

Collett Catch-Up



The Collett School
Special Educational Needs

Friday 14th October 2016

Collett Day

What a great afternoon! Thank you to Angie Grange who planned and coordinated the event, Kerryanne Sager who obviously watched Blue Peter as a child and used the skills she learnt to make lucky dip and tombola boxes. Also thank you to everyone who helped on the day, staff and parents. For anyone who didn't manage to come along, there were some amazing face painters, delicious cakes, hotdogs and drinks along with lucky dip, raffle, punch balloons and name the bear. I think the main attraction for a lot of the children was the Police Van parked in the playground. They really enjoyed being handcuffed and shut in the back of the van. The event raised an amazing £1134.72.

College

Unfortunately I don't have an update on Taz and Bert this week but it sounded as if Miss Town and the pupils from Aspen Class still had an amazing afternoon at Oaklands College. They met some new friends this week, Belle and Merlow, two Bullmastiffs and Daisy a Bull Dog. They enjoyed a lovely walk with the dogs after everyone got to drive a tractor. Miss Town said "it was great fun".

Juniper Class

Miss Longley and Mrs Sewell decided to have an 'Independence Day' in Juniper Class on Tuesday. They had found that the pupils' first reaction when being given work etc was to ask for help rather than reading the question themselves. The day was a great success and the pupils realised what Miss Longley and Mrs Sewell already knew – they can do it! Everyone worked quietly on their Maths and History and had a great day.

Vader

Sycamore Class have a new member – Vader. Vader is a dark grey Syrian Hamster who is enjoying the attention from the pupils in class. I was first introduced to Vader when Mr Linford brought him to my office in his ball. He had stayed with Mr Linford at his home before moving to Sycamore Class and



Mr Hoults-Allen



Water and paint brush writing



Vader

Mr Linford found that he had missed his little friend.

Class pets are one of the many things that are fantastic about The Collett School. It gives the pupils the opportunity to learn pet care on a first hand basis and also benefit from the emotional wellbeing that a pet can offer.

Cookery

It has been another busy week in the kitchen with Mrs Curran. Some of our Upper School pupils were assessed this week on a recipe that they had previously made, so we had the glorious smell of Apple Pie again. Post 16 made Tuna Tarts this morning and then Lower School made smiley faces. No not the biscuit type but by using rice cakes as the face, houmous as the skin, a cherry tomato cut in half for the eyes, a raisin for the nose, slice of red pepper for the mouth and grated carrot for the hair. Such a simple healthy snack.

NO PENS WEDNESDAY

This was not a day where the pupils just played and had fun. They did have fun but by learning through different ways.

Fox Class produced some Harvest themed art. They discussed what foods grow and what foods don't, talked about fruit and vegetable and then painted their own Harvest pictures with vegetables in a basket. Hare Class did phonics with a difference. Instead of writing the word they found the letters, cut them out and stuck them down. This also helped them with their fine motor and cutting skills. They also sorted shapes using a ven diagram.

Juniper Class moved their lesson out onto the playground and wrote words using paintbrushes and water. They also had great fun using chalks.

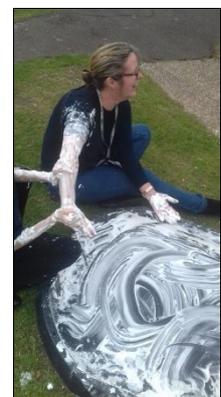
Sycamore Class played Dominos and Snakes and Ladders. During Dominos the pupils matched numbers and Snakes and Ladders helped them recognise which numbers come before and after.

Olive Class read a poem about a magic box. The pupils then made their own boxes and put a wish inside. They then had messy play and covered Mrs Witter in shaving foam. This was a great way for the pupils to interact socially and use a variety of communication skills.

Mulberry Class also did lots of communication by singing, playing hockey in PE and cooking.



Harvest Art



Social Skills and Communication

Hawthorn Class did some decoding work with pictures and speech rather than writing.

These are just a few activities/lessons that the pupils did on Wednesday. Communication skills are very important and a day like this gives everyone the opportunity to try different forms of communication.

Democracy

noun

'A system of government in which power is vested in the people, who rule either directly or through freely elected representatives.'

Mr Linford held a very interesting assembly during the week on the subject of democracy. With the help of Mrs Witter, a plate of shaving foam and the pupils he was able to demonstrate how a democracy works. The pupils got to choose who got the shaving foam pie in the face. Mrs Witter was a good sport and took her punishment but did manage to pie Mr Linford before the end of the assembly.



Mrs Witter lost the vote



Mrs Witter's Revenge

Coffee Catch-Up

There was only a small group of parents at the Coffee Catch-Up this morning but it was still lovely to see you. We all enjoyed an energetic assembly and then took the opportunity for a coffee, slice of cake and a natter. Why not come along and join us on Friday 18th November?

Harvest Donations

We have started collecting packaged foods for our Harvest Festival which we will be celebrating on Friday 21st October at the Salvation Army in Hemel Town. Letters with details have been sent home.

If you would still like to contribute please send in your item(s) to the school office. It does not have to be anything big, a tin of soup or packet of biscuits would be great.

Voles at the Gym

Friday Voles Class went to Sapphire Gym and had a great time. The staff also did their fair share of bending and stretching.

Uganda

As you may be aware we have a link school in Uganda that we occasionally send items to, so the community feel part of our life. On this occasion, we would be so very grateful if, whilst you are out shopping, you could pop a toothbrush in your trolley (please note the toothbrush has to be new). It doesn't have to be an expensive one, but the children would be so thrilled to receive their 'own' toothbrush.

