

ISSUE 10
Dec 19

KNIGHT'S TALES



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD

We have come to the end of our 25 Anniversary year, a quarter of a Century for Chandlings and a notable milestone. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to our Trustee, Justin Marking. A huge supporter of the School for the last six years, he was instrumental in supporting the Astroturf project. The fine weather over the summer helped ensure that it was completed in time for the start of term.

I am sure that you have seen another new development which has been the electronic screens in the Front Hall and the Year 2 Courtyard. The combination of selected daily information as well as photographs from the weekly events has been well-received. As indeed has this term's other new initiative, the Fort-Knightly News. A pun too far, perhaps, but it has been a wonderful opportunity to share academic achievement from across all year groups.

Our Prep Carol Service marked the end of the Anniversary celebrations. With Radley College Chapel undergoing renovations, we decided to try something completely different - Carols for families around the tree. Having planned this, we kept our fingers firmly crossed and what a splendid event it turned out to be!

Throughout the term, the Year 6 children have been working towards their senior school entrance examinations. At this mid-way point, we are delighted by the number of offers and scholarships we have received. This is testament to the fact that exciting new initiatives and developments go hand in hand with excellent academic preparation.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.





CHANDLINGS NEW ASTROTURF IS OFFICIALLY OPEN

On Monday 30 September GB International Hockey player Holly Hunt and Ralph Townsend, Chairman of the Cothill Trust, declared our new Astroturf open.

Holly, who made her International debut for England this year, gave a masterclass session to Chandlings Year 5 and Year 6 girls before taking part in a Q&A session with girls from St Hugh's and Headington who joined them for the U10 tournament on the new Astroturf.



It was inspiring to have a GB International to present to them in school and the new Astroturf will foster the next generation of Hockey talent for years to come. We have already played 15 different fixtures on the astro including the U10 festival in September. There has also been an after school Hockey club run on the astro throughout the term. It is a fantastic facility to have at Chandlings.



NURSERY AND RECEPTION

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

What a beautiful performance by the youngest members of Chandlings this Christmas. Nursery spelled out 'CHRISTMAS' through song and dance. Songs included Christmas Morn (C), Hark the Herald (H), Robin Redbreast (R), all the way to the Snowflake song (S). Nursery children had worked really hard and were full of smiles and song.

Reception children delighted their friends and families with their performance of Whoops a Daisy Angel. This Nativity story tells of a clumsy, untidy, forgetful angel who is often overlooked when jobs are distributed amongst the angels. Poor Whoops a Daisy longs for a job to do and one night her wish is answered! 'I've got a job, I've got a job!' she shouts. An excited Whoops a Daisy has to spread the news about the newborn King. With songs, sparkles and smiles galore Reception entertained the audience and showed everyone the true spirit of Christmas.





YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 NATIVITY

The Year 1 and 2 children delighted us with a Nativity performance called Baubles. The story is set in school where a once neglected Christmas tree becomes beautifully and mysteriously decorated with baubles that depict each part of the Christmas story. Along with our very own Ms Cook and Mrs McAloon, all the children explained to the audience the meaning behind each decoration along with much singing and dancing. Thank you to all the Year 1 and 2 pupils and staff for getting us well and truly into the festive spirit.





CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



PREP CAROLS

This year we had a change of venue for our Prep Carol Service and bravely embarked upon Carols around the Christmas tree in the Year 2 Courtyard.

Thankfully it was a beautiful (if a little cold) evening and with the choir in fine voice, the combined talent of children, parents and staff and the glorious sound of the London Heritage Brass Band to accompany the community singing we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas celebration. Festive lights, traditional Carols and readings, warming refreshments, together with a smattering of snow helped create a very special event.





YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 INFORMAL MUSIC CONCERT

Monday 14 October saw the start of our annual informal concerts at Chandlings with Year 3 and Year 4 combined in the Lantern Hall. These informal concerts have been a wonderful opportunity for the children to show what they have been learning within their one to one lessons either in or outside of school. This was for many their premiere performance on their instrument in front of a supportive audience of family, friends and staff.

