HEAD TEACHER’S NEWS – Issue 7 February 2012

What a busy half-term! Lots of exciting events have happened since my last Newsletter. Once again, the children have proved what a credit to the school they are. Please remember to check the website for updates and copies of letters - including the Friday Flyer.

Welcome
Since my last newsletter, we have welcomed the following children to Green Street Green: Paige and Kai Lawless (2H and 6W), Declan MacKenzie and Kayleigh Wyatt (both ST). We hope that all our new starters will be very happy at our School.

Staff
Just before Christmas, Mrs Slate joined as our new Admin/Finance Officer. She has been very busy learning about our school and undertaking various duties within the office. Mrs Slate is the person you should now speak with should you have any queries regarding school dinners.

Cultural Events
The children in Reception, Year 1 and the Speech and Language Classrooms had a very cultural few days this term celebrating Chinese New Year. They experienced Chinese food and learnt more about the celebrations that take place. I was very impressed with the children’s questions and they particularly enjoyed learning about the Chinese Dragon!

Sporting News
Well done to the Year 6 Netball team who recently took part in a Netball Tournament at Newstead Wood School. Alex Henry, Katie McNamara, Lottie Moore, Kerrie Motton, Emelye Peachey, Mia Quail, Sophie Ryall and Eleanor Savage represented GSG and all were a credit to the school.

Secondary Links
Mr Burchill has re-launched Science Club this term, at Charles Darwin School, which enables the children to take advantage of their fabulous science resources. We continue to develop our links with Newstead Wood and our Year 6 children have enjoyed working with the Year 10 students on challenging mathematical activities.

As Green Street Green is now part of the St Olave’s Primary Cluster Group we have been able to offer our eager Year 5 children the opportunity of attending St Olave’s Saturday ICT club.

Writing Competition
I am holding a writing competition for all children, from Reception through to Year 6. We discussed the competition during one of my whole school assemblies and the children were full of ideas. The story can be about anything and a maximum of 500 words - less is totally fine. The aim of the competition is to encourage the children to write!

The deadline is Friday, 24th February and the entries must be handed into the class teacher, for my attention, clearly marked with the pupil’s name and class. There will be prizes for the winning entries in KS1 and KS2 and I hope to make a display of the fabulous stories in the School Reception area.

The top three entries from each Key Stage will be submitted to the “500 Words Competition” being held by Radio 2 (details available from their website - http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/500words/2012/).

Charity Collections
Thank you to parents/carers for your generous donations during our Christmas performances. As you will know, this year’s chosen charities are Burgess Autistic Trust (local) and Dreams Come True (national). Thanks to your generosity, we were able to donate the sum of £172 to each charity.
**Attendance**
Can I please remind parents that if your child is ill, you should telephone the school before 9.30am to notify the office of the absence. Please dial ‘1’ to leave a message on the pupil absence line, giving your child’s name and class as well as the reason for their absence. It would also be helpful if you could state whether or not they have a school dinner or bring a packed lunch. Once again, we seem to be experiencing a high volume of pupils with diarrhoea and vomiting. If your child has these symptoms, please do not send them back to school until 48 hours after the last incidence of sickness or diarrhoea. Hopefully, this will help to stop the illness spreading.

**Safeguarding and Child Protection**
The safety and welfare of all our children is of paramount importance. As parents, you send your children to Green Street Green each day with the expectation that we provide a secure environment. We regularly review our Safeguarding Policies and update our Risk Assessments. The designated Child Protection Officer is Mrs Bond and I support Mrs Bond in her role. The designated Governor for Child Protection is Mrs Custis.
If parents have any concerns, it is vital that they bring them to the attention of one of the designated officers as early as possible, so that appropriate action can be taken. The Safeguarding Policy is available to view on the school webpage.

**Facebook**
Next Term, PCSO Strasser will be visiting our school to talk to the children in years 5 and 6 about Internet Safety. A key message will be the use of social networking sites and the fact that children under the age of 13 should not be using Facebook at all. Due to problems that have arisen with pupils using Facebook, I would like to remind parents/carers that, for your child’s safety, no children under the age of 13 should use this site.

