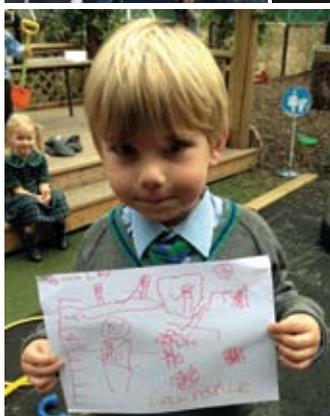


KEWLIFE

The News Letter of Kew Green Preparatory School

HAVE THE RECEPTION CLASSES SETTLED IN?... HERE'S A TASTER!



Wow! Where did time go? We cannot believe that Reception are already through their first half term. They have made a fantastic start to their first year at Kew Green. The children have been busy getting used to routines and finding their way around the indoor and outdoor classrooms. They have found time to make new friends, experience Larry's lavish lunches and get to know Mr Peck and all the staff. As well as getting to know their class and people around school, the children have also been learning about themselves. They put together a skeleton, painted with their hands, hunted for body parts, drew self-portraits, designed a family tree and even used their bodies to measure a whale! The Reception children have also been enjoying the fabulous Autumn weather. We think they're doing very well indeed. What do you think? *Miss Mac & Miss Gibson*



STAMPSIES, WINDMILLS & STRINGIES, WE WENT CONKER BONKERS!



What a great sight to see, conkers taking their rightful place at playtime in the warm Autumnal sun

After a conversation early in the term that ended with some children asking me "What are conkers and how do you play it?" it was clearly time to re-introduce conkers. A few weeks later, children all over the playground were playing conkers - and by the correct rules! These, incidentally, include 'stampsies' and 'windmills', which warrant an extra shot at your opponent's conker! Aside from the children's clear enjoyment, many of us grown ups were able to relive those heady days of collecting, spearing, stringing (and occasionally pickling in vinegar and putting in the oven) our beloved conkers. One child confessed that she was already sporting a '23er', which was pretty impressive after just one playtime. Some one brought in a '92er' that his Dad had kept from (quite a few) years earlier. A young man in Year 3 asked if he could have a go at my conker ... and did so with the whole force of his body behind it. As well as making a big dint in my conker, he nearly took my arm off! He'd definitely had training! Word spread fast and several local schools contacted me to ask if it was true. 'Are you really allowing the children to play conkers?' was a question I had more than once from other Head Teachers. **Mr Peck, Aspiring Conker Champ!**

We have had a great week playing conkers. Mr Peck had a very good idea about having a conker week. Most people brought conkers in to play a game of conkers. Mr Peck demonstrated how to play in assembly. We all enjoyed it! Children enjoyed playing because it was nice to play something different. My mum and dad used to play when they were children so it was really nice to play / learn how to play. One child I interviewed said "It was really fun I enjoyed it so much. It was the best week of the term so far." **Daisy, 4K**

MUSIC POD PERFECTION



Our new Music Pods were installed just in the nick of time at the very end of the summer holidays, the day before the children arrived back in school for the start of the year. Parents, children and staff were wowed as they walked in through the gates to see these beautiful buildings nestling amongst the trees and shrubbery at the front of the school. Many took pictures of the attractive pods, which have been brought in to further improve our music teaching and rehearsal

Yes, I'd love one in my garden.

facilities. They have under floor heating, air-conditioning and are sound-proofed. Needless to say, our peri music staff were delighted! At their installation, you have never seen so many people (men) standing round with their arms folded, looking like experts, advising on exactly which angle they should be sitting at.



On Sunday, 15th September, Miss O' Hare took part in the Great North Run, raising funds in support of the NSPCC. Sarah had been training hard for some time and was definitely showing signs of nerves before the event in which 55,000 people would run the 13.1 mile half-marathon.

After successfully completing the run and on returning to work the next day, Miss O' Hare (without even a sign of a stiff leg muscle) said, "The weather was wet and windy but the carnival atmosphere more than made up for it. The last mile along the sea front was incredible, 'Greatest Day' by Take That came on my iPod and the Red Arrows flew past! It was very rewarding and I am grateful for all the support and help in raising £565 for the NSPCC. I smashed my target of £400." Well done Miss O' Hare!

HOW EFFECTIVE IS SCHOOL COUNCIL?



