

**STROUD
GREEN**

GRAPEVINE

The Stroud Green Primary School and Children's Centre Newsletter

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

Supply teachers and Stroud Green

Sometimes parents and carers are worried that their child's teacher has not been at school and they have had a supply teacher so I thought I would explain why this happens.

We use supply teachers when a teacher is ill and also when staff members are on a course. We seldom have a choice about the date of the course and so sometimes it can happen that the teacher is out for more than one day in a week. Children can also be puzzled if their teacher is in school but not in class. On those occasions they may be doing some training work in school either with consultants or other teachers.

On the whole children respond well to these supply staff and we do try and use the same teachers again and again so that they become familiar to the children. The good news is that many of the temporary staff who work for us like the school and our children so much that they look forward to coming back when we have need of them.

We use supply teachers from two agencies who do full checks on their staff and send good quality and enthusiastic teachers and support staff.



Denise Sewell and Leslie Ng with the Chinese delegation.

DATE	EVENT
DECEMBER 2009	
Mon 21 st	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY STARTS!
JANUARY 2010	
Mon 4 th	SCHOOL CLOSED (Teacher training day)
Tue 5 th	SPRING TERM STARTS
Tue 19 th	Year 3 Assembly: 9.15am
Fri 22 nd	Friends of Stroud Green AGM: 3.15pm
Fri 29 th	International Night – all welcome
FEBRUARY 2010	
Tue 2 nd	Year 5 Assembly: 9.15am
Thur 4 th	Governors' Meeting: 6.45pm. All welcome.
Mon 15 th –19 th	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Mon 22 nd	SCHOOL RE-OPENS
MARCH 2010	
Tue 30 th	Governors' Meeting: 6.45pm. All welcome.
APRIL 2010	
Thur 1 st	LAST DAY OF TERM!

Delegates from Beijing

It was almost with a sense of relief that we learnt that budget restrictions are as much a problem for other education systems throughout the world as they are for us in the UK. This was the clear message when I joined a number of other heads to meet representatives of The Beijing Education Department. They had sent six delegates to meet a number of heads at Alexandra Park Secondary School including its headteacher, Mike McKenzie and Carmelina Tona from Haringey Personnel. I represented Stroud Green.

The delegates from China were keen to know how staff members were recruited to schools and who paid for their training and for pay increases. For us, it was fascinating to hear about education in

Beijing and to meet so many education officials who also had a background in teaching.

We were able to make the most of the meeting because of the invaluable assistance of Leslie Ng, husband of Cherry class teacher Christine, who stepped in at the last minute to translate for us.

Denise Sewell

FRIENDS OF STROUD GREEN

Our Winter Fair



Alida, from Cherry class, meeting Santa at the Winter Fair.

The Friends would like to thank the following sponsors for helping make the Winter Fair a great success on Friday 4 December: Petek Restaurant, Rosie Hallam, Isabelle Goutines, Rowans Bowling and Tesco. The colourful hampers prepared by each class all looked terrific. The winning hamper was prepared by the Nursery classes who won £50 to spend on something special.

We would also like to give a big 'thank you' to all those that helped plan, prepare, run, cook and clean up on the day. We hope everyone had a fantastic time.

Year 4 Music

For the past four years the school has been running a music programme where all the children in Year 4 get the opportunity to learn the guitar or violin. To cover the cost, the Friends apply for grants each year from various charitable trusts (including the Hornsey Parochial Charities, Tottenham Grammar Foundation and the Sheena Booth Music Trust). However, this year, due to the current economic climate, it has been difficult to raise the full

amount, so we held a raffle to try and meet the shortfall. Thanks to Emma Hawthorne, the Soho Theatre and Carrie Anker, we raised £320 to go towards this fund. Further contributions would be gratefully received. Contact Lynne Eva at: Lynne.eva@btinternet.com

SPECIAL DAYS AT SCHOOL

Blue Friday; 'Say No to Bullying'

Our SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) unit called 'Say No to Bullying' always coincides with National Anti-Bullying Week. The topic is used to revisit four of the key SEAL themes – self-awareness, empathy, managing feelings and social skills.

We planned activities and assemblies that asked what constitutes bullying, how it feels, why people bully, how we can prevent and respond to it, and how children use their social and emotional and behavioural skills to tackle this problem.

Year 6 were supported by staff and community police officers to work on a real time problem-solving project using the internet, linking up with St Aidan's school children to trial this innovative project. Year 5 had a separate session with our community police team on keeping safe and personal safety.

Our work culminated with "Blue Friday". Thank you to all the staff and children who marked their commitment to anti-bullying by wearing something blue on Friday 20 November.

The Dress Rehearsal

This is all about the dress rehearsal of Year 4's assembly. Well it started on Monday (23 November). It was a disaster – kids screaming and people backstage were talking, but I wasn't. Let me tell



Deputy head Jo Bartlett addresses a 'Say No to Bullying' assembly

you how it was – how Danny was King Henry, Ria was Catherine of Aragon, Ruby was Anne Boleyn, Hera was Jane Seymour, Indira was Anne of Cleves, Sadie was Kathryn Howard and last but not least me – Anastasia – I was Katherine Parr the survivor.

The teachers always changed it. On Monday they changed it into me taking off Henry's crown. I did but I banged Henry's head on the floor. The teachers went bonkers with our noise. Lots of people went on the warning chart.

Anastasia

This is all about Year 4's assembly. It starts off with everyone excited and chatting and shouting. Everyone was crowding around Miss White and Miss Corbett. Monday was terrible. Everyone seemed to be unhappy and nobody knew why. I just sat there in my spot and said to myself that we would probably never actually do this and all the teachers thought the same.

All the princesses (and Henry) were chatting and chatting. All the curtsayers were curtsying and curtsying. All the bowers were bowing and bowing. All the narrators were narrating and narrating. Nobody could stop until Miss