

Dear Years 3 and 4

For those of you that don't know the Governors are a group of people who help Mr George run the school. We help decide how to spend the school's money, making sure that we use it to make Loughton the best school it can be for you. We are always trying to think of improvements! We visit the school regularly for meetings in the evenings, but we also try to visit during the school day whenever we can. If you invite us to any special events, one of us will try to come along. We will then tell the other governors all about it. We also read the school newsletter, your class newsletters and the Student Voice, and enjoy seeing reports and photographs on the school website.

We have loved hearing about all your activities and projects last term.

Year 5 Tetrahedrons

You really enjoyed your Christmas maths. You learned the properties of various 3D shapes and enjoyed making Christmas themed tetrahedrons from your 'Nets'. You made robins, penguins, Christmas trees, snowmen and even unicorns!

Year 5 Caldecotte

Fifty-nine of you went on a 'residential' to Caldecotte where you got the opportunity to try caving, sailing, open canoeing, going on the high wires, abseiling, zorbing, archery and stand-up paddle boarding.

Year 5 Music and Dance workshop

This was a 'stomp' style recreation using junk modelling which links to their theme of 'reduce, reuse, recycle'.

Years 5 and 6 Park Rangers After-School Club.

Some of you attended Park Rangers After-School Club. You worked with Park Rangers and enjoyed activities outside in the school grounds. You encouraged other children to learn about enjoying spending time in our local green spaces while staying safe. Well done for being environmental role models to your classmates. Year 6 Rangers were also involved in a project with the Parks Trust called 'MK Hogwatch'. For a week, you monitored a hedgehog footprint tunnel to see if you had any spiky visitors. Unfortunately, although you found some tracks, they were not hedgehogs' tracks, but you hope to find some when you repeat the survey in March. You had an assembly with Amanda and Jo from The Parks Trust and the Year 6 Rangers were awarded their caps and lanyards.

Years 5 and 6 Children in Need

Well done to everyone who donated and wore something bright and colourful for Children in Need. You raised £321 to help the cause.

Years 5 and 6 Sporting News

The korfball team won all of their matches at Sir Herbert Leon which put them at the top of the table. Squad: Matthew H, Ritchie C, Archie M, Bailey P, Catherine M, Paige E. Well done all round!

The Year 5/6 basketball team also won all of their matches at Radcliffe School. Beating Oakgrove in the semi-finals and Tickford Park in the final. The team progressed to the cup finals. The Squad was: Matthew H, Ritchie C, Bailey P, Dunja D, Toral P, George B, William B, Leo C. Great team effort!

Year 6 Kingswood Residential

Kingswood in Staffordshire is an Outdoor Activities Educational Centre. Activities include abseiling, zipline, quad-biking, buggy-building and archery! The challenges helped you to build self-confidence and self-esteem.

Year 6 Germany Residential

At the beginning of term, 35 year 6 pupils with five members of staff made the long journey to Boppard in Germany for your exciting 'residential'. Everyone had an amazing week sampling the delicious local food, enjoying ice-creams, a cable-car ride in Koblenz and a boat trip on the river Rhine. You visited one of the castles which perches on the hillside along the river, followed by a walk through the vineyards and a visit to a museum.

Year 6 Cross-Country Competition

Each year, you have P.E. lessons in the first half of the Autumn term training for cross-country. At the end of half term, each year group then has an inter-class competition. Boys ran 2000m and the girls ran 1500m. You did very well and many of you achieved all-time bests. Congratulations to HB15 for becoming the over-all winners this year, very closely followed by HB16. Well done to all.

The Cross Country team competed in the MK Primary Schools Cross Country competition. 52 schools across Milton Keynes competed and there were about 168 runners in each race. The senior girls' team of Lara, Lana and Catherine were totally dedicated and fantastic. Two of you were last minute reserves! The teachers were very proud of how hard you ran. Well done.

The senior boys' team of: Danny C, Reece P, Marcos, Max and Dylan ran an outstanding race. You kept together as a team, inspiring and motivating each other resulting in Danny finishing 7th, Dylan 8th and Reece 9th. This put you in first place overall and you each took a gold medal home. A further award, the Townsend trophy, was presented to Dylan for his outstanding and unexpected run on the day. What an amazing result boys!

Year 6 Book Box Project

Last half term, you were asked to inspire others with your reading choices. You rose to the challenge and teachers were amazed by your enthusiasm for the books you

had read and your inspiration and creativity. You were each asked to transform an old shoe box into a presentation of your favourite book and write a book review. David Walliams and Tom Gates, Harry Potter and Jacqueline Wilson were all well represented but also new books too. Lara (HB16) gave an enthusiastic talk about “The Last Wild” by Piers Torday. She had been given an opportunity to borrow the book, which has recently been acquired by the school library, and loved it so much.

Year 6 Denbigh School Children’s University

Denbigh School offer Year 6 students the chance of joining their ‘Children’s University’. This involves you attending their school every Tuesday for an hour to take part in a range of secondary school lessons including modern foreign languages (MFL), computing, science, art, drama, and design and technology. This gives you the chance to see what it is like to be in a secondary lesson and become familiar with the building and teachers, as well as providing an enriching learning experience. 50 of you are involved and 87 applied!!

