

# KEWLIFE

The News Letter of Kew Green Preparatory School

## ONE 'NORMAL' MONDAY MORNING ...



At 9.30 just after assembly on Monday, 12th September, the Upper School got the go ahead from Mr Peck - thanks to Miss O Hare - to line the banks of the Thames behind school to cheer as David Walliams swam past. He was completing the final part of his marathon swim along the length of the Thames for Sport Relief. Children, staff and parents lined the bank showing their support with loud cries of 'Go David'. To everyone's delight he then exited the river at Kew Bridge and walked back up the towpath towards the noisy crowd, shaking hands and giving high fives to the children. The BBC film crew were there to catch all of the action and the 'slightly nuts' children (to quote The Independent newspaper) are set to appear in the documentary detailing David's swim when Sports Relief comes around in March 2012. Francesca in Year 6 stated quite correctly that this was 'No ordinary Monday morning for Kew Green!' Thomas E.D. summed it up beautifully when he said "David Walliams took my breath away, the giant of a man towered over us as he walked down the towpath from the Thames. It was so exciting". We are looking forward to scrutinising the documentary next March to see if we are in it and we are thrilled to have been able to support his fantastic achievement. *Miss Bratton & Miss O Hare*

*"We haven't seen this level of support anywhere else on the journey. It's crazy!" Said the BBC camera man. Photos courtesy of our very own press photographer, Mr Ward*

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## FOR MRS GARDENER



All the children have rolled up their sleeves and made a fantastic start in their art lessons this year. Every pupil from the newest members of the school in Reception, through to Year 6 are involved in this creative

journey which hopes to culminate in a unique, collaborative school mosaic to mark the founding of the school in 2004. When Maria Gardener completed her time as Headmistress at Kew, the art department wanted to give her a piece of work where each child has been able to represent themselves. A piece that would unfold and grow over the coming terms so she can take pleasure in seeing it whenever she comes into school. Each child has made a clay tile and we now have well over two hundred tiles with designs ranging from bugs to paisley patterns, going through the first stage of the firing process in the school kiln. All tiles share the common theme of 'natural forms' and we hope to create the final piece later in the year. The Art department is working closely with Mr Peck to secure a suitable place for the mosaic, so watch this space and we will keep you posted. *Mrs Elden-Ford*



*This is a tile design from a talented Year 2 artist. The finished mosaic will be very special*

## YEAR 6 REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT



*A brilliant victory, well done!*

On Tuesday, 11th October, Year 6 took part in the annual Debating Challenge. The event, this year held in Ravenscourt Park's brand new school hall, was the culmination of four weeks of hard work and practice debates. This gave pupils the chance to build up their knowledge of the process of debating and tackle some very mature and intellectual topical issues such as:

*"The donor-card system for organs should be 'opt-out', not 'opt-in'."*

*"It is wrong that our society makes celebrities out of people who have no talent."*

*"The young people who rioted in London this summer, need education rather than punishment."*

I was delighted to find that nearly the whole of Year 6 took up the opportunity to conduct research, write persuasive scripts and stand up and debate in front of their peers in the run-up to the event, leaving us with some very tough choices as to who should be chosen to represent Kew Green in the three debates scheduled for the day. After debating two of the motions, Kew Green and Ravenscourt were even, the judges having awarded one victory to each side. The judges declared the final motion in favour of Kew Green, explaining that Annabelle in particular, delivered her argument with confidence, panache and clarity and so gained full marks! We had won the debate and the Debating Challenge 2011. We returned to Kew Green victorious, holding the trophy aloft, much to the delight of everyone in school. All credit to Year 6 ... don't get into a debate with them, you won't stand a chance! *Mr Rosenthal*

### *Professor McGonagall's Sorting Ceremony*



*It's clear that Jennifer Renna really is Professor McGonagall*

*One Autumn morning, Professor McGonagall and Professor Dumbledore arrived at Kew Green all the way from Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. What was the reason for their visit you may ask? To sort a magical group of children from the Upper School into Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw or Slytherin! These newly-sorted reading wizards are taking part in the Progress Centre's new competition: The Triwizard Reading Tournament. They have promised to put their most magical efforts into reading to gain points for themselves as well as gaining points for their house! The four Heads of Houses were also present at the sorting ceremony: Professor Ward for Hufflepuff, Professor Searle for Ravenclaw, Professor Bradforde for Slytherin and Professor McGonagall stood in for Professor Puckle, who is the true head of Gryffindor but was otherwise occupied that day! Their job is to strongly support the reading wizards of their respective houses. So far, both parties have done a wonderful job, as shown by the House Point Hourglasses. They are already filling up with coloured gems representing how many points each house has earned! If you want to know which house is in the lead, then you best get on your broomsticks and fly to the Progress Centre immediately! Mrs Renna*