Their performances and the manner in which they undertook the event, were very impressive, including the entertaining compering that guided us through the programme and some extravagant bowing that took the applause! Well done and thank you to all those involved, especially the peripatetic teachers. We very

much look forward to hearing the children's continued progression over the coming year.



DOWNE HOUSE ORCHESTRAL DAY

Eight orchestral players from Chandlings joined twenty other Prep schools and Downe House, to form an orchestra of just over 300 children at the annual Downe House Orchestral Day. Throughout the day we worked on a programme of movie themes, ranging from Harry Potter, Star Wars, James Bond, The Lion King and Frozen, finishing with a concert for the parents at the end of the day. Having never seen the music until the day, the children were absolutely amazing and were truly inspired by what they had managed to achieve by the end of it all. It was a wonderful opportunity and quite an experience!



NEW LIBRARY COSY READING SPOT

During the summer holidays, while we were all relaxing and enjoying the sunshine, something magical was happening in the library. A transformation was taking place - gone were the large tables and chairs, the dull colours and bare walls. Instead, thanks to Mr Thomas and his team, we returned to a blaze of colour with an amazing new mural, freshly painted shelves and a new layout in the regenerated library.

Now, much less of a classroom and more of a comfortable, cosy reading environment, the library has taken on a new identity. With lots of cushions and places to snuggle down with a good book and much-improved display areas, the library will continue to be a favourite spot in school for all pupils.

Oh, and have you seen the reading tree...?



JAMES BISHOP SUPERHERO SUPERFUN



Last Term Years 2, 3 and 4 welcomed James Bishop to Chandlings to talk to them about being an author and his books about 'Iguana Boy'. James, a local author, told us all about his favourite topic - Superheroes! He also shared that when he was at school he didn't like reading. This brought gasps of disbelief from the children until he explained that that was only because he hadn't been reading the right books and encouraged them to keep trying until they did find one that captivated them. The children then made up their own stories involving Superheroes and Superpowers and acted them out to shrieks of laughter and some very convincing acting.

VISIT TO THE ABINGDON FOOD BANK

In preparation for Harvest 4H were lucky enough to be invited along to the Abingdon Foodbank. On Monday 30 September we climbed aboard the minibus and Mr Foster drove a very excited class over to Christ Church in Abingdon.



Sarah Fry one of the Foodbank coordinators met us and explained how and why the Foodbank was set up. We found out that the Foodbank had been set up ten years ago to meet the needs of people who are going through a period of crisis and are struggling to feed themselves and their families. There are now 35 volunteers that offer their time and expertise.

We were allowed to look in one of the store cupboards and saw a range of tinned food, fish, meat, fruit and cereals. There were also hygiene products like shower gel and toothpaste. After that, we entered the Church where some early harvest food had been dropped off. We helped carry it through to the main room and learnt how to label the tins. We checked which year and month the food had to be used before and then used a code A, B, C or D depending on which month it would be out of



date. For example, a tin with 'best before' June 2021 would be labelled 21B. Then we used our Maths skills to help label the tins.

The visit taught us a lot about how people's needs can vary and how many volunteers offer their time to help the Foodbank. We then enjoyed presenting this in our class assembly and hoped that our own Harvest celebrations will be used at the Foodbank too.

HARVEST FESTIVAL A TIME TO BE THANKFUL

As autumn began our whole school came together to celebrate Harvest with a time of thankfulness for all we have been given. We had an incredible response to our appeal this year - the tables in the hall were piled high with gifts for the Abingdon Food Bank and for Asylum Welcome. Everyone was invited to



write a thought or a prayer about something they were grateful for on a white star, and these were brought to the front during the service, while we listened to beautiful cello music played by Ms Evans, reminding us that thankful hearts are like lights shining in the darkness. In the afternoon our bumper harvest of gifts were picked up by volunteers from the charities, who were overwhelmed by the amount they had to fit in their cars!

6M helped to create a beautiful display of all the items that were brought in.





INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY

On International Day the children 'visited' over 20 different countries celebrating the nationalities represented at Chandlings. International Day is embraced by the whole school community with around 40 parents from a variety of countries hosting stalls which every child visited to listen, taste and experience different cultures.