This Year's Whole School Council overseen by Miss Neill

Kew Green Preparatory School is proud to present our new School Council for this academic year. School Council is a strong and enthusiastic voice for our children who will endeavour to work together with other pupils and teachers to make our school community a better place. In previous years the children have run an Upper and separate Lower School Council. We are keen that this year we operate as a 'Whole School' Council, bringing all the year groups together. We have already seen a big change in the playground based on last year's School Council request to improve the way children interact at playtime. The children have also requested a 'Relaxing Shed' for the playground - a quiet area for reading and seeking shade during the summer months. This is currently in the pipeline! School Council will meet regularly and will have the opportunity to feedback to their class about our discussions and plans. *Miss Neill*



Playtimes feel instantly different and more inclusive for all

At the end of the Summer Term, Upper School Council, on behalf of the children in Upper School, went to Mr Peck to request a change to the playground equipment as playtimes had become full of ball games which isn't fair on those who don't want to play ball games all the time. The equipment has thoroughly improved over the summer. We have brought in table tennis, stilts, pogo sticks, Space Hoppers, Giant Jenga, Wheely-Gogs



and new Balance Boards (which involves you standing on a board and you guiding a ball through a maze). We have a timetable for football and now we play it 3 lunch times a week but it doesn't really matter because we've got all the equipment to use. I got a comment from another student "everybody loves the new equipment and we're all taking good care of it".



Doing, doing!

Mr Peck said, "The playground has been buzzing with excitement at the introduction of a completely different set of playtime activities since the beginning of term. To avoid playtime becoming a ball-game dominated affair, Upper School Council requested the introduction of several different pieces of equipment, which will allow a more inclusive and fun playtime for all. It has been a great success so far and there will be more to come. Thank you School Council for bringing about the change." *Michael, 4K*

KEW THE NEWS, ISSUE No. 2

KEW THE NEWS

THE LOWEDOWN

Mr Lowe takes a trip down memory lane as he relives his time at KGPS.



It may have been a long time coming but we hope you enjoy the second issue of 'Kew The News'. Our intrepid reporters have been hard at work to bring you the news you want to read! In this edition, get 'The Lowedown' as we catch up with Mr James 'Initiative' Lowe. There is an interview with Mrs Searle, which seems only fair since in the last edition we interviewed Mr Searle! Read the article about guitars and AC/DC and get an update on sharks from Cape Town! Help celebrate 150 years of the London Tube system; learn why Lego is (and always will be) the best toy in the world and most important of all, find out what your dog should be wearing this season. Download a copy now at: <http://www.kgps.co.uk/kew-the-news.html>
The KTN Journalists

Life's Journey

By Louis, 6K

*Earth and Theia once collided,
This was a theory which was decided.*

*Remarkable creatures with armour on the outside,
We realised scientists hadn't lied.*

*Oxygen levels were exceedingly high,
If we were around, we would die.*

*Providing ingredients for cells to divide,
Multiplying rapidly side by side.*

*Continuously working every minute,
Billions of years later they finally did it.*

*Evolving, transforming for creatures to survive,
But for them we would not be alive.*

*Life kicked off in the depths of the ocean,
Adapting, mutating, progress in motion.*

*Anomolocaridites ate Trilobites,
Usually though they would get into fights.*

*Colossal dragon flies and millipedes which were once from
the seas,*

That was the next stage of life's big series.

*They crawled out of the sea and onto the land,
Gill and fin were now lung and hand.*

*Millions and billions of years went past,
Finally, we were here ... at last.*

The Pearl Moon Shone

By Amy, 6G

*The pearl moon shone in outer space,
Tears cascaded down my face.*

*We weren't thinking, being boundless,
Howling like wolves, until they found us.*

*Starved and scared, lonely and lost,
We wandered through the nibbling frost.*

*Afraid as babies, fragile as glass,
They found us withering on the whispery grass.*

*Lost in the forest, the trees out to trip me,
As we got weaker, decaying so quickly.*

*It was serendipity that we were found,
Before the forest echoed with eerie sound.*

*The sounds of screams, colossal cries,
That we would've made if we'd decided to die.*

Sports

By Naryan, 6G

There are plenty of sports on the earth to play, you could probably try one every day,
Football, Rugby, Tennis, Cricket, where you run, hit and bowl a wicket.

Another two sports are Basketball and Hockey, although you don't get to ride a horse as a jockey,
If you watch a game of Table Tennis, you'll see them strike the ball with dexterity and menace.

To do the sport of tricky Gymnastics, you have to be skilled and extremely elastic,
To play Athletics you have to run, jump and throw, though it's not very easy if you're buried in snow.

These are just some of the many sports, now you don't have to play crosses and noughts.

