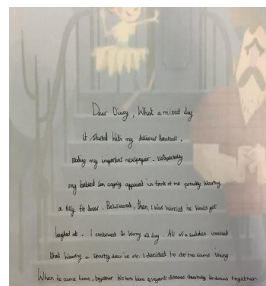
Year 6 litter pick

Year 6 have been on a litter pick in the local area around our school. We were saddened to see how much rubbish is thrown on the ground. We did this as part of our English work but also in honour of Dr Jane Goodall who will be turning 90 in April. Happy birthday Dr Jane - you inspire us!



World Book Day

We had a wonderful time during World Book Day in March where the children were invited to 'Dress to express.' So many children were able to tell us why they had chosen to dress in a certain way or why their chosen book was important to them. The following week, each class told us what they had learnt from their chosen book and why it is important to be our true selves. The whole school also did some buddy reading. What a lovely day with a real buzz for the importance of reading!



Science Week

In March, we also celebrated Science Week where each class did some additional fun Science experiments. The week ended with the two Mr Beck's teaching us about speed and travel: we explored how long it would take us to walk around the world compared to riding a bike around the world.



Easter Fair

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Easter Fair this week, we raised an incredible £1652.00 for the school. It was lovely to see our school community together again and thankfully the rain held off! Thank you to the Friends of Goat Lees for organising this and also to the staff and parent volunteers who ran the stalls.



Easter scene in a box

On the last day of term, we invited the children to create an Easter scene in a box. These were all incredible and we could see how much work went into making these. Well done to everyone!



And finally...

We are so excited by all of the wildlife found in our school grounds on our motion capture wildlife camera. This term we have seen: various birds including a sparrow hawk, hedgehogs, squirrels, foxes and mice.



We wish you all a very Happy Easter and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 15 April 2024.