

# KEWLIFE

The News Letter of Kew Green Preparatory School



*Recycle Superheroes in their natural surroundings on the Planet 'Green' preparing to come to save Earth!*

Reception have spent the last week of Half Term learning about recycling and the importance of saving energy in order to help keep our planet Eco-Friendly. The children have been busy collecting 1p and 2p coins which will be donated to our school Eco Club who will be putting it towards buying our very own giant recycling bin for the playground! They also brought in lots of old clothing to give to charity.

On Friday, 17th February, the week finished with a bang as we saw the arrival of the 'Recycle Superheroes' with 'Captain Can' (of Baked Beans), 'Lightning Man', 'Bubble-wrap Girl' (whose super powers included being able to float and fly very well indeed) and 'Bug Girl' to mention just a few. They flew into Kew Green to check that we are being as Green as possible. The Superheroes were very impressed with the Reception children and the rest of the school were very impressed by the Superheroes! *The Reception Team*



*Snaps of the Recycle Superheroes outside Reception with their close friend Mr O. Bot (kindly supplied by Noel Yr 5), before carrying out their good work reminding everyone to recycle! They said, "Don't forget to recycle!" and so we won't forget to ... umm... recycle.*

## THE CHILDREN'S VOICE

We are excited to announce that since the beginning of the Spring Term we have had a School Council made up of elected representatives in each class. This is a first for the school. There was a buzz of activity as we returned for the Spring Term with chatter and discussions about speeches, nominations and elections. Upper School prepared their speeches and then presented their ideas and campaigns to their classes, whilst the children in Lower School carried out surveys and votes in class. Two main representatives and two deputies have been elected in each class and the elected members were announced by Miss Hunt in Merit Assembly. The children are really proud to wear their School Council badges and take the meetings very seriously. Already we have had two council meetings and several interesting suggestions have been put forward to be considered by Mr Peck and the staff - a school pet, lockers, some small changes to school uniform and suggestions about aspects of homework. We have been pleasantly surprised by the maturity and considered approach the children have to their responsibilities. It is also fascinating to hear the type of issues that children hold close to their hearts! *Miss Hunt*



*Lower School, School Council Representatives*



*Upper School, School Council Representatives*



*Food Committee meet regularly*

## BEAR BUILDING AT BENTALLS



***It wasn't difficult to decide where to go for the year 1 trip!***  
This term, Year One have been learning about different types of toys and Teddy Bears. As a result there really is only one place to visit ... Build-A-Bear shop in Kingston to participate in a workshop. The first task was to choose a bear. Then there was a long wait while the children watched their bears being stuffed. Everyone giggled when Harvey got completely covered in white stuffing! After that, they washed off the fluff and brushed their bears until they felt and smelt divine. Then the children were given a heart to add to their bear's stuffing. At this point, each child made a wish that they kept 'top secret'. The most exciting part began next when each child had the chance to choose how to dress their bear.



***Happy teachers, happy children, happy teddies.***  
The grown-ups were very impressed with the children's behaviour and the ladies at the workshop said that the children were the best behaved they had had on a school trip! It was very tempting to touch all the different teddies or choose all of the hundreds of different costumes. However, they were very good - in fact they were better behaved than Miss Seed and Miss Armstrong-Smith. Both teachers were desperate to choose a bear and make a wish too! If that wasn't enough, everyone had a special bear box to take their bears back to school in. Now they will all have a special friend to love and look after even when they aren't in 1G or 1K anymore. ***Miss Seed and Miss Armstrong-Smith***

## CREATIVE DIGITAL CONTENT!



I don't think that many schools can boast of having a menu as amazing as we have at Kew Green! Sharon, Larry and the team regularly provide us with nutritious food, beautifully prepared and bursting with flavour! We feel that it is very important that our children are given the opportunity to be a part of menu selection and to discuss and learn about different types of food from around the world. This is where our Food Committee comes in! Representatives from every class meet on a weekly basis and discuss various topics regarding balanced diets and healthy attitudes towards food. You will be seeing more of the Food Committee in the next half of term as we are planning a 'classroom breakfast' and will be awarding a certificate to the class with the healthiest diet! Until then, bon appetit!

***Greg Searle***

## TAKE ONE PICTURE - A DISTANT MEMORY BUT A GREAT RESULT FOR KEW GREEN



***An excited Joe (now Year 3) unveiling one of his prints based of "The Family of Darius" painting***

It seems like an eternity since the Art Department took part in the Take One Picture initiative by the National Gallery and we have long since been working on a wide variety of new projects. However, after submitting our portfolio of work undertaken across the curriculum based on Veronese's "The Family Of Darius before Alexander" painting, we received a much awaited email from the gallery over the Christmas holidays to inform us that they wanted to come and take a closer look at our art displays. This excitement was twinned with an element of nervousness as we were aware of the huge amount of interest that Take One Picture creates nationally and, whilst being visited by the National Gallery was a huge honour for the school, it simply meant that we were through to the next round in what is a marathon of a competition.