### THE FIRST FEW DAYS AT SCHOOL



*Classic album cover?*



*Bold, colourful and very happy!*

The Lodge opened its doors as our new Reception classrooms at the beginning of September and welcomed 40 brand new additions to Kew Green. What a fantastic bunch of little people they are too! The Lodge is filled with busy, happy children who have taken school completely in their stride. We have been getting to know each other and finding

out what makes us special. We have been learning to read and write and there has been lots of counting going on and we have been exploring our new surroundings. Our hands have been busy creating some wonderful things in the art room and our outside area. Our feet have been busy as we have enjoyed sport on the green and investigating everything around us. Here's what we think of all the new things we have been doing:

*"I love the playground. I can climb the wall now and I'd never tried that before."* Tom (RG)

*"I like lunchtime because I get to taste lots of different foods."* Ralph (RG)

*"I like the art bit. We can choose what we'd like to make using all the things on the shelves."* Spencer (RG)

*"I love to paint fairies."* Hannah (RK)

*"I loved making a scarecrow potion."* Molly (RG)

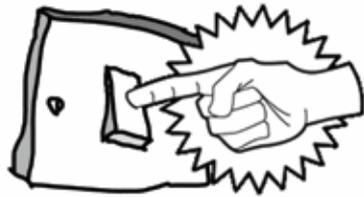
*"I love to build big houses with the coloured blocks."* Ralf (RG)

*"I love writing letters to my friends and putting them in the post box."* Ruby (RK) **The Reception Team**



## ECO SCHOOL UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome some brand new faces to the Eco team this term as several Year 3 pupils have joined. I'm pleased that we also have some experienced Eco-hands from Year 4. Year 6 Eco prefects Ben, Gus and Luca have been assiduously surveying classrooms at break and lunch times to ensure lights and white boards are switched off. They are taking a firm line and accepting no excuses. One teacher tried to get away with: "Although its my form room I wasn't teaching in here before break", which was met with the reply, "But it is your room so it is your responsibility!"



**Switch off fortnight, 21st November to 4th December**



**Eco team are always keeping a close eye so switch off ... and teachers better fall in line too!**

We are also lucky to have Jo Walton, Megan's mum, visiting our sessions, telling us about the Ashden Awards and sharing ideas. We are going to start a colour coded sticker system for switches. A switch with a green sticker means anyone can switch it off if it is not being used, an orange sticker can be switched off by members of the Eco Team and a red sticker must only be switched off by a teacher. Next half term we are getting ready for 'Switch-Off Fortnight', which we participate in every year. As preparation, we are

monitoring our electricity use. This term we don't have to go to the meter every week to take readings as Jo gave us an energy monitor, which shows how much electricity we are using at any one time. When we tried it recently, we saw the reading shoot up when the cookery club switched on the ovens and the vacuum cleaner was used. **The Eco-Team**

## WORLD PEACE DAY



To celebrate World Peace Day on Wednesday, 21st September, Year 2, made peace doves out of paper and talked about what they symbolise. The children gave some thought to how our lives would be different if everyone was peaceful and happy! They also wrote heartfelt acrostic poems using the word PEACE.