SWIM SQUAD REPORT

On Friday, 11th October, children from the Kew Green Swimming Squad took part in the first swimming gala of the year. It was held at Richmond Pools in the Park and hosted by Kew College. Five schools were invited to what was to be the most competitive line-up we have ever swum against. Kew College, Latymer and Unicorn, strong swimming schools all, with our close rivals Ravenscourt Park. Our squad was up against it as there is such a high level of interest we had only just completed our trials for squad and had only one week of training to get ready for the gala. It was a particular challenge for the Year 3 swimmers too as they were to swim twice the normal amount of races! Zack T, Rosie F, Ava J and Ellie M all performed magnificently in four races in the cauldron of noise made by over 300 manic parents. Ava was the first Year 3 to swim, Zack finished second in his individual breaststroke, Rosie smashed her own personal best in her front crawl relay and Ellie beat hers too in her individual front crawl race!

It is always tough competing with Latymer, Kew College and Unicorn some of whom have bigger year groups, their own pool or swim four or five times a week. So Alice M, Francesca L and Kira D, well done for your magnificent second places finishes! Very, very well done to Lucy B, who won her Year 4 Individual Breaststroke race too. Finally, Miss O Hare, Mrs Turner and I would like to say congratulations to Swim Squad for coming third overall! Which means we beat off two of our closest rivals at swimming - dedicated swimming school, Unicorn, and also Ravenscourt Park. What a great evening! *Mr Ward*



On Friday, 20th September, a strange and unusual growth appeared at the base of the tree in the car park. Shiny and white, with occasional patches of green and black, it grew steadily from 8am till 9am. This new feature in our local environment was due to children, parents and staff helping the global environment by recycling all their unwanted clothing, shoes and textiles. Did you know that 350,000 tonnes of used clothing is thrown in landfill in the UK every year?



A total of 304kg of unwanted clothes was collected

Some items stay there because they don't rot and others let off greenhouse gases when they decompose. We collected 133 bags (304kg!) in total. These will be sorted into items that can be reused and ones which are too stained or damaged. The latter (approximately 37% of the total collected by recycling companies) are recycled, e.g. cotton based garments become cleaning wipes because they are absorbent. Wool and synthetic based items are turned into fillers and insulation materials, e.g. fillings for sofas and mattresses, soundproofing for washing machines and insulation for lofts and pipes. The clothes and shoes that can be reused (about 63% of those collected) will mostly go to Eastern Europe (5%), Africa (75%) and South Asia (19%). 1% stays in the UK. A big thank you to everyone who helped. The weight is converted into points, which can be used to buy science equipment. We then donate an equivalent amount to Joodon School. *Aaliya and Luke, Year 6 Science prefects.*

ERSO & KGPS = BEAUTIFUL MUSIC



Musicians from Kew Green are preparing to sing and play alongside the musicians of the Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra, a well-respected semi-professional orchestra, conducted by Paul Hoskins. The concert will take place in St. Anne's Church on Sunday, 24th November at 4.30pm. Children from our Upper School Choir and Orchestra have been invited to perform and all other children are very welcome to attend together with their families. Of particular interest is an opportunity to have a go on a number of orchestral instruments - an ideal chance for children to find out whether they might like to start taking instrumental lessons! The concert is going to be themed around a piece by Stravinsky which is called Pulcinella. Year 3 in particular may be interested to hear Pulcinella performed live since they have

been finding out all about Stravinsky and the mischievous Pulcinella in their music lessons this term. They were also treated to a sneak preview of the concert given by some members of the ERSO who visited school. For more details about this concert, please contact Mrs Birchall.

A VERY SPECIAL HARVEST



Members of Year 6 helped to distribute your generous offerings to charities associated with the elderly, the homeless and families in crisis

On Thursday, 24th October, the whole school - and a substantial number of parents - made their way to St Anne's Church for our annual Harvest Festival celebration. Needless to say there were ample and generous offerings from families adorning

all corners of the church. Your generous gifts were taken from the church by the Friends of Kew Green to several local charities including Emmaus House, Crossroads and SPEAR, concerned with the elderly, the homeless and families in crisis.



The quality of singing from Upper and Lower school and the different choirs was so beautiful, thanks to Mrs Birchall. Seeing all of Lower School singing brought a smile to everyone's face. It particularly highlighted how well our Reception classes have settled in! The readings were appropriately aimed at the children and were full of references to Autumn colours, gathering the harvest and the end of the summer months. The whole scene was lovely and I felt very proud that this was truly a whole school celebration. Father Nigel and many parents thanked me for such an enjoyable occasion but what occurred to me was how unique was our situation. A beautiful church on our doorstep, motivated children who sing, read and perform so confidently, dedicated staff who so readily mobilize to achieve such excellence, the Friends Association with the foresight to set up a coffee station and donating the money raised to St Anne's and our ever-supportive parents. It is quite a privilege to sit at the front of the church and watch it all going on at close quarters so, I would like to thank all of you for giving me such a memorable Harvest celebration. Thank you! *Mr Peck*

DON'T ARGUE WITH THESE CHILDREN!