The stalls included Japan, India, Singapore, Wales, Portugal, Russia and Germany to name but a few. Parents dressed in their national dress and offered quizzes, facts, games and foods for the children to collect and try. Spain had some delicious tapas to taste, South Korea brought sweet delicacies and France had some snails! All the children visited the stalls

with a unique passport, that needed to be stamped, and a form with questions to complete.



This year there was a new stall called 'Trash Isles' run by the newly founded parents' Eco Group which runs alongside the existing children's Eco Committee. Its aim was to raise awareness of the Great Pacific Garbage patch, highlight the growing problems of climate change and show how we can all live more sustainably.

The rest of International Day was filled with various workshops which the children showcased at the end of the day in the International Day Parade. Year 3 tried their hand at Taekwondo and learnt Korean writing. Year 4 took part in African

drumming, music and dancing. Year 5 'visited' the USA playing basketball, lacrosse and trying some line-dancing and Year 6 learnt other European languages and explored the Seven Wonders of the World.

"It's a day when we can celebrate our differences and unite in diversity," said Miss Wells, Head of Geography, who organised the whole event. "The children love the day and they can learn all about other countries and cultures. It brings together the school community of parents and children showing how we can learn from each other and enrich our lives."



"International Day is the best day at Chandlings," said one of the Year 4 children.





APPLE PRESSING

Every year Chandlings pupils and staff bring in hundreds of apples and pears from home in order to make juice. The initiative is organised by the school's Eco-Council and PATCH also help run the apple pressing during the week. The school hires the apple crusher, apple presser and pasteuriser from a local company, Abingdon Carbon Cutters, who look at different ways of reducing our carbon footprint. The pressed apples fill hundreds of bottles brought in by the children and are subsequently sold at the end of each day. Each year group from Nursery right through to Year 6 have the opportunity to press the apples.

The proceeds go towards other eco-friendly initiatives that the Eco-Council have voted for.



NURSERY AUTUMN OUTINGS

Spookily dressed Nursery children had a wonderful time in the Bluebell Woods with Miss Papp. They enjoyed listening to a story while sitting round the camp. They tried some roasted pumpkin which went down well with some but not everyone!

They explored the woods and discovered spooky surprises in slime, some ghoulish green worms and plenty of pumpkins. The morning finished with spectacular sparklers.



RECEPTION

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations the Reception children studied the story of The Little Red Hen. We then made our own fresh, brown rolls weighing out the ingredients and kneading the dough. Once cooked, we enjoyed the rolls while they were still warm, with butter and jam, delicious!



YEAR 1 GO HUNTING FOR DINOSAURS



Year 1 have had a rip-roaring time learning about Jurassic Giants. Our topic started with an Explorers Day. The children came to school dressed as explorers, only to discover that mysterious footprints had appeared in the school grounds overnight. There was a real buzz of excitement as we set off to find where they would lead. We followed them through the trees and over the fields until we stumbled across some in eggs nestled in nests. After much discussion and deliberation as to what they might hatch into, we brought them back to the classroom. We waited patiently and came to school one morning to discover they had hatched into baby dinosaurs. We have since had fun learning about their ancestors and finding out about significant discoveries such as those made by Mary Anning.



YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER

PYJAMAS AND POPCORN!

Pyjamas, popcorn, the Up DVD, a dorm disco and a delicious dinner and breakfast, all made for a wonderful first sleepover with Year 2.

The afternoon began with a Wellie Walk in the autumn sunshine, followed by sausages, chips and peas for dinner with choc-ices for dessert. Afterwards, the children (and staff) excitedly rushed upstairs to change into pyjamas and settled down on bean bags, grasping bags of popcorn for the movie Up.

'I love this popcorn and this is my favourite film!'

Teddy

After choosing a book from the library, for bedtime and early morning reading, the children prepared for bed. Whilst staff were overseeing the brushing of teeth, the children experimented with their surprise torches.



'Wow, these torches are so cool when you shine them on the ceiling!'

Hugo

After a few giggles, whispers and a secret dorm disco, the children settled down to sleep followed quickly by the teachers.