**Severe Weather**
We shall try, wherever possible, to ensure that school remains open during severe weather. However, should a decision be taken not to open, a message will be posted on the school website and notices placed at the main school gates.
It is difficult to clear the whole site so, in the interest of health and safety, access ways will only be cleared at the Vine Road and Glentrammon Avenue entrances to school and parents should use these gates to enter and exit the site. If you are able to help with clearing pathways or playgrounds, please see our active Governor, Mr Tom Milsom, who is usually in the playground each morning.

Children love being able to play in the snow. However, we will only allow pupils outside if they have suitable clothing and footwear. Please, therefore, ensure that your child(ren) bring warm coats, gloves, hats and waterproof boots whilst it remains snowy. This will enable us to let them have some fresh air during the day – we usually have a rota for playing on the field when the playgrounds are too dangerous.
If snow worsens during the school day and it is decided to close early, a text will be sent to those parents registered with ParentMail. Anyone not registered will be telephoned immediately. Children will gather in the main hall and parents should collect them via the black gates. A message will also be posted on the website. Parents should present themselves at the hall to the teacher in charge, who will call pupils to meet the adult collecting them. A register will be kept of all pupils collected by an adult who is not their parent.

**Big Write**
The children continue to approach the Big Write with great enthusiasm and I am pleased to see how the standard of writing is improving within the school. Here are two lovely writing examples from Class 3C:

“Mrs Armatige wears a red, silky scarf. She had a paper-thin nose and also she has sleek grey hair. Her hair is as grey as dust. Her teeth are as white as pearl. Mrs Armatige is very clumsy because she doesn’t look where she is going and she wears tinted glasses that fall down onto her nose. Also, Mrs Armatige wears clothes that are as colourful as a rainbow. Her lips are as red as blood, she is very careless, surprising I think as she has a very exciting lifestyle. Sometimes I think Mrs Armatige’s friends are stupid and Mrs Armatige I think is strange.”

(by Karisa Patel)

“Double, double toil and trouble,
In the cauldron things will bubble.
Fillet of a penny snake;
Throw in a boiled steak.
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Must be boiled like a tongue of dog.
Adder’s fork and blind worm’s sting,
Now the magic will begin.
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Let the cauldron begin to bubble!
Double, double, toil and trouble;
In the cauldron, things will bubble.”

(by Finlay Webb)

**Road Safety**
This term Year 6 were entertained by a great cast of actors who presented a road safety play. George Hunt and Lottie Moore, Green Street Green’s own Junior Road Safety Officers (R.S.O), have done an amazing job of promoting safety and have led two whole-school assemblies. They have organised a road safety competition which the children have to design a road safety poster about being a safe pedestrian.
Lollipop Lady
As you are aware Bromley Council have made severe cuts this year, which have affected school crossing patrols and the service they provide. The Council are asking schools to pay for the ‘lollipop lady’ from, already slashed, budgets. Although we have written to many local businesses, in the hope of securing sponsorship, sadly we have been unsuccessful.
I am making a plea to all parents, working for a business which may be willing to offer support to maintain our lollipop lady through providing sponsorship. If you think your company may be able to help save our lollipop lady, please contact me as a matter of urgency. We are also investigating the possibility of a Zebra Crossing.

Visitors and Visits
The children in the Speech and Language classrooms had a fabulous trip into London this term. They went on the train and enjoyed the experience of the Natural History Museum. The children also visited Crystal Palace Park and learnt more about dinosaurs this term.
The children in Reception have been learning all about people who help us. They learnt a great deal from the Police and the Firemen who visited and were quizzed about the roles that they do.

A Visit from a Mad Scientist! Review by Emelye Peachey
On Thursday 2nd February, Albert and Elizabeth Wood paid a visit to GSGPS and started the day with a bang with some crazy and very dangerous science experiments involving high voltage electricity.
During a lot of these precarious experiments – which many included making large sparks – the hall lights had to be turned off because the investigations interfered with the electrics. We discovered that the experiments did indeed tamper with the electrics when the projector flickered! Some of the experiments were: putting metal in a microwave (and quickly taking it out), putting a CD/DVD in the microwave (won’t be using that again), and making a spark that was so bright no one was allowed to see it (even Albert had to put some special goggles on)!

Also Mr. Wood sent electricity through a sausage (burning it on the inside) and a gherkin (which caught fire) he also succeeded in making a very large ‘Jacob’s Ladder’. All in all it was one of the most interesting (not to mention dangerous) assemblies we’ve had in a long time!