Please can this be brought into school on Tuesday 18th October.

On another note, on Tuesday 18th October, Mulberry Class will have a cake sale, again for our link school where cakes will be on sale for 50p each.

Thank you for your continued support.

Car Wash

Juniper Class will be doing a car wash on Friday 4th November between 12:45 and 2:30 pm. The cost will be £5.00 and any additional donations will be gratefully received. The money raised will be going to Make a Wish Foundation.

Although the Friends of Collett is a registered charity, it is lovely to see the classes and pupils supporting others that are not as fortunate as us.

Spooky Stories

On Thursday 20th October The Collett School will come to life after dark. Do you want to know what happens in the corridors after all the pupils have gone home? Then come along and see

Volunteers

Before the summer holidays several brave people took to the skies to raise money for The Collett School. Mrs Lawton has provisionally booked the date of Sunday 11th June for Wingwalking and Tandem Skydives so if you are interested in an experience of a life time please contact Mrs Lawton via email on gillian.lawton@collett.herts.sch.uk



New Tooth Brush



Car Wash



Spooky Stories

Charity Event

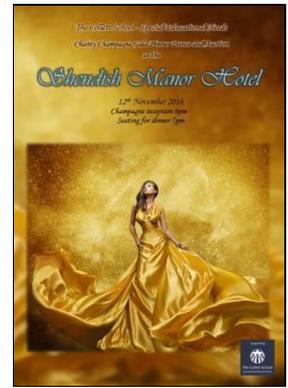
Mrs Lawton has been busy planning and organising our next major fundraising event. In November we will be hosting a Charity Champagne Gala Dinner Dance and Auction at Shendish Manor. Details regarding tickets etc can be found on the school website under 'Fundraising'. An online auction is run for the week leading up to the event and we are still looking for items to include. Do you have any contacts that could donate an unusual item or experience? We are also looking for bottles of Champagne.

Curriculum Focus

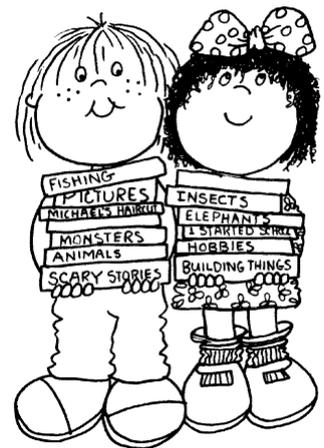
Reading

Sometimes it is difficult to know what to write in your child's reading record book. Do you find that you very often write the same statement? Below are some comments that you may find useful. These are only ideas of what you may wish to include in your comment that reflects your child's reading experience.

- Wonderful, John made extremely good attempts at sounding out unfamiliar words.
- Asked questions about the story and characters.
- Really enjoyed reading this book and looking at the illustrations.
- Very little help needed today. Remembered many of the letter sounds and read lots of words independently.
- Read his words loudly and clearly.
- Read the book enthusiastically, clearly and with understanding.
- Confused 'b' and 'd' sounds.
- Loved the pictures and we enjoyed discussing them together.
- She found the word 'after' very tricky.
- Noticed that the front cover had pictures in colour, unlike the inside of the book.
- Could you please review the level of her book as she found it quite challenging.
- John, I am thrilled with your reading. You are a super reader!
- We recorded Mary reading and played it back. She loved listening to herself read.
- John was able to use the pictures as prompts.



Charity Champagne Gala Dinner Dance



Achievements and Results

Friday Assembly

This morning Mulberry Class did a 'Yes I Can' assembly. They told us about how they have learnt about the history of art and went to our woods, mixed mud, water and leaves together and made their own drawings just like the cave men used to. They then taught us a bit about the Eco system and how cockroaches are eaten by frogs and then the frogs are eaten by birds that are then eaten by cats. I am pleased to say that the cockroaches they brought to assembly had not been eaten by any frogs. They then challenged us to a Makaton Quiz – who could get the most signs right – Mulberry Class or the rest of the school? It was close but I am proud to say that it was a draw, four points each. I didn't realise but the pupils of Mulberry Class have a shop. They do little jobs around the classroom which earns them money and they can then spend this money in their shop, taking it in turns to be the shop keeper. Thank you Mulberry Class for showing us all the hard work you have been doing this term, you definitely deserve a relaxing weekend.

There was dancing in the aisles this morning as Mr Linford went round the hall dancing with Mrs Wells, Mrs Smith, Mrs Morton, Miss Town and even a visitor to the school. Who knew that Pharrell Williams' song Happy had that effect on Mr Linford?

Many of the pupils had a thank you to say, mainly to members of staff who have helped them. Mr Wallace, a parent, also took the opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work and dedication.

Last week, Mr Houlton-Allen dropped the bomb shell of a Staff Talent Spot and Mrs Hicks took up the gauntlet. She sang a song in her own style and even changed a few words to make it her own. Crystal and other pupils and staff sang along with her. Well done Mrs Hicks.

Achievements

Bronze Award – Charlie, Liam, Jamie, Kerrie, Hannah, Kevan, Ewan

Reading Achievement - Murray, Ethan, Sevda, Lewis, Carlo

Lower School Chef - Aron

Middle School Chef – Abaigh

Upper School Chef - Jamie

Forthcoming Events

October Events

Week commencing 17th October – RE Themed Week

Thursday 20th October – Spooky Stories Night

Friday 21st October – Harvest Festival, Salvation Army

24th – 28th October – Half Term Holiday (School Closed)

Mrs Rachael Lampey

The Collett School

www.collett.herts.sch.uk