'Our favourite part was having our dorm disco when Mr Foster thought we were asleep!'

A quote from the boys' dorm!



The morning was soon upon us as the children stirred and crept around from bed to bed waking each other up. Squeals of delight were heard from Sienna and Lana as they discovered the tooth fairy had found them, even at school.

'I have loved sharing a room with all of my friends.'

All the girls



'Sleeping on the top bunk was fun.'

Esme

'My best thing was sleeping overnight with so many of my friends'

Sienna

'I loved waking up with all of my friends around me.'

Miya

After a quick change and a very impressive room tidy, the children cascaded downstairs to a continental breakfast. Croissants, yoghurt, fresh fruit and cereal fuelled them for playtime on the bark chip after which they were ready to be collected to go home.

'I was so proud of being brave enough to sleep in the dark.'

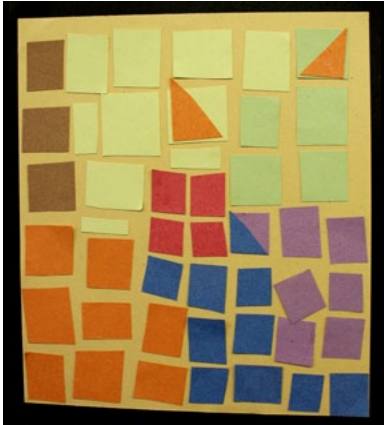
Sofia

'I would like a 3-day sleepover please?'

Lana

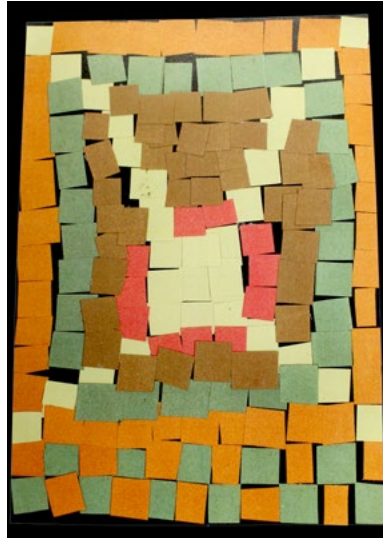
The sleepover can best be summed up by Raheem who said...

'The best part has been being part of a group!'



YEAR 3 MOSAIC MAGIC

Year 3 have been studying the Romans this term and as part of their topic they went to visit the Corinium Museum in Cirencester. While they were there they saw some original Roman mosaics which provided them with the inspiration to design and create their own. They had to think of a simple pattern or picture which, they could create using small tiles. Some wonderful designs were brought to life and put on display.



YEAR 4 VISIT CROCODILE WORLD

On Friday 4 October Year 4 pupils visited Crocodiles of the World in Brize Norton. They started by finding out some interesting facts about meerkats and then watched an otter feeding session. After that Colin taught them some fascinating facts about reptiles. Did you know snakes smell with their tongues?



During the reptile talk the children met and handled Malcolm the snake and Jackson a three year old American alligator!

After lunch they witnessed the Nile crocodiles being fed and learnt more facts about where they live in the wild.

YEAR 5 LAND AND WAVE

On Wednesday 11 September 32 pupils and 4 staff packed up and started the journey down to Purbeck Valley Farm near Corfe Castle in Dorset. After a rather windy journey through the Dorset countryside, pupils and staff alike were glad to finally arrive at the glamping site. A quickfire packed lunch and we were straight into wetsuits and safety gear to head down to North Beach in Swanage for our Jumbo Paddle Boarding Session. It was so lovely to see the pupils enjoying the water and we played games like 'protect the queen' and 'pirate ship' which were enjoyed by all. A hot shower awaited us on our return and we then had some teamwork and leadership games on site, after a hot dinner before our first night's sleep.

