

New from St Peter's

School broke up on July 22nd so at this point we can only give a summary of the second half term. The end of an academic year is always frantic. It always seems as though we've run out of time but this year there were some real highs.

We were assessed for the National RE Quality Mark and were awarded the Gold Standard. The RE mark assesses the teaching and learning in RE as a rigorous curriculum subject. The assessor was looking for evidence of challenge through skilled questioning. There was an in-depth interview with the head and deputy and then a meeting with pupils from across the school. Books were also assessed alongside evidence of displays and interactive learning. The assessor was impressed with the children's knowledge and mature outlook. She also liked the way that RE is leading the learning in other subjects and the strong links which were apparent across the curriculum. We are the first primary school in the Guildford Diocese to achieve the award. The success was covered in the Farnham Herald recently.

The children held their annual Charity Day in July and raised a phenomenal £876 which was split between Christian Aid and The British Heart Foundation. The School Council organises the event and children run the whole afternoon themselves. It is a chance for teachers to relax for a while and enjoy the children's creativity and entrepreneurial skills! Stalls ranged from nail bars, cakes and homemade popcorn to a variety of sporting challenges. This type of event seems to be quite unique to St Peter's; it encourages independence and lives out our value of Citizenship as children think about those in need.

This was the first year that the school has been completely two form entry so we decided to make the end of school production a Year Six event. This year's production of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' excelled in every way. The production was a musical version which was performed on a central stage. The audiences were spellbound: the children rose to the challenge of learning their lines in what was quite sophisticated language (although not the original Shakespearean). Those with solo singing roles were pitch perfect and the sound and lighting systems were amazing. The costumes were stunning and every child was on view at all times which ensured that everyone was fully involved. Many said that this production raised the 'school play' to new heights. It will certainly set a high benchmark for next year! We are privileged to have such dedicated staff and parents who put so many hours into making this a magical experience.

Then there were the SATS. You may have read in the media that this year's tests varied greatly from previous years. We know that we have achieved above the national average but in line with other schools, we are waiting to find out more details on how the 'value added' will be calculated. We shall report back in the autumn. However, the children and staff worked hard and everyone achieved their best.

We welcome three new class teachers in September and feel very fortunate to have made such good appointments when other schools have struggled with staffing.

Sarah Marshall