**Please stop fighting!**

**Everywhere people have to stop fighting,**

**And don't be mean to each other!**

**Care for people on Peace Day!**

**Everyone has to look after everybody!**

**Zara, 2K**

**Peace day means no fighting!**

**Everyone is going to be good.**

**Always be nice.**

**Care and don't make people cry.**

**Everyone must be happy and nice.**

**Max, 2K**

## RAWHIDE, STARWARS & JAWS!



On 14th October, Year 6 went on an exhilarating trip to see the London Symphony Orchestra play at the Barbican Theatre in London. The orchestra played pieces of music we all recognised from famous movies. My absolute favourite was 'Pirates of the Caribbean', it was as if you were sitting in the cinema during the movie but they were right in front of us. They also showed how music in the cinema makes the film seem so much better. Next, they played the 'Circus World March', which was very interesting because it demonstrated how the instruments played together to complement each other. After that, we listened to 'Hedwigs Theme' from Harry Potter. I loved this one! Did you know they only used brass instruments in this piece? Next, was Nimbus 2000 and soon afterwards was Alice in Wonderland's theme song. We have been singing this song at school recently so we sang along which I really enjoyed. In complete contrast was the famous theme music for 'Jaws'. It is amazing that two notes played really low on a cello could be so scary and atmospheric. It seemed those two notes were all it took to create an impression of approaching danger. Next was 'Rawhide' which was a favourite of everyone's because we had learnt this at school so we could sing along. I sang my heart out as it was the last song we would sing. For the finale of the concert, we were blasted into space by the theme music of 'Star Wars' - stupendous! I had to grip onto my seat arms to control my excitement! As this was the finale the orchestra seemed to put all their effort and enthusiasm into it for their best performance ever. It was such an astonishing experience to hear such perfect music right in front of me. **Charlie 6G**

[www.young-artist.co.uk](http://www.young-artist.co.uk)



Oscar, 5G has a painting featured on the following website: [www.young-artist.co.uk](http://www.young-artist.co.uk) Under the title 'About the artist' the website says: "Oscar worked on canvas to create this lovely painting of a strawberry. He has looked carefully at scale and shadow

which has helped him to produce a very realistic looking fruit. Well done Oscar!"

## MY JOODON EXPERIENCE



At the beginning of the summer holidays, 2011, my family and I went to visit Joodon School in Kenya. They greeted us with delightful smiles and the little children would not let go of our fingers. We spent three days at the school, two of which we shared lessons with the children of our age. My brother, Joshua, enjoyed a maths class with the year eights, taught by my dad! In a different classroom, I taught the Year fives how to sing a song that I had learnt from Mrs Coleman. On the first day, we played with the Headmasters children (He has 7 of his own and 6 orphans) as it was a Sunday. We also went to church with the family. It was very cheerful and completely different to our services. The following day, I handed out the letters sent from the pupils of KGPS. Their smiles were so wonderful to see! On this day, we saw the children line up for their lunch. They all drunk out of the same cup and shared the plates of food. On the final day, I taught a younger class the alphabet in English. My brother and I also witnessed a maths class taught by the eldest son of the Headmaster. We took lots of football and skipping ropes and they loved playing with them. Over all it was a great experience to play and learn with the African children. *Ella 6G*

## WHAT HAVE THE ROMANS EVER DONE FOR YEAR 3?



*'Ah yes, the sand timer, very clever isn't it'*



*Calm down Centurion!*



*The Romans ... beautiful architecture!*

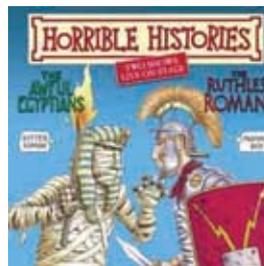


*Young Romans waiting patiently*

On a chilly Autumnal day, there suddenly appeared a group of young Romans marching across Kew Green making their way to the church for the Year 3 Roman Workshop. Mistress Holly led our day which was filled with stories and updates of Boudicca and her invasions. The young Romans spent time making clay pots and charms, mosaics, oil lamps and writing on papyrus with ink they made themselves. Throughout the morning they found themselves haggling with the greedy merchants to buy resources and to sell the trinkets

they made for a good and fair price. During the afternoon there was a fantastic banquet where the young Romans performed dramas and told stories including the somewhat familiar 'Boy who cried Wolf'. They also watched groups performing dances and military formations where the young Romans used life sized spears and shields. All of this while they relaxed enjoying a glass of blackcurrant squash flavoured wine from a silver goblet, accompanied by bread, cheese and tasty fruit. *Centurions Hunt & Birchall*