There were a few tired heads the next day, partly due to an owl and some other night creature having a conversation at 3.00am, but a hearty breakfast set us up for some catapult building and bushcraft activities. Pupils learned different ways of lighting fires as well as cooking flavoured breads and competing in an archery competition. An evening

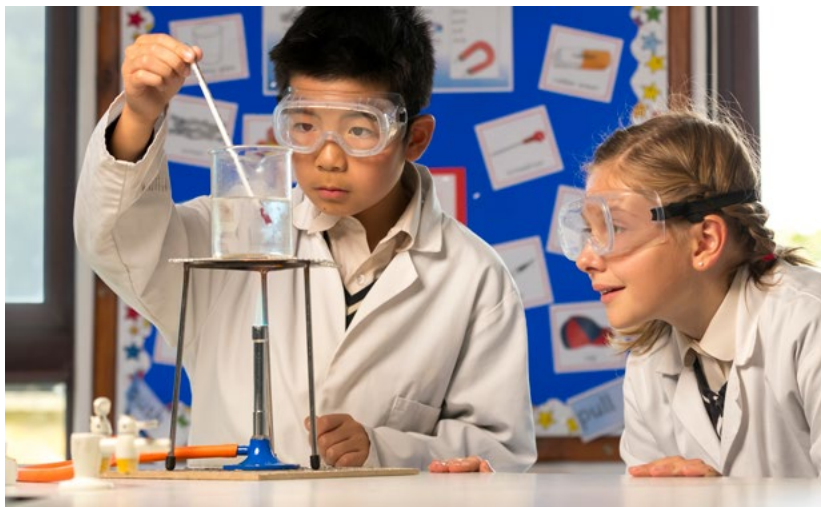
down by the campfire with games and marshmallows was a nice way to spend our final night.

On the last day we headed back to Swanage Bay and did some kayaking in shallow water and it really showed the pupils how demanding this activity can be. We finished with boat games and races before heading back to de-camp prior to our journey home.



Thank you to all the staff for accompanying the pupils in this fantastic opportunity as they embark into Upper Prep.





YEAR 6 SCIENCE EXTENDING AND EXPLORING

Year 6 Science takes the children to scientific places where they haven't been before preparing them for the transition to senior schools. Their knowledge is extended and they develop scientific enquiry skills. We are lucky to have two well-equipped labs offering the children plenty of opportunity for practical work. This includes using the eagerly anticipated Bunsen burners and an opportunity to earn their Bunsen burner license.



Chandlings takes part in the Big Science Event, an annual county competition where the children complete an investigation of their choice. Not surprisingly, Year 6 children often end up using Bunsen burners for their experiment!

For the rest of the Autumn term, they learn about microbes where the optical and digital microscopes open up a hidden aspect of the world. The children make temporary slides and discover the structure of plant and animal cells. During the Spring Term, the children further their knowledge of forces and take part in a cross-curricular STEM project. The hands on electricity and magnetism topic culminates in an investigation into the properties of an electromagnet.

Lastly, in the Summer Term, the children are prepared for the changes that happen during puberty and become equipped with the knowledge they need to make healthy choices about their bodies.

We are always delighted to hear from our alumni that the Chandlings Science curriculum has prepared them for moving on to their senior school and fostered an enthusiasm for the subject which has stayed with them throughout their educational journey.



PRE-PREP ART



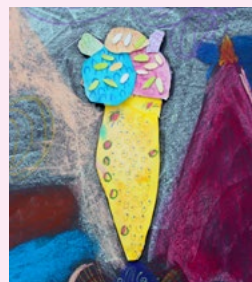
Reception had fun using real leaves to make a bowl. They experimented with oxides and glazes to decorate it and make it waterproof.



Year 1 looked at Jurassic giants to learn about colours and experimented with colour mixing and used mixed media. We really enjoyed making Dinosaur fossils.

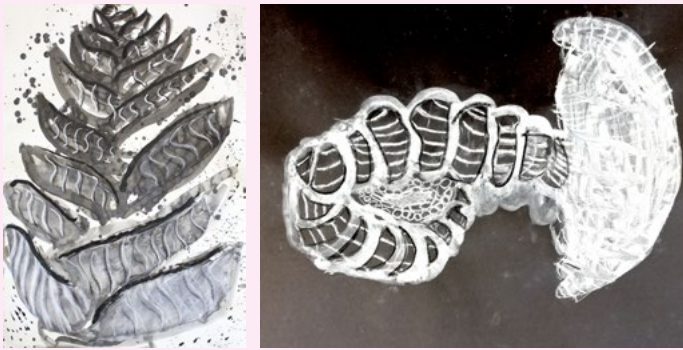


Year 2 used patterns, mixed media and block printing technique in lessons inspired by the Autumn season. They also used clay to make mushrooms for their gardens.