Book Week
What a wonderful week we have all experienced, which was organised by our Literacy Leader, Mrs Morris. The children enjoyed a week packed full of exciting events including a visit from the author E R Reilly, who later signed copies of his book.
We are always encouraging the children to develop the skill of storytelling and this skill was experienced first-hand by all classes in the school when Linda Cotterill visited and told original stories in an interactive and engaging way. Later in the week, on Thursday, M&M productions entertained Key Stage 1 and 2 with a unique version of the traditional tale of Cinderella. The week was ended with each child and staff member dressing as their favourite book character. Book Week also saw the return of the Travelling Book Company, the mobile ‘book shop’, which was visited by most of you at least once. Funds generated from the purchases you made are turned into more books for school – both for the classrooms and for the Library so thank you for your generous support.
During the month running up to book week, each child was encouraged to get sponsorship to read as many books as they could for the Readathon Challenge to raise money for two children’s charities - CLIC Sargent and Roald Dahl’s Marvellous Children’s Charity - and we look forward to reporting back on how much we raised early next half term. Lastly, but by no means least, parents and family of those children who came first, second or third in their year group had the opportunity of listening to all winning entrants in the Poetry Recital held on Wednesday evening.
On Friday, children will be given a £1 book token to celebrate World Book Day on 1 March. This voucher is valid from 17 Feb – 25 March and can either be swapped for one free book, chosen from eight special titles celebrating World Book Day, or to get £1 off any book/audio book costing £2.99 or more.
Olympics Theme.
Green Street Green has signed up to the Get Set Network and has been recognised for our commitment to the Olympics and Paralympic Values. Being part of this network also entitles us to Olympic and Paralympic Games tickets and we will soon be finding out how many we have been awarded.

As part of the Olympic celebrations we are keen to hear from parents and carers who would be able to help with our Olympic celebrations in any way. If you do know of any sports persons who would be willing to come in and talk to the children, or can provide the school with any coaching, please do let Mr Mercer know. We want to celebrate this together!

Some Dates for your Diary
Finally, a few dates for events planned to the end of the academic year to enable you to organise your diaries.

February
Thur 23rd  Parents' Meeting re Y5 Residential Trip (3.30 pm)
Fri 24th   SHA Race Night
Mon 27th   Year 6 to Hillside PS - Bromley Junior Citizenship
Wed 29th   Bromley Mayor's Cross Country - Year 6

March
Fri 2nd    Choir/Phys Theatre to Fairfield Halls - Bromley Schools' Prom
eSafety Day for pupils (up to Y4)
Tues 6th – Thurs 8th Open Evenings – times vary
Wed 7th    eSafety (Yrs 5/6)
Fri 16th   SHA Children’s Disco
Mon 19th - Wed 21st Yr 5 Residential Trip to Marchant’s Hill
Mon 26th   Charity Week
Tues 27th  Spring Concert
Wed 28th   Class Photographs
Fri 30th   End of Term - 12.45 finish

April
Mon 16th  First day of Term
Mon 23rd  Swimming starts today
Fri 27th  SHA Wine Tasting Evening

May
Thurs 3rd  School used as a Polling Station (no pupils)
Mon 7th    Bank Holiday
Mon 14th - Fri 18th Key Stage 2 SATS
Mon 21st   Y6 Spanish Day
Thurs 24th Y6 Parents' Meeting for School Journey (3.45pm)
Fri 25th   SHA Pamper Evening
Thurs 31st 7.30 pm - Secondary Transfer Meeting for Parents

June
Mon 4th - Fri 9th  Half Term Holidays
Wed 20th  Y5 Maths & Science Day at St Olave’s
Mon 25th - Fri 29th Yr6 Residential Trip to Aylmerton
Wed 27th  Yrs 4/1 Sports Day
Thurs 28th  Yrs 2/3 Sports Day
Sat 30th   SHA Summer Fair

July
Tues 3rd   Bromley Induction Day Y6
Thurs 5th  Yrs 4/5/6 Sports Day
Fri 13th   SHA Children’s Discos
Tues 17th  Y6 Production/Leavers' Performance (7.00pm to parents)
Wed 18th  Y6 Production/Leavers' Performance (7.00 pm to parents)
Fri 20th   End of Term - school ends at 12.45 pm

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very happy half term holiday. I look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday, 20th February.

Mrs L Dando
Head Teacher