## THE AWFUL EGYPTIANS



On Friday, 7th October, Year 4 went on a real treat. We trooped off to see 'The Horrible Histories - Live on Stage' Egyptian sketch. Settling into our seats we were given the fright of our lives as the lights flashed off and loud booming music filled our ears. The story was narrated by a group of three archaeologists who were taken back in time by Rameses The Great,

who showed them all about life as a Pharaoh. We were shown how to mummify someone, which was pretty gruesome! All their insides were taken out, except for their heart and put into special jars, called 'Canopic Jars'. The brain was poked out with a hook through the nose, that was disgusting! Rameses showed us how to get into The Afterlife, he was a bit scary though! We were given 'Boggle Goggles' (or 3D glasses) for the second half of the show which became 3D. There were mummies flying towards us - we thought they were going to jump out and grab us! Isabella was so scared she grabbed Arjun's arm! Freya was lucky enough to find one of the ancient symbols under her chair, so her name helped the crew to open the tomb door! It was a really fun day out, we all hope we can go and see another one next year! *Amy, Isabella, Tabitha & Joshua Yr 4*

## GAMES, GAMES, GAMES

To celebrate this year's National Poetry Day, held on Thursday, 6th October, Kew Green decided to hold its own 'Poetry Slam'. The chosen theme was 'Games' which was set by the National Poetry Day team. We invited Brian Moses, a famous English poet from Sussex, to spend the day with us on Monday, 19th September. He ran workshops throughout the day with every year group. Brian spends half of his time writing poetry and the other half travelling round the UK and Europe visiting schools and performing his poems to an audience. He plays percussion to emphasise the rhythms in his poems and often feels that he has become the modern day equivalent of the medieval travelling jester!



**Brian Moses has written many books and poems ... all very funny and cleverly written. He was a great inspiration for the children!**

Following his workshops, all the children in school were set the challenge of writing a suitable poem about 'Games'. As with Brian's work, the emphasis was on performance poetry. The children in each class voted on the favourite poem from their class and this was put through to the finals, held in the hall on Friday, 7th October, which coincidentally was also Jeans for Genes day. Our panel of judges was made up of: Mrs Gardener, Mr Herington, Mrs Blair (from RPPS), Mr Lowe and Miss Morgan.



**"The standard of poetry was breath-taking!"**

The judges congratulated all the children at Kew Green for the standard of poetry written, saying it was 'impressive' and 'breath-taking'. Congratulations were extended to all the finalists who had the courage to stand in front of the Upper and Lower School and perform their poems, many of which involved dressing up, dancing and props. The judges, the parents and the children were overwhelmed by the talent that was presented before them. It made the judging very difficult but eventually the over all winners were chosen. For Lower School these were Woody H, 2K and Rehaan, 2G and for Upper School it was Alex HW, 6K and Alex S, 6P ... here is a selection from the winning poems ...



**Lower School 'class' and 'over all' winners**

**Outside by Woody, 2K**

Games can be fun  
Games can be long  
Games are great  
When you play in the sun.

Games in the play ground  
Hopscotch, Hide and Seek  
They are so much fun  
But you must not cheat.

If you do,  
You will be out  
And everyone will shout!

**Ten Men at the Crease by Rehaan 2G**

10 men at the crease, 1 got bowled.  
Then there were 9.

9 men at the crease, 1 got caught,  
Then there were 8.

8 men at the crease, 1 got run out,  
Then there were 7.

7 men at the crease, 1 got stumped,  
Then there were 6.

6 men at the crease, 1 got caught and bowled,  
Then there were 5.

5 men at the crease, 1 got caught at mid-on,  
Then there were 4.

4 men at the crease, 1 got caught at mid-off,  
Then there were 3.

3 men at the crease, 1 got clean bowled.  
Then there were 2.

2 men at the crease, 1 got caught!  
Then there were both OUT!



**Upper School Joint Winners of the Poetry Slam**

### **The Man in the Hat by Alex, 6P**

*The man the hat sits and stares,  
watching his city, but no one cares,  
that he's really tired of the same old game,  
Monopoly's just extremely lame!*

*So he goes to his neighbour chess.  
Dead royals all over the floor, what a mess!  
Too bloody, much too gory,  
so he goes somewhere else that's less boring.*

*He heard a game by the name of Scrabble,  
so he ran to it, along the gravel,  
but it had way too many letters,  
so he searched for something better.*

*He arrived at a mansion, really scary,  
absolutely horrendous, yes very!  
So he kept searching for the murderer,  
but the hard thing was he never heard of her.*

*So he said 'bye bye' to clue,  
so he replied very cunningly, boo!  
Then he strolled into the land of cards,  
but Texas Holdern was way too hard.*