Year 3 experimented with colours and patterns in a project inspired by F. Hundertwasser. They designed a Lollipop tree or an Imaginary tower by using a layered picture.

PREP ART



Year 6 art scholarship group has been using black and white mixed media to produce drawings based on the German biologist Ernst Haeckel's beautiful lithographs of scientific illustrations.

Year 6 group project based on the work of the British artist Andy Goldsworthy, highlighting the beauty of leaves at this time of year. The Year 6 groups worked together to create these lovely pieces using oil and ink resist techniques then arranged the leaves into shape, colour, size and pattern.



Year 4 have made 'woodland folk' out of natural found objects such as acorns, feathers and pine cones. They have also created imaginative collages based on Terry Jones' 'Lady Cottington's Pressed Fairy Book' with illustrations by Brian Froud.



Year 5 have been making creepy crawlies based on the work of artist Nora Fok.



BOYS' RUGBY

The Rugby World Cup 2019 was a hugely successful tournament on many fronts. It showcased the very best sporting values and camaraderie the game is trying to promote. Here at Chandlings, most boys and girls watched with interest the progress of their favourite teams. Ultimately there were three winners. South Africa lifted the trophy but it was the game itself and Japan as a host nation who were the real heroes.

Inspired by the tournament, Chandlings teams played with distinction on the field of play and replicated Japan as perfect hosts at match tea. This was epitomised for all to see during the rugby House Matches which was very competitive as always.



Year 3 played Tag rugby all term against a host of schools developing their knowledge and understanding of rugby in preparation for contact rugby next year. Year 4 had a great season and did themselves proud at the Abingdon Festival where they did not lose a game.

Year 5 were really committed and very tight as a group. They never gave up in all their matches. By Year 6, Chandlings boys are very accomplished players and this year was no different. They had victories against Beachborough, Kitebrook, Christchurch and Abingdon Prep and played a thrilling 20 - 20 draw against Magdalen.

This year we were proud to host the Cheltenham Prep Rugby Festival, the Grande Finale to the rugby season, as Cheltenham grounds were flooded. Schools came from as far away as Clifton in Bristol. Clifton were a very strong team, but in the same way that Japan was a hero on that day, so was Chandlings.

PREP GIRLS' SPORT

In one of the most exciting Autumn Terms in recent Chandlings History, the Prep girls had the opportunity to be the first to experience the brand new Astroturf in all of its glory.

All girls in the Prep department impressed with their passion and determination in hockey. They adapted well to the increased pace of the game on Astroturf and by the end of the season, their increased time on the pitch in training began to make a difference in matches.

The Year 3 girls loved their first full term of fixtures, facing seven different schools and proving formidable opponents. As they applied dribbling and passing techniques learned in Year 2, they found they were able to manipulate the ball and create space on the pitch, impressing with their skills and knowledge of the game.

Across the term Year 4 progressed from smaller sided matches on a reduced pitch to eventually playing the full 7-a-side version of the game. As they transitioned onto a full half pitch they were able to move the ball over greater distances and eliminate opposition players with their passing. A particular highlight of the season was the Ashfold Festival at which both the A and B teams impressed with their drive and determination.

Year 5 and 6 proudly hosted home matches on our brand new astro including our inaugural U10 Festival at which we were joined by Great Britain and England International Holly Hunt.

