

## FOUNDATION STAGE (Nursery & Pre-School)

We have thoroughly enjoyed all types of weather this term and have been watching the changes occurring in nature, as the season unfolds. The children particularly enjoyed the frost. It sparkled magically on the surfaces in the playground and really caught their imagination – more so than the flurry of snow we had. It was all we could do to stop the children from licking and indeed eating it!!



The children adore the two goldfish we now have. I have to say there is less interest in the stick insects but it is actually quite difficult to see them in the tank as they are so well camouflaged! Neither do they behave much like pets! They have grown from 5mm to 10cm and have begun shedding their skins, leaving ghostly images on the bottom of the tank. They eat clean privet if anyone would like to bring in breakfast for them one day. The goldfish however, have utterly charmed the children, as they seem to greet us every morning, looking out at us, swimming excitedly to and fro anticipating breakfast courtesy of the 'Helper'. Children suggested names and we picked two 'out of a hat'. The larger fish is now called Splish and the smaller one Whishka!

We are very sorry indeed to see Miri and her sister, Rosie, leave us this half-term but wish them all the very best in this exciting new chapter in their lives. We occasionally call "Good morning Miri!" into the distance and listen for her reply, imagining her sitting with her new classmates as she starts her school day. We will miss the family very much, and thank them for the wonderful vegetable planter, soil, and seeds they have kindly donated to the school as a parting gift. Mr and Mrs Morgan came into the Rainbow room with the gifts, to say goodbye and explained to the children that just as the two girls have grown during their time at Athelstan House, so they hope we will enjoy watching the vegetables grow in the planters in our playground. We look forward to harvesting and eating the produce too!

The Foundation Stage classes will soon be welcoming four new joiners, who start on various dates over the coming weeks.

We wish hearty congratulations to four of our families who have produced new baby sisters recently!

*Jacqui Gillings*

## RECEPTION CLASS

Reception class are really blossoming now into lovely well rounded young people, learning to share, take turns and work out all sorts of little problems for themselves. Whilst reading a book about an unruly class, one child commented 'They're not like us' – quite!



We are really looking forward to our trip to the Wetlands Centre in May which will fit in nicely with our topic of 'minibeasts'.

After half term our topic will be 'Travel and Transport' and we are looking forward to travelling to the Stockyard at Bushy Park by bus.

*Diane Cranston*

## YEARS 1 & 2

Our design and technology project got off to an excellent start, with a visit to a local playground. The children looked at the different pieces of equipment, observing various materials used, mechanisms and strengthening features.



They returned to school and experimented with construction kits. The project concluded with the children producing their own designs, using purpose made materials.

We were sad to say good bye to Elise and Rosie just before half term and wish them the best of luck in their new schools.

*Sally Burden & Jane Bland*

Please look at the website for more pictures.  
[www.athelstanschool.co.uk](http://www.athelstanschool.co.uk)



ATHELSTAN HOUSE SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

## SHOWING/OPEN MORNINGS

Showing mornings will be held on Monday 19 & Wednesday 21 March. Come and have a tour of your child's classroom and the rest of the school, to see what has been happening during the term. Mums, Dads, siblings and other family members welcome.

Parents dropping their children off at breakfast club are welcome from 8:00am, other parents are welcome between 8:45am and 9:15am. If for any reason you are unable to attend on either of these days, but would still like to come please contact your child's teacher to arrange an alternative time.

This year for the first time our Showing Mornings will be doubling as Open Mornings for prospective parents and we would be very pleased if you would like to share your experiences of having a child at our school with them.



Welcome to Spring – well nearly! At least the days are getting longer – that helps.

We are now well on our way through the second half of this academic year. Generally speaking it's been a healthy period, although some children and parents have experienced a nasty flu like virus and we've also had a nasty sprinkling of chickenpox. Pregnant mums and those with babies under six months should check with their G.P.'s about the risk to them.

I thought I'd share with you an experience I had during half-term. I parked my car in Kingston and placed the parking ticket on the dashboard. On my return I discovered a note left on my windscreen by a traffic warden explaining 'I have found your keys (dropped at the side of my car) and taken them to the Police Station!'

