



**ASHURST CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARISH NEWSLETTER
SPRING TERM 2016**



Welcome to the school's Spring term article for the Parish Magazine, which has been produced by pupils in Y5&6 once again, at least for the most part. We hope you enjoy it and look forward to receiving any comments you may have by email to our new school website. Many thanks!

..... The end of the Christmas term was a busy one once again with Christingle Service, Infant Nativity, four successful performances of 'ROBIN HOOD' - which featured ALL of the pupils and raised over £200.00 for Cerebral Palsy - Y5&Y6 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR which raised over £200.00 for the ROCKING HORSE APPEAL **and** a wonderful CHRISTMAS PARTY, for which Father Christmas arrived just in timethankfully holding a BIG bag containing presents for EVERYONE!

This Spring term began with high force winds, LOTS of rain and LOTS of indoor playtimes, all of which have continued to the time of this Newsletter! Pupils throughout the school have been swimming at The Towers Convent and visiting Dalesdown Gym every week since half term in October - netball, football, hockey and, for Junior pupils now, TAG RUGBY, ready for the HORSHAM RUGBY TOURNAMENT on March 15th. Up and under!

This term all pupils share what they have been doing and learning with other pupils in school, parents, friends **and** governors at special Sharing Assemblies. On January 19th, it was the turn of Y3&4 pupils. Their SHARING ASSEMBLY was mainly about 'THE ROMANS'. It was fascinating finding out about where and how they lived and what they wore; and hearing from pupils how Roman soldiers must have felt in being far away from their homes and families in letters they had written as though Roman soldiers in foreign lands. The Y3&4 Assembly ended on the subject of 'SIGNS & SYMBOLS' and featured some amazing pictures and images of crosses, one of the favourite ones was the cross with the Biblical symbol of a dove and olive branch, symbolizing peace. Everyone in Y3&4 took part and the audience really enjoyed it. Thank you Y3&4!

On February 5th, those in Y5&6 presented their SHARING ASSEMBLY to other pupils, parents, friends **and** governors; and it was mainly about 'THE GREEKS': the gods they believed in and the city states they lived in, such as Athens and Sparta. The *audience* learned that Athens had a democracy where people voted on what they wanted to happen, so the Y5&6 class decided to try it. A debate was held - with a chair person and VERY specific rules as to listening carefully, not interrupting and taking it in turn to speak (all good rules for life, 5/6 thought). It was on the subject of SCHOOL UNIFORM - and whether they should have one or not! After a VERY lively debate, votes were cast and the

majority decision was 'NO'. However, they all knew it was just for fun because they are proud of their school and the school uniform lets everyone know, not only which school they go to, but also what sort of people they are - polite, helpful and trustworthy. The Y5&6 talked about the Chitons they had made - and which some were wearing on stage! They are a type of Greek dress like a Toga but with different patterns on the bottom. They explained about the Greek language and how they had written messages to each other. As part of the topic they had been to SHOREHAM COLLEGE for a special COOKERY DAY with former Ashurst parent and Home Economics teacher, Mrs Young, who showed them how to make delicious Greek butter cookies and scrumptious Moussaka! The GREEK topic ended with a memorable feast of humous, feta cheese and olives - which some of them actually liked! And, it was while they were feasting, that they had another *lively* debate - this time on the choice of their new topic, which has turned out to be 'REACHING THE PEAKS'!

Through this topic, Y5&6 are not only learning about mountains, but about people who reach up and achieve their life time ambitions and goals. So far, they have researched two amazing people: Simon Reinhard and Steven Whiltshire. Simon Reinhard holds the record for the fastest time recorded for memorising 52 cards in 21 seconds! Steven Whiltshire is an artist with an amazing talent for drawing panoramic sketches of places after only looking at them once! The class has been looking at mountains and mountain ranges such as: The Andes, The Urals, The Rockies, The Alps and The Himalayas. They have learnt many interesting facts, such as the tallest mountain in the world - which is Mount Everest at 8848m high; and have produced their own beautiful water colour paintings of mountains.

The Foundation/Key Stage 1 SHARING ASSEMBLY is coming up on March 8th and EVERYONE is looking forward to it VERY much - finding out what they have been learning, making and doing. We think it might be about 'IMPORTANT PEOPLE', at least in part, because we have lunch in the Infant classroom EVERY day and some of us have noticed a wall display with pupils' writing and drawings in it ...AND this title on it! We shall let you know in the Summer term edition of our Newsletter if we are right!

It certainly is a full and exciting term with: Y6 'BIKEABILITY WEEK', COUNTY CHESS COMPETITION, ASHURST SCHOOL SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL, CHANCTONBURY SCHOOLS' MUSIC FESTIVAL, Y5 'CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME', the SCHOOL'S MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE (March 13th), 'THE EASTER STORY' with MRS CROFT, 'OPEN AFTERNOON' (March 21st) and many wonderful FAPS events, still to come in the next five weeks; and how blessed we are that this is the case!

We thank you for your support and very much look forward to seeing you at various school events throughout the Spring term.

Meanwhile, kindest regards

Mrs Williams, Headteacher.