On Friday, 10th October, Year Six took a trip to RPPS for the highly anticipated annual debating competition between the two schools. Six KGPS debaters were chosen to represent our school. The six debaters were split into three pairs to debate in front of some harsh judges. The first people to debate were Penny and Louis, who were against the motion 'The Royal Family Should Be Preserved.' Louis proposed the motion and Penny seconded. KGPS won the first debate in style, giving KGPS a one - nil lead. Most impressive was the fact that approximately 25 members



Beware, these children seriously know what they are talking about

of RPPS voted in favour of Kew Green's opinions and against their own peers' argument. That certainly set the cat amongst the pigeons! Next up to debate were Isabella and I, who were for the motion 'T.V. Has a Bad

Effect on Children.' (Which it does!). Unfortunately, perhaps partly due to the fact KGPS won the first debate, RPPS won the second, making it one point for each team. Both teams put forward excellent points and each argument seconded with passion and style, especially from Kew Green! The final team to go up were Amy and Oscar, who were debating against the motion 'The School Summer Holidays Are Too Long'. KGPS successfully won that debate, making KGPS debating champions and taking the title and the trophy from RPPS. Overall I believe we did a great job and I think it was a great way to end the week! *Jake 6G*

YEAR 2 FOOTBALL CHALLENGE



"I've waited my whole life for this" - George

"Remember guys, just try your best" - Sam

"Mr Searle, is it 2 o'clock yet?" - Selen, at 8.45am

Featuring what was arguably the most excited year 2's in the history of Kew Green, the second annual Year 2 Football Challenge took place on a cool, sunny mid-October afternoon. This was the first opportunity for lower school children to participate in a 'real' match and, most importantly, to be encouraged and supported by friends and family from the side lines. The year group is split into 4 mixed teams which all play each other in short, 10 minute games. Beforehand, Mr Ward and I had explained to the children that there are many 'moments' in sport where you are given the opportunity to shine and thanks to children's enthusiasm and heroic efforts, not a single opportunity was missed. The loud cheering and applause from the side line gave the afternoon that very special 'big match' feeling and I am certain that many of the participants will be retelling their 'moments' for weeks to come. Many thanks to Mr Ward for helping me to make the event a success as well as to the staff members who offered support and most importantly to the parents, whose presence on the afternoon made the day so special. I hope to see you back again for the Year 2 Netball Challenge early next term. *Mr Searle*

STAFF v PARENTS FOOTBALL MATCH



Looking smarter than your average Staff v Parents fixture

After a year of resounding success in the staff v parents netball, rounders and cricket, it was just the football that stood in the way of an unprecedented 'grand slam' for the staff of Kew Green. New recruits to the team boosted confidence, as did some notable absentees from the parent team of recent years. All in all there was a spring to the step of Mr Ward's team as they took to The Green on the last afternoon of the half term. Unfortunately that pre-match confidence quickly drained away as the parent team produced wave after wave of attack on the staff goal. Although they defended valiantly, there wasn't a lot on offer in the way of attack from the staff. Mr Taylor, on debut, along with seasoned veterans Mr Searle and Mr Ward held the line in front of Larry's goal extremely well. It was in the second half where a slightly more adventurous approach in search of a goal left gaps in defence and the parents took full advantage with two swift goals.

Although the staff kept pushing forward, the Brazilian duo of Rodrigo and San couldn't muster a score and the two goals proved enough for the parents to retain their trophy, under the captaincy of Luke Kelly for the first time. However, the staff took solace in a much-reduced margin of victory this year!

Congratulations must go to the nominated men of the match, Mr Ward for the staff and Mr Berg for the parents, with special mention to Mr Teasdale who stood in for the staff at short notice and produced a performance that may have earned him a job at Kew Green to ensure that he can represent the staff again next year! *Mr Puckle*

... and finally ...



Thank you to the Friends of Kew Green for their hard work distributing food for Harvest, organising cake sales, Christmas cards, Christmas puddings, collecting for Jeans for Genes day and holding the nearly new uniform sale recently. Oh, and let's not forget The Summer Swing which was certainly a night to remember! Well done Year 6 for your hard work towards your 11+ exams in January ... half a term to go! I am pleased that our new staff have settled in so well and they clearly bring some great talent with them. Enjoy the warm days of your Half Term as all too quickly we will be speeding towards Christmas!
Jem Peck, Editor.