Panic – parking ticket expired – no keys.

Along came another friendly parking warden. He offered to keep an eye on my car whilst I collected the keys and promised not to give me a ticket. Forty five minutes later, keys collected, all in order!

I will never say anything negative about parking wardens ever again.



*Elsa Woolf*

And on the subject of parking... I am delighted to say we have had very positive feedback regarding our 'parking permit' trial. Well done Jill Collins for putting that in place.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After School Clubs continue to run daily from 3:05pm-4:30pm and should be booked on a termly basis.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cooking	Sports (£6 pw)	Games/Puzzles	Art	ICT

The Tuesday Sports Club with Naomi, a professional coach from the England Sports Group, has been a great success. The children have been doing gymnastics this term with impressive improvements in their skills. For the last few weeks of the term Naomi will be doing multi-sport taster sessions, in everything from basketball and cricket to hockey and football. The children will then choose which sports they would like to do in the Summer Term. There are still some spaces if your child would like to join.

# DIARY DATES

## Term Dates

### SPRING TERM 2012

Thursday 5 January - Friday 30 March

### SUMMER TERM 2012

Monday 23 April - Friday 6 July (12 noon)

### HALF TERM

Monday 28 May - Friday 8 June (2 weeks)

### Showing/Open morning

Monday 19 & Wednesday 21 March

### Hampton Library

Thursday 29 March - Pre-School & Reception

### Wetlands Centre

Thursday 3 May - Pre-School & Reception

### Diamond Jubilee tea party

Friday 25 May - from 12:30pm - everyone welcome

### Sign up for Progress Meetings

Monday 11 June

### Orange Tree Theatre workshop

Monday 11 June - Years 1 & 2

### Orange Tree Theatre Trip

Thursday 14 June - Years 1 & 2

### Trailblazing at Bushy Park Stockyard

Friday 15 June - Reception, Year 1 & 2

### Progress meetings

Wednesday 20 June - Nursery & Pre-School

### Progress meetings

Thursday 21 June - Pre-School, Rec, Years 1 & 2

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### CALENDAR ART PROJECT

Thank you for buying calendars with your children's artwork before Christmas. The project raised just over £70 which we will be spending on new instruments for all the children to enjoy in their Music lessons.

### VOUCHER SCHEMES

Please start collecting both Sainsbury and Tesco vouchers again from March 2012.



### SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS

The children have been enjoying the equipment we bought with the money raised for the Sports for Schools event when British Gymnast Danny Lawrence visited the school. We were able to purchase a small bridge which the children love to clamber over, some athletic equipment and are awaiting delivery of a Giant Connect 4 game for the playground.

Thank you again for your generosity in sponsoring the children to do the fitness circuit.

### FUNDRAISING

Please continue to support our local charity The Shooting Star Trust by bringing in just a few pennies every Friday.



## HOMESTART



If you have some free time after the Easter holidays, and you are a parent, you could help other families with pre-school children.

Local charity **Home-Start Richmond** is now recruiting for its free Preparation Course to train you to be a home-visiting volunteer, supporting families with difficulties such as post-natal illness, bereavement or disability. There will be an introductory Coffee Morning on **19 April** and then the course runs 10am-2.30pm every Thursday for 10 weeks from 26 April-5 July (not half-term). After the course, you would visit a family for about 2 hours a week, excluding school holidays if preferred.