Throughout the season teams welcomed the opposition but got straight to business when the whistle blew. In both the U10 and U11 age groups, the girls demonstrated an excellent knowledge of the game and it was clear to see that their movement and linking



The Boys' House Rugby was won by Astley and Richardson won the Girls' House Hockey tournament.

play has greatly improved. The U11s quickly gained a reputation for never giving up. Even against tough opposition they refused to lie down and came back from behind on a number of occasions. These qualities were no better demonstrated than at the IAPS Regional Qualifier. Travelling to Cheltenham College to face some huge schools who have grown up playing on Astroturf, the Chandlings team went toe to toe with them. On their way to qualifying for the Cup tournament they beat the likes of Colston Prep and hosts Cheltenham College before being knocked out just two games away from qualifying for Nationals. With the talent coming through and access to our own fantastic facilities, it won't be too long until we make that final step and reach National competitions ourselves.





INTERNATIONAL OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

Children at Chandlings went outdoors to play and learn on Thursday 7 November 2019, as part of the global Outdoor Classroom Day campaign. The campaign – started in the UK in 2012 – aims to make outdoor play and learning part of every child's day as organisers say it is critical to children's health, wellbeing and happiness.

Children often have lessons outside at Chandlings taking advantage of the 60 acres of beautiful grounds. Maths took place in the Bluebell Woods where the Year 4 children learnt about fractions using sticks and the Year 3 children were learning about number bonds on the tennis courts. Year 6 children were outside with microscopes as part of their cell and microbe topic. Year 5 art children were getting very creative making clay faces on the

trees and who said that music can only take place inside? The STEM playground became a musical band and Mr Stratford and some children were playing ukuleles where they have never been played before!





YEAR 6 DEBATING

Following the launch of a weekly debating club at Chandlings, four Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to attend a debating workshop at Rye St Antony in early October. Upon arrival they met pupils from other schools before having lunch which provided much needed brain fuel for the afternoon! The workshop began with some warm up exercises to prepare both mind and body for the mental workout that lay ahead. After a quick improvisational game of 'fortunately... unfortunately', pupils were walked through the procedures of a formal debate and given the opportunity to critically examine arguments by devising points of motion.

After a well-earned cookie break, pairs of pupils were told whether they would be arguing for (proposing) or against (opposing) a particular motion. Jack and Papa were tasked with proposing the motion that girls and boys should be taught separately; whilst Rico and Freyja were given the challenge of arguing that video games are not necessarily harmful to children. Jack and Papa presented a number of arguments in support of single-sex education and were particularly strong in their points of order. A show of hands marginally gave the victory to the opposing team, but given long enough some entrenched positions

may well have been abandoned! With a similar level of flair and some mild gesticulation, Rico and Freyja despatched the opposing team by deploying nuanced and rational critiques of the opposing side's arguments. A show of hands declared them to be the clear winners of the mini debate.

We all had an enjoyable, stimulating and inspiring afternoon and were made to feel very welcome by the English Team at Rye St. Antony. The pupils were fine ambassadors for Chandlings on their inaugural debating trip and were left feeling energised, buoyed and ready for more!



YEAR 6 MCS QUIZ

Ten pupils attended this annual event held on Friday 4 October. We were met on arrival at MCS by an ex-Chandlings pupil and showed to our tables. As usual there were seven rounds of questions, most of which brought looks of confusion among both parents and staff. Our teams however knuckled down and showed great determination and knowledge. The Chandlings 2 team were leading all the way through the competition but on the final quickfire round of twenty questions were just pipped to the post but took home a silver medal for a very well deserved second place, our highest ranking in recent years. Pizza and some ice cream was enjoyed at the interval and it was an excellent evening. Our thanks go to Magdalen College School for their hospitality.

INTERVIEW - ELSPETH GRIEG SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

Each term the School Council organises an interview with a different member of staff. They all decide upon the questions and then follow it up with an interview.

1. How long have you been working here?

In total, 10 years.

2. Has the library changed much during your time at Chandlings?

Yes a lot, especially this summer - there have been a lot of improvements.

3. Why did you want to become a librarian?

I used to be a children's publisher and I love children's books so it was a great job choice for me.

4. Do you enjoy your job? Why?

Yes, I do because I love seeing all the children that come into the library everyday.

5. How many books are there in the school library?

There are about 12,000 at the moment, I think.

6. How many more books could you fit into the library?

Ideally, I'd put in as many as I can!