*His last game was sadly Checkers,  
besides Monopoly there's nothing better!  
He hated all the games, especially chess,  
the King heard it, now the man's a mess!*

## **HARVEST CELEBRATIONS**



A fresh Autumn morning, brilliant blue sky and bright sunshine... it must be time to celebrate Harvest. What a fitting way to draw to a close the first half term of the year. The church, packed to the rafters with camera wielding parents, was filled with the generous gifts and donations from our school community that I know make a difference to the four local charities we have chosen to support this year. Our children were, of course, superb. They marked the occasion of Harvest with beautiful singing, thought-provoking readings, reflections and performance poetry. Great to see Year 2 making their poetry debut this year too! All three of our choirs were stunning, perhaps more so when one remembers that their sound was a product of only a few rehearsals. I must give the band a mention - well done Dawn on piano, San on Bass and Mr Peck on drums! A celebration like Harvest is an age old tradition that we are proud to continue to hold in our community. I know a number of schools that mark the occasion by simply holding an extended assembly. I imagine that we celebrate Harvest in the exact same way as the teachers and parents did when they young! *Mr Lowe*

## **PARENTS Vs STAFF... SO CLOSE**



*This photo was taken after the game and just before the hobbling started*

Once again we gathered on Kew Green for our annual Staff Vs Parents football match. The staff team were determined to seek revenge after being annihilated last year and were feeling a boost in confidence thanks to the injection of new talent, namely Larry, Rodrigo and Nuks. The two teams were evenly matched and after 38 minutes of rock-solid defending, skilful passing and a few monster clearance kicks from Matt "Foul-Throw" Bradforde, it looked as though a penalty shoot-out was imminent. However it was all settled by a last minute goal, headed in by man of the match, Mr Harrison. Christian Ward, who was under the watchful eye of co-defender Susanna Gillett, was also named man of the match for the staff team thanks to his excellent defensive efforts... and doing as he was told ... for once! The commitment and enthusiasm on the pitch was met with cheers of support from the side-lines resulting in a fantastic afternoon that was enjoyed by all involved, as it always is. *Mr Searle*

## **MIXED FIXTURE SUCCESS**

*Meaning 'Success' in mixed fixtures ... not 'mixed success' in fixtures, got that?*

This term, as well as concentrating on their normal sports of either football or netball, the children of the Upper School have had the opportunity to experience games lessons and competitive fixtures in the team sports as mixed groups. Lessons have seen the boys and girls working really well together, helping to educate and coach each other in all aspects of the sports such as technique, positioning and tactics. Quite a lot of the skills needed are transferable across the sports; however the opportunity to play a different team sport often teaches the children something that they can take back to their regular sport for the rest of the term. For example, the constraint of where you are allowed on a netball court has definitely taught the boys spatial awareness and the need to stay in positions on the football pitch. Our mixed fixtures have been against Latymer Prep and have been hugely enjoyable affairs, with all of the children in the year groups participating. The girls have shown a particularly aggressive streak when stepping onto the competitive football pitch and the boys have reluctantly admitted to really enjoying playing netball! Well done to everyone who has participated and for the positive, fun-loving attitude you have shown towards these afternoons! *Mr Puckle*

## **KEW GREEN YEAR 6 NETBALL TOURNAMENT 2011**

On a beautifully sunlit afternoon, teams from seven different schools assembled on the netball courts at Rocks Lane in Barnes for Kew Green's annual netball tournament. The teams were divided into two pools with the eventual winners of each pool seeing each other in a playoff for a magnificent looking trophy. From the word go the competition was intense with rock solid defence struggling to ward off skilful attacks. Many of the spectators commented on the quality of the teams as they watched the girls battling it out for the prize. Kew Green were represented by two teams this year. All the girls played with commitment and intensity, showing off the skills and techniques they had been learning this term. They were cheered on by many of their parents and Mrs Gardener (the loudest supporter). In group one the winners Orchard House and runners up Kew Green went through along with RPPS (last years overall winners) and Norland Place from group two. Kew Green went on to lose their semi final against RPPS but beat Norland Place in the third/fourth playoff. It was a very successful afternoon with Orchard House deservedly taking the trophy. I very much look forward to our Year 4 tournament in March. *Mrs Gillett*

*... and finally ...*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed my first half term as Headmaster. Thank you children, staff and parents for your continued support. Enjoy your half term. Jem Peck, Editor.*

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