For more information, please contact **Julie Papworth** on 020 8487 8500 [info@homestart-richmond.org.uk](mailto:info@homestart-richmond.org.uk) or visit [www.homestart-richmond.org.uk](http://www.homestart-richmond.org.uk). Home-Start Richmond, 211 Parkway House, Sheen Lane, East Sheen, SW14 8LS. Registered charity no: 1108975

## DIAMOND JUBILEE

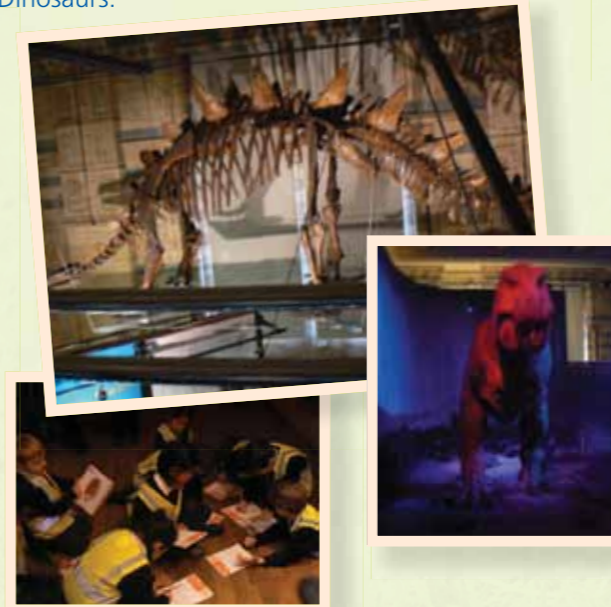
We will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a royal tea party in the playground on **Friday 25 May** from 12:30pm and hope that you will be able to join us for the afternoon. Nearer the time we will be asking you to get involved in organising some of the food, with each class being allocated a list for you to say what you would like to bring. Children will be making crowns at school and will be encouraged to come in fancy dress with a royal theme on the day. If anyone has any ideas about how we can make the party memorable, please let us know.



## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Years 1 & 2

Despite the snow, Years 1 & 2 went to London on the 10th February having completed a six week topic on Dinosaurs.



The children had learned how the existence of dinosaurs was discovered through evidence found in various parts of the world - including Lyme Regis in Dorset. They were able to see for themselves, skeletons and fossils found by Mary Anning on show at the Museum. The highlight of the trip was the automotive model of T Rex which was so realistic! The children loved the experience which brought this fascinating topic to an exciting conclusion

## FRIDAY ASSEMBLIES

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have assembly with Jill Collins every Friday morning. They learn about celebrations and special days from a variety of cultures and religious groups. The children particularly enjoy learning about these special days from people who actually celebrate them. If you or anyone else in your family would like to come in and talk to the children about your experiences of any of these special days, or if you have any artefacts or pictures which you could send in, please contact Jill Collins by telephoning the school office or emailing -

[jillcollins@athelstanhouseschool.co.uk](mailto:jillcollins@athelstanhouseschool.co.uk)

## PARKING

We are delighted so many of our parents are participating in our new parking initiative. The Metropolitan Water Board Sports and Social Club have kindly agreed to allow our parents to use their Club car park in Ashley Road when dropping off and collecting children.

Please contact the office if you would like a permit.

## PROGRESS MEETINGS

The Summer Term Progress Meetings for Nursery & some of Pre-School will take place on Wednesday 20 June. Meetings for the remainder of Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 will take place on Thursday 21 June.

Appointments will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Lists will be put up at the front of school on Monday 11 June from 8:00am and again at 3:00pm for parents to sign up for a 15 minute slot to see their child's class teacher.

Please note we will be unable to offer child care.

## SPORT RELIEF 2012

On **Friday 23 March** all children will take turns being performers and spectators in sporting activities in the playground to mark Sport Relief Day. Children and staff will be encouraged to wear their favourite sports strip and we are sure much fun will be had by all! Look out for the photographs in the Summer Term Newsletter.

## SCHOOL TRIPS

Pre-School & Reception

**Hampton Library**  
Thursday 29 March

Pre-School & Reception

**Wetlands Centre**  
Thursday 3 May

Years 1 & 2

**Orange Tree Theatre company workshop**  
Monday 11 June

**A Midsummers Night Dream**  
Thursday 14 June

Reception, Year 1 & 2

**Trailblazing at Bushy Park Stockyard**  
Friday 15 June

## WORLD BOOK DAY

The children in Years 1 & 2 really enjoyed sharing books with the children in Reception and Pre-School.