Ali Mawle, Head of Schools at the National Gallery, arrived and photographed work and chatted to a handful of the children, who spoke particularly eloquently about their personal experiences of Take One Picture. A week later the gallery called again to inform us that they wanted to exhibit drawings and water colour paintings by Key Stage One and Year 3 children. They also asked to exhibit print making completed by last year's Year 2 pupils. This work will be displayed in portfolios in the National Gallery between 9th May and 16th September this year. This was the most fabulous outcome for the children as so many individuals within our school population will be represented.

*"The annual Take One Picture display at the National Gallery showcases the wealth of creativity in primary schools across the United Kingdom prompted by one painting from its collection. A painting that a great many pupils feel ownership of for the rest of their lives. We are delighted to bring the outcomes of rich and varied learning experiences together at the National Gallery; the visitor will see Veronese's painting through fresh eyes."* Ali Mawle, Head of Schools at the National Gallery.

We are adamant that solid drawing and painting skills pave the way to a successful journey in art education and this fantastic news, along with some incredibly positive feedback from the gallery itself cements our belief that Kew Green children are producing work of the highest quality in their art lessons.

***Emma Elden-Ford***



**Creative Digital Content?  
Programming starts here!**

to answering this is to encourage children to develop creative digital content, in other words, learn to programme, or rather, explore their way in to programming. An excellent starting point is based in Video Animation, something that we have now been running for the past 2 terms as a club but will be introducing as part of the ICT curriculum very soon. Helena in 6K is a fan, she said, "So far in Video Animation Club we have made a maze for our sprite (character) and have learned how to move it around a background which we have built and also know how to edit. In addition, we were taught to change our sprites and are trying to use different ways to control them. Next we hope to start making our own video game and hopefully we will get to show and play it to everyone at the end of term!"

Film making is another creative skill that the school is keen to establish. Year 6 are currently working on stop frame animations, film scripts, story boards and shooting schedules ahead of this year's French Day which will feature a short film made by each of the Year 6 Classes. Filming starts in earnest after the half term break! *Mr Peck & Helena, 6K*

**"I WAS HOLDING A CROCODILE IN CLASS TODAY ..."**



*Squirmy, fluffy, bitey, scaly, crawlly ... normal Year 2 stuff!*

Creative digital content is expected to be the next great creative export from the UK, following in the footsteps of the British music and film industries. It is thought that the problem in education is that we are becoming a nation who simply 'consume' technology, rather than generating something 'new'. The key

To launch our 'Wild and Wonderful' topic at the beginning of this term, Year 2 was lucky to be visited by a 'hands on' travelling zoo named 'Impeyan!' To help introduce the notion of classification they brought with them a variety of amphibians, birds, invertebrates, reptiles and mammals. The children were able to hold, stroke (and avoid) each animal if they wished. They were very brave and calm and showed respect when doing so. We all enjoyed holding the Bengal Eagle Owl, hissing cockroach, frog, gecko, chameleon, and fruit bat. We also saw a Sugar Glider from Australia and a Chinchilla from South America. Armadillos are faster than we expected and we did not realise a three-month old crocodile could bite your fingers off! Our favourite animal was Shakiera, the six-month old Meerkat. She was lovely to hold but surprisingly so too was the indigo snake who, while creating a stir amongst the staff members, happily crawled across the legs of the children sat on the floor. The workshop was really popular and caused quite a stir. There was a constant queue of staff at the door wanting to come and have a look ... not many wanted a hold however! It was a unique, informative and memorable workshop. *Victoria Homewood*

**LA GALLETTE des ROIS**



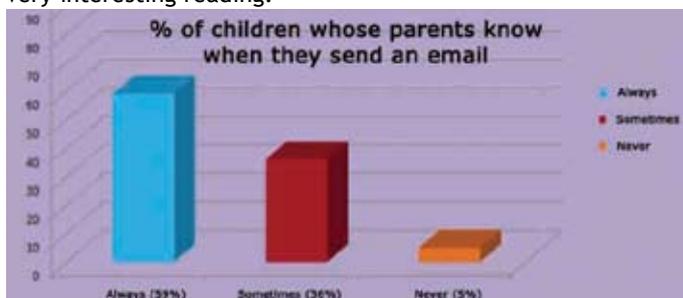
*Queen of Cakes!*

At the beginning of term, Madame Thorpe-Woods brought in a special French New Year's cake for us to taste. It is called La Galette des Rois. It is sometimes filled with pâte d'amond but we had one with apple purée (luckily) and it was délicieux. Before we were given a slice of the cake a 'caller', traditionally the youngest child in the class, calls people's names and as they are called each person is given a slice of the Galette. One of the slices had a little toy hidden inside it - whoever won the toy would be King or Queen for the day

and wear a crown. Effie was Queen in 1K and Isabel in 1G. No kings this year! Then we all wished one another une Bonne Année! *Madame Thorpe-Woods*

