Weekly News
Friday 10th May 2013

Dear Parents

What a lovely treat to enjoy a sunny Bank Holiday weekend! The children have made the most of their playtime on the field and although the good weather is not set to last please can you ensure that your child has their clearly labelled sun hat in school every day.

This week nursery children have been creating their poetry ready for our school poetry book which will be given to all children as part of our 75th Anniversary celebrations. Many people would be surprised at just how accessible this medium of expression is to all ages and certainly the nursery children who dictated their poems to a willing scribe absolutely shone. You are all in for a treat later on in the summer when our book is finished and printed.

Elephants have been the theme in Reception as they have moved away from pets and on to bigger creatures in preparation for their visit next week to Port Lympne when all our Reception and Upper Nursery children will be going on their safari trip. Some wonderful 3D Elmers have been cleverly created from old milk containers and decorated in beautiful patchwork squares and some complicated colour by numbers Elmer sheets have been willingly completed.

Our little man on a stretcher in the Reception area has been winched up a little further towards the Air Ambulance Helicopter thanks to yet more Smartie tubes filled with contributions towards this worthwhile charity. Another splendid £135 was raised last week. Thank you very much for supporting this initiative. Please keep the tubes coming in so that we can reach the final total before half term.

Well done to Samantha C, Oliver K and Luke V for dazzling with their times tables and earning their silver star award this week.

Congratulations to our Lunchtime Superstar this week who is Connie H for eating her lunch so much more quickly and remembering to eat a healthy amount. Well done Connie!

May I once again remind all those parents interested in our Holiday Activity Club in the summer holidays to visit the website as soon as possible and complete the questionnaire so that we can make an early decision on the dates which will help you to plan your summer.

Well done to all the children in Rowling House for accruing the most housepoints this week. Rowling House leapt into the lead this week with 321 housepoints. Bravo!

Mrs Annie Thackray, Headteacher

This Week’s Merit Awards
Georgina W, Kristy M, Sophie P, Jake F, Suri S, Megan J and Poppy L

Philosopher of the Week
Louie N

Thought for the Week
Should everything in the world be the same colour?

Work of the Week
The science topic for Year 1 this term is ‘Plants and growing’. Phoebe has drawn and labelled this beautiful plant and has written some interesting information all by herself and has clearly understood some very advanced facts in Jupiter’s science lessons.
The Reception children have started their safari adventure this week by looking at larger animals. As well as investigating elephants, they have made a range of colourful animal masks demonstrated in this beautiful photo by Felix proudly holding his tiger mask. This week the children were set a group challenge using camouflage paper, it is hard to spot the animals the children cut out and hid amongst the camouflage paper in the class rooms, well done children! The next creative task is to design and make wild animal masks using papier-mâché (any spare newspapers you have at home will be appreciated, thank you).

In maths this week the timely activities have been learning and comparing the time using analogue and digital clocks. If you have time at home try looking at different clocks maybe the children can begin to spot the patterns with ‘o’ clock and even half past the hour.

The Nursery children will be venturing out on Safari next week ‘Elmer’ will be trumpeting his arrival in all his colours! Meanwhile, this week we have been learning more about the creatures we find in our gardens. We have been singing about the old woman who swallowed a fly, counting bees in the hive and counting frogs jumping frogs on and off logs.

The Upper Nursery children are beginning to excel at finding rhyming words and have enjoyed the guessing the words in the reading groups. In the maths groups we have been practising counting. There are many opportunities to perfect accurate counting at home, counting socks into the draws, toys back in the toy box and even the peas on the plate. Can your child estimate how many objects they think there are before they start counting?

Out in the garden children are setting up a garden exploration centre where they can observe, draw and write about the creatures that they find in the garden. The art room has been a nest of creepy crawlly creatures as the children develop their fine motor skills rolling, squeezing, pinching and manipulating playdough to make spiders and insects.

The Reception and Upper Nursery children are looking forward to their safari trip to Port Lympne on Wednesday. Please remember they need to wear track bottoms or shorts (depending on the weather) polo shirts, sweatshirts and rain gear. Fingers crossed for Safari weather.

The Foundation Team