



Garnet's Gazette

Bite-size

Dates for your Diary

January

Monday 4th -Spring Term starts
Monday 8th - "Road Safety Week".
Friday 12th - Assembly at 9.00am

February

Half Term 15th to 19th

March

Sunday 14th March "Music al Mania 3" at St. Peter's School, Southbourne.
Thursday 18th -Parents' Consultation Evening
Thursday 25th -Easter Mass at 9.15am

Term Ends Friday 26th at 2.30pm

April

Monday 19th April -Summer Term Starts

PTA Dates

Wednesday 13th January -PTA Meeting at 7.30pm in the staff room.
Friday 5th February -PTA event "Wine Tasting Evening" 7.30pm in the School Hall.



Welcome to the first issue of The Garnet's Gazette Bite-Size. I hope you enjoy reading this first issue and find it contains lots of information in a bite-size portion!

There will be a bumper St. Thomas Garnet's Gazette in July recording an entire academic year, with content from each year group, department and of course articles from yourselves about the extraordinary things you all get up to outside school hours. There will also be an achievements page so if you would like yours included please send all details to Mrs Fox via her email.

Happy Christmas !

Andrea Yeadon -Editor

Christmas Celebrations

The Christmas celebrations were started off this year with the Infant's Christmas Performance on the 1st December, produced by Kate Gibbs and the Big Little Theatre School. Then there was the Junior's Carol Concert on the 3rd December performed by all the Juniors and including music recitals, songs and drama. This was then followed by the Kindergarten Nativity on the 4th. All three performances were wonderful and the effort put in by children and teachers cannot be underestimated. They certainly always put me in the festive mood and concentrate my mind on the true meaning of Christmas!

The PTA put on a festive Christmas Fair after school on the 4th December where the children were able to visit Santa in his grotto, participate in games and purchase items from the various stalls. Many thanks to all the parents who contributed items for this event on the two Mufti Days and to everyone who helped with the preparations and running of the Fair. Proceeds raised will go to PTA funds. Special thanks to Kelly, Amanda and the PTA team for all their hard work!

The school choir were present in Corpus Christi Church on Sunday 6th December to sing for the congregation and parents who attended Mass. Thanks to Mrs Penny and Mrs Landi for inspiring such wonderful singing.

The following week on the 8th and 9th December, the Infants and Juniors were taken on a trip to the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton to see Wind in the Willows featuring their school chum Oliver Mc Donald-Taylor and this was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Also at this time were the two Christmas Parties. The Infants on the 8th and the Juniors on the 9th. The children enjoyed party food and a visit from Santa, again organised by the ever-busy PTA.

Finally, the Advent Mass on the 10th December saw the whole school, parents and grandparents coming together to celebrate Christmas and finish off the Autumn Term in 2009 before breaking up for a well earned rest!

(Photographs and full articles will appear in the July issue of St Thomas Garnet's Gazette.)

Andrea Yeadon

Editor

Kindergarten's New Home!

Kindergarten join the Main School to provide a very secure Early Years Foundation Stage.

Kindergarten opened in their new classroom at the start of the Autumn Term and they are now well and truly one with the main school. A variety of exciting activities have already taken place jointly with our Reception Class. Planning and liaison will now continue to move from strength to strength. The Trustees previously named as the "Kindergarten Committee" have now changed their name to the "Early Years Committee." Members of this committee are Trustees, Mrs Sabih, Mrs Slater and Mrs Henwood and staff members, Mrs Baron-Gillings and Miss Tatum.

The pictures show our "Teddy Bears' Picnic", making pumpkin soup and Kindergarten having a story with me in the Reception classroom.

Mrs Cutler.



Reception Class



Mrs Cutler and Mrs Williams welcomed our new Reception pupils into the school last September, and Mrs. Cutler took on the role of Reception teacher whilst Mrs Gillings was making her recovery to full health. During this time all children began learning to read and have now all moved on to level two of the Oxford Tree reading scheme. Mrs Gillings returned after half term, and under her care and direction Reception are now moving quickly towards level three! They are learning to use their dictionaries and becoming independent writers.

The photograph shows Reception with some of their creative work...with sunshine too!

Reading Partners

On Tuesday afternoons J4 and Reception look forward to their very special reading partner time. This finishes off a Tuesday afternoon perfectly. Instead of a story from Mrs Gillings, our Reception boys and girls welcome J4 into their classroom. Each pupil chooses a book and a partner to share and read the story. Although it is only a short session, it is enjoyed tremendously by both classes and enables our older pupils to develop even further their very caring relationship with younger pupils.

Mrs Cutler



Members of J4 sharing a story with Reception pupils

Diwali

In October we had our special Diwali Assembly and afterwards we all enjoyed eating the special Diwali treat prepared for us by Ruby, Marley and Brandon's grandmother, Mrs Ramdharry. Thank you very much!



Summer Diary competition

Very well done to all our winners, pictured here with their prizes!