**SAFER INTERNET DAY**

Tuesday, 7th February was European Safer Internet Day and to mark the occasion, Deven and Krupa Ratneshwar from ComputerXplorers came to talk to both the Upper School and Lower School about how children can best protect themselves when online. To coincide with this, ICT lessons used Think U Know's Cyber Cafe. This is a great resource for understanding the risks of the internet and can be accessed from home. The assemblies served to enlighten the pupils further regarding the potential of email and social networking sites. Indeed, speaking to those pupils involved afterwards, the consensus of opinion suggested they would now think more carefully about what information they would disclose when they're online. With the theme for this year's event 'Connecting generations and each other', I was keen to collate and present the information collected from pupils and parents about their internet use via an online survey. Some of the results (below) made for some very interesting reading:



## OUT OF THE BOX, OVER THE HEAD, UNDER THE TABLE AND WAIT FOR THE ALL CLEAR

Tuesday, 7th February, started with a Blitz induced evacuation to the Parish Church of St Anne's where we were introduced to Mr. Grey, the strictest teacher ever! Year 4 quickly realised how different schooling was in the 1940s, especially as an evacuee. Boys on one side, girls on the other, their day began with handwriting and divinity. After 30 minutes of Bible recital and the dipping of pens in ink pots, the children looked more like finger-printed convicts. Mr Grey did foot checks with a cane to make sure that feet were flat on the floor, legs un-crossed.

Being ready for imminent attack from the enemy meant the children had to have drills in putting on their gas masks. 'Out of the box, over the head, under the table and wait for the all clear' was the instruction. I'm sure there wasn't as much giggling coming from under the tables during the real Blitz! The afternoon saw 10 excited parents arrive at St. Anne's for the Village market. Mr Mace was seen selling black market footballs, while Mrs King provided everyone with tonics from her pharmacy. Akira sold newspapers and Aaliya and Matilda polished Miss O'Hare's shoes very nicely for just a penny! The biggest revelation in the afternoon was the delicacy of Spam sandwiches! *Sarah O'Hare*



Evacuee Day was really fun except when Mr Grey was cross! We had to sit in rows and weren't even allowed to talk to our friends. We used ink pens and a slate tile to do our work, which was copying out bible passages and answering 'old money' addition sums. In the afternoon we set up market stalls and were given a shopping list. There was an ironmonger, a boot-maker, a post office, a baker, a greengrocer and the National Cafe where we had to pay using real coins from 1940's. It was a lot different to the money we use now. It was a really good day but I'm glad we are at school in 2012, not 1940! *Lara 4K*

## WILD & WONDERFUL

Year 2 have found themselves involved with the National gallery once again. As part of their Wild and Wonderful topic they were lucky enough to be taken on a guided tour of three paintings in a collection relating to nature and animals. The painting that they were particularly excited to see was 'Surprised' (1891) by the French painter Henri Rousseau. This painting, depicting



*Henri Rousseau's 'Surprised' painted in 1891*

a tiger crouching in the stormy jungle, is a long standing favourite with children and adults alike and was Rousseau's first jungle painting. Rousseau never visited any kind of jungle but probably got all of the visual information he needed from visiting the botanical gardens in Paris. Although they were also lucky enough to see Van Gogh's Sunflowers and George Stubbs' Whistlejacket painting, which are equally inspiring, we have continued to explore the Rousseau painting in more detail and are currently creating our own multimedia compositions of jungles. The mature and creative way in which the children responded to the guide's questions during their visit left all accompanying staff somewhat stunned. Well done Year 2!

*Emma Elden-Ford*

## WHO MIGHT LIVE HERE?



*King Henry VIII's home, Hampton Court Palace.*

*"Always look up" was the advice given by our guide*

On a chilly Friday, 13th January, Reception enjoyed a splendid and rather regal day exploring Hampton Court Palace as part of our topic on castles. We looked at the bedrooms and kitchen and wondered who might live in a house like this. We counted the barrels in the King's cellar, he had rather a lot and we loved looking at the weapons he used when hunting and jousting.

*"I loved dressing up as King William." Benny*

*"I know what that long stick is for over the fire, they put the meat on there to cook." Ralph*

*"When I grow up I'd like to be a knight!" Tom*

*"It's easy to forget that something so important and spectacular is on our doorstep" Miss Neill*

## ... and finally ...

*Year 6, you continue to surprise us with your tenacity and spirit during the 11+ exams, it's nearly over! An excellent quiz night on Friday 13th January - Thank you Dianna. Please keep visiting our new website for news, blogs, letters and information.*

*Thank you all staff for your continued hard work. We are all looking forward to the start of 'residential trip season' after the half term break.*

**Jem Peck, Editor**