Year 6 Student Voice

Student Voice representatives are Ben, Zara, Lucas, Holly, Izzy, Eva, Grace, Akshaja, Krisha, Seynab, Florence, Runa, Eve, Leo, Jashmine, Neel & David. You all applied and were elected by your class democratically. The Student Voice teaches you about British Values and encourages you to get involved with school life, have a say and learn that even if you were not elected as a representative your voice will still be heard.

You decided to have a sweepstake in each class. The idea was “What song does Mr George like to sing at Christmas time?” There were 30 song choices so everyone could take part if they wanted to. Unlike a traditional sweepstake, where the winner would win the money at the end, your sweepstake winner received a ‘goody bag’ that you created yourselves and the 50p ticket donation went to the charity.

Year 6 Sports Leaders

Well done to those of you that are Sports Leaders. You encourage children to get more active and become more interested in sports and physical activity. You go out on the playground and play games with the younger children, like basketball, and also make up other games, like obstacle courses. You try and encourage children who are not taking part in any physical activities to join you.

As well as playing games with other children, you also have other jobs like getting the equipment teachers need for PE and games lessons and helping with some of the sporting events you have at Loughton.

Years 5 and 6 Family Open Day

You took part in the first Family Open Day with over 150 mums, dads, grandparents, aunties and older sisters visiting you in your classrooms and taking part in one of the fun, practical activities over the course of the day. The activities included pizza making, reindeer hot chocolate making, creative writing, sepia photos, black-out

poetry, felt Christmas tree decorations, marshmallow snowmen, Christmas card making as well as showcasing maths co-ordinates and homework.

Year 6 Denbigh Shakespeare Assembly

The Dance and Drama club were invited to attend a 'Shakespeare Assembly' at Denbigh School. This was an opportunity for you to watch Denbigh's performance of 'Julius Caesar', as well as other Shakespearian performances from surrounding primary schools. The assembly included a 'News report of Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth' from Two Mile Ash, a 'Witches' Dance' and two Shakespearian songs from Loughton Manor, and Caroline Haslett's entertaining performance of two Shakespearian songs. 16 of you confidently performed William Shakespeare's 'Sonnet 18' in a professional, brave and passionate performance to an audience of over 200 people.

Year 6 SATs Week

Well done to you on completing your mock SATs. You all coped very well and took the whole experience in your stride. Many of you found that the SATs were not as scary as you thought and now feel much happier knowing what to expect in May.

Year 6 Spelling Bee Competition

You practised 240 spellings throughout the term and then were tested on 20 of the spellings. The competition between the classes was won by HB15. Here are some of the words in the competition for spelling: advise, knowledgeable, believably, twilight and re-energise.

Year 6 Music and Dance workshops

Each year group has the experience of a day's music and dance workshop linked with the current theme you are learning about. Each day ends with time to perform to your peers. The Year 6 theme was World War II so you learned dances from that era: HB15 learned the Jitterbug, HB14 the Jive, HB13 Swing and HB16 the Lindy Hop. HB15 performed a drama, with much success, about Evacuees. You had to focus on using your facial expression and body positioning to embody your character.

Year 6 Bletchley Park Visit

On Thursday 15 November 2018, as a part of your World War II topic, 120 Year 6 children and 20 adults walked to Milton Keynes Railway Station and caught the train to Bletchley. For some of you, it was your first trip on a train and you were especially excited to be escorted by a Transport Police Officer. You enjoyed an informative and busy day exploring the huts, museums and mansion. The guides at Bletchley Park were impressed with your knowledge of the War and all the adults were pleased with your behaviour. Part of the trip was spent at a workshop about the Codebreakers of World War II. You have completed projects about different aspects of the War: Gas Masks, Women in the War, Food Rationing, Games and Home Life. You also

researched different bomb shelters and for homework made model shelters - some very creative, using resources as bizarre as coffee and AstroTurf!

Your food rationing research was put to good use and each class made two batches of delicious bread pudding, following Mrs Solloway's Aunt's old recipe. The baking smelt delicious and you rounded off the day by wrapping each slice in greaseproof paper and tying with string.

These exciting enrichment days were fully-funded by the Friends of Loughton and have been a great success.

Year 6 'Giving is better than receiving'

This is the saying which Year 6 decided to follow for Christmas. You agreed that the money normally spent on school gifts, should be given to others less fortunate. Each Year 6 class chose gifts, from Oxfam, to help those more in need than themselves. HB13 chose to buy 'Super Girl' – which is a contribution to Oxfam providing education, leadership training and attitude-changing media campaigns, helping to empower women and girls. HB14 chose to buy honey bees; HB15 to help with supplying clean water and HB16 to contribute to education.

Christmas Cracked

On the 18 December HB15 and HB16 walked to the local Baptist Church to learn about the Christmas Story. You had games, made some mince pies, played Christmas songs and charades and completed quizzes and listened to a story about geese that explained the Christmas story.

So you had a very productive term, and you should all be most proud. Well done!

Best wishes,

The Governing Body, Loughton School