Football for the Infants!



A new introduction this year at school is football for the Infants. When the weather is clement on Tuesday afternoons, the Infant Department go to the field with Mr Higgins and Mrs Verstage. Mr. Higgins is teaching them all some early football skills. The sessions have proved to be very popular and are enjoyed by all, especially our new Reception class who look forward to this every week.

Mrs Cutler



Harvest Mass

Our Harvest Mass took place on Thursday 23rd October in our school hall. Father Peter very kindly celebrated the Mass for us which was extremely well prepared by Mrs Tobin and JI.

Boys and girls contributed plenty of produce to celebrate Harvest Mass, and all the produce was donated to the Salvation Army who would like to express their thanks for your generosity. Kindergarten and Reception learnt a very special song in praise of the beauty of Autumn which they performed for everyone.

Well done to Kindergarten and Reception for their excellent behaviour throughout the Mass, and to Mrs Tobin and all JI for all their hard work in preparing readings and prayers for the Mass.

Mrs Cutler



Her Honour Judge Deidre McKinney

20th October 1928 – 9th October 2009

Deidre was involved with St Thomas Garnet's from the very beginning, being Vice Chair then Chair of the Trustee Body until 2003. She was also part of the original group who provided financial guarantees that enabled the school to begin. Her legacy is in the school we know today.

I remember her as a fair and firm Chair, providing sound advice, encouragement and enthusiasm for our plans for the school. I also remember with affection her great sense of humour, her love of her dogs and her energy. She was always close to her family; to her brothers, their children and grandchildren, and always had time for the school despite her heavy workload.

For those of you who did not know her, Deirdre was a local girl, living in Granville Road for most of her life. She attended Boscombe Convent School, and in 1951 aged 22 she was called to the Bar, being then one of the youngest female barristers. She acted in criminal and civil cases, served as a recorder for three years before becoming a circuit judge in 1981, mainly dealing with family cases. She was a Governor of both St Peter's School and Boscombe Convent.. She worked until age 72 and then reluctantly gave it up.

Both Mike Cooper and myself were able to attend her Requiem Mass at St Thomas Moore Church.

A very gentle, modest lady - sadly missed.

Paul Gillings

Former Headmaster STG

Garnet's Academy

Garnet's Academy was launched on the 1st October 2009 when St Thomas Garnet's School and Big Little Theatre School joined together for an Open Day and invited all school families to attend and join Mrs Cutler and Mrs Guy for a drink and some canapés to celebrate its launch. BLTS students were in the studios and showed examples of their dance performance skills, and staff were on hand to answer any questions. The evening was greatly enjoyed and the performers attracted many compliments.

Applications for the scholarships being offered by the Trustees of STG and BLTS should be received by 29th January 2010 and auditions will then take place in the week commencing 8th February 2010 at the Garnet's Academy.

St Thomas Garnet's students attend their Speech and Drama lessons during normal school hours in the Garnet's Academy and are working towards their LAMDA exams with Kate Gibbs. In the Summer Term 2010 BLTS will be working with all the STG Juniors and staff in a 'Performing Arts Week' culminating in the annual school production. Watch this space!

Andrea Yeadon - Editor

Sporting News

This academic year has seen the emergence of football lessons for the infants with some fantastic ball skills on show...when the weather has allowed!!!

The Juniors have joined an indoor Athletics League over the winter months held at St Peter's School, Southbourne, where we are competing against other schools in the area including St Katherine's, St Joseph's, Corpus Christi and Christ the King.

Year 5 and Year 6 are now half way through their respective football leagues...with some wonderful wins, exciting draws and forgettable defeats!!!!!! In the New Year we will begin our away matches against St Katherine's, Stourfield, Pokesdown, Corpus Christi and St James'.

In October we fielded a number of sides (girls, boys and mixed teams) in a football festival hosted by St Peter's School, Iford. This was a five-a-side tournament that took place on a Wednesday afternoon with games lasting ten minutes. A great afternoon's play saw three of our teams come away worthy winners with trophies and certificates for all who took part.

After-school sessions for 'Street Dance' and 'Football Skills' took place after school this term, led by Mike Burke the Bournemouth Sports Development Officer. Miss Cook and Mr Longrigg ran a popular Table Tennis club, also after school.

Hockey and Rugby will be on offer in the Spring term...Archery and Athletics in the Summer term.

Mr Higgins

Fundraising



This term St Thomas Garnet's has raised £165.58 for Children in Need with a teddy bear disco held at school in the lunch-hour on 20th November.

14 students sold poppies for our Remembrance Day Assembly and collected £30.00 in donations for the Royal British Legion.



The PTA cake Sale on 23rd October this term raised £111 which was used to help fund the Christmas Parties. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and bought cakes!

The school Christmas Fair raised an impressive £600 for PTA funds to help fund the Infant and Junior Christmas Parties.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to all these fundraising events this term.