7. Which authors are most popular with Chandlings pupils?

David Walliams, Jeff Kinney (author of Diary of a Wimpy Kid), J.K Rowling and Liz Pichon (author of Tom Gates).

8. Who is your favourite author?

I have lots but one in particular is Cressida Cowell; she wrote How to Train Your Dragon.

9. Who is your favourite illustrator?

I love David Melling; he did the illustrations in the Hugless

Douglas books. He came to Chandlings a few years ago and did a workshop with the children.

10. What's your favourite book?

I like funny books best. I don't like reading horror books. 'Kipper's Christmas Eve' is my favourite book. Every year on Christmas Eve, my family snuggle up together and read it. We've been doing it for years and we still do it now, even though my daughters are 22 and 18 years old!

11. What is the longest book you've ever read?

Oh I'm not sure.... I always think that if a book looks too long, I won't enjoy it as much!

12. How many books have you read in your life?

I've read thousands!

13. What's your favourite animal?

Guinea Pigs are my favourite. We've always had guinea pigs as family pets and once our guinea pig had babies... We didn't even know she was expecting so it was a big surprise!

14. What is your favourite food?

I love Thai food, because it's spicy.

15. What's your favourite table in the dining room?

I like the teachers' table because it gives me a chance to talk to the other members of staff that I don't normally get to speak to.

16. What will you do now that you are no longer working at Chandlings?

I will have more time to read books and drink coffee!



CHARITY



Our Charity for this year is Clear Sky.

Clear Sky aims to harness the power of play to enhance the emotional wellbeing of children and their families, by providing qualified therapeutic support and delivering professional training based on the very latest research. They are a local charity with a fantastic team of people working to help others. More information can be found on their website but their Rainbow Values help to give an idea of the enthusiasm and positivity that this charity brings.

We are a mindful team We let every child shine We create safe spaces
We are playful We never, ever give up

Cake Sale



A group of Year 5 girls seized the initiative and decided they would like to run a cake sale to raise money for this year's charity, Clear Sky. Every single crumb of delicious cake and biscuit was sold. The cake sale was a huge success and raised a huge £137 for the new charity.

Carol Collection

With our new venue in the Year 2 Courtyard we enjoyed hearing the beautiful voices of all staff, pupils and parents at our Carol service on Wednesday 11 December. There were collection buckets at the event and all the donations went to Clear Sky.

Jeans for Genes



Earlier in the term, the pupils and staff came to school in their jeans, aiming to raise money for Jeans for Genes. By the end of the day, we had learnt much more about what makes us all unique and celebrated the diversity we have within the school, as well as raising nearly £300 for charity.

Christmas Jumper Day



On the last day of term we finished the school year with our traditional Christmas celebrations. We had a fantastic array of festive jumpers and outfits. Children brought in a £1 donation for the school charity, Clear Sky.



PATCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

After all the months of planning, arranging and organising, the Chandlings Christmas Bazaar started with a (Christmas Cracker) bang this year beginning with the children singing Carols, accompanied by Mr Stratford on the piano.

Afterwards, the Bazaar opened officially with plenty of treats to be had. The children really loved the Donkey Sanctuary's lucky dip and of course the sweet stall was mobbed, as usual! There was plenty on offer for the grown ups too, fashion, hand-crafted wooden chopping boards, books, jewellery and candles to name a few. The cake stall was very popular for those wanting a sweet Christmas treat and a cup of tea.

A very big thank you to Erica Warburton and Tasha Sheppard, who organised the Bazaar and many thanks to all the volunteers and staff who set up, ran the Bazaar and cleared up afterwards. The event was a great success only because of your dedication! And finally, thank you to everyone who attended, your support is greatly appreciated, with a good amount of money raised for Clear Sky Children's Charity.



GIFTS FOR GROWNUPS

PATCH's annual Gifts for Grown Ups was a roaring success. Prior to the event, the children decorate gift bags with artwork (which are often kept by the parents afterwards!) The children enjoyed choosing their Christmas gifts for their loved ones and were treated with a visit from Father Christmas himself!

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time and energy, setting up the day before and on the day itself. It is a long day, but worth seeing those magical looks on the children's faces.





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