



St Christopher's School

Weekly News

Friday 3rd May 2013

Dear Parents

This week we celebrated our 75th Anniversary in style by treating the whole school and the entire staff team together with our governors to a day out in the country. The staff had put heads together for an idea that would appeal to every age of child and Mrs Garrod got it just right when she suggested Ladyland Farm in Horley who provide educational fun with hands on interaction for every single child with the delightful animals.

In an operation requiring military precision, the whole school boarded coaches on what proved to be one of the sunniest days of the year. The farm is run by former teachers and their patient, informative manner was perfect for our children as they guided us through the history and science of a farm whilst children fed and stroked a wide variety of farm animals.

A celebration picnic lunch for children, staff and governors was enjoyed in the barns before heading on to the tractor for a ride around the farm followed by a wonderful play on hay bales and old static tractors. No one wanted to leave when the time came to return and everyone agreed that this had been a truly happy occasion for all involved.

You should be very proud of your children. Their excellent behaviour, their knowledge and their interesting questions impressed every one of the farmers allocated to our five groups and the farm owner came over specially to mention what an enjoyable experience our visit had been for their staff, which apparently isn't always the case!

On Monday Mrs Garrod brought her newly hatched who were 10 day old ducklings to school and the children all had an opportunity to observe these delightful fluffy creatures before they were taken to the farm in exchange for 10 fertile hatching eggs. The eggs are all in house colours in the reception area and we will see whether we have a Morpurgo, Ahlberg, Dahl or Rowling chick born first.

Congratulations to Charlie S who has been awarded the certificate for this week's Lunchtime Superstar for always having a clean plate, perfect manners and a charming smile.

*Bravo to all the children in **Dahl** House for their significant success this week. They have between them earned **549**housepoints and now lead the hall table.*

Mrs Annie Thackray, Headteacher

This Week's Merit Awards

Matthew S, Phoebe J, Nara A, Raven W,
Finn H and Isobel P

Event of the Week

The sun shone brightly as we all enjoyed our day at Ladyland Farm. There was something for everyone. Our Lower Nursery enjoyed every part of the interaction with the animals on their first school trip and every year group unanimously declared that it had indeed been a super day out.



Each year group rounded their day off with a wonderful tractor ride around the beautiful grounds. Year 2 held on tightly and set off for their turn.



Clever Mrs Stubbs designed and made our beautiful 75th Anniversary rich fruit cake. It was wonderful to toast 75 happy years with such an enjoyable day.



After the educational morning everyone enjoyed the freedom of the afternoon fun. Year 1 became very confident climbing on the hay bales and very soon the rest of the school (including staff) followed.

Foundation Stage News

Reception's adventure to Ladyland Farm began with the question 'What is a farm and why do we have them?' Can you remember what we decided? After all the fun we had on Wednesday, it was wonderful to look at the photos and write some captions about our day out. We saw how calves are fed by hand and had a turn at feeding them too!

Back at school we made our own bread rolls and butter. It was great fun kneading the dough and watching how it changes. We found it was extremely tiring shaking our containers to churn our butter – much easier to go to Sainsbury's!

We have also enjoyed performing our own puppet shows, this activity was inspired by The Long Nose Puppet Company's version of 'Arthur's Dreamboat' by Polly Dunbar.

We were so proud of all the Nursery children when we visited the farm, thank you parents for letting us share a wonderful day with your lovely children. The fresh air and exercise made us all so hungry and we were all impressed at how much of the special picnic lunch was so quickly consumed!

The children have loved looking at photos of themselves and remembering the animals we saw, stroked and fed. All week we have been talking and learning about farms and the animals. Can the children remember what a baby goat is called? When you go shopping look out for the foods that we enjoy thanks to cows.

Wouldn't it be funny if the animals were farmers like in the book 'Farmer Duck'.



The Foundation Team

DIARY DATES

Monday 10th June

75 Day – Numerous activities as we celebrate the number 75!

Please see letter for details and items required for the day.

Thursday 13th June at 11.45am and 2.45pm

PTA Second-hand Uniform Sale in Mercury Class

Thursday 13th and Friday 14th June

Year 2 visit to Juniper Hall

Monday 17th June at 9.30am

Whole School Photo: Smart summer uniform please

[PTA SUMMER FAIR – SATURDAY 29TH JUNE](#)

The PTA are already working hard to make this happy occasion a successful one. The Summer Fair would not be the same without the hamper prize raffle so please look out for information from your class rep regarding donations.

LADYLAND FARM

Please note that for the month of August only Ladyland Farm is open to the public starting at 11 am and ending at 3 pm.

KIND REQUEST

Please remember to supervise the young children at the end of the day. Some of the school equipment has been climbed upon or used by siblings and we are concerned that this may end in damage to the equipment or to the child when left unsupervised. Please do not allow siblings to use the Nursery Outdoor Classroom when waiting for the children. Activities prepared for the next day have sadly been damaged. Thank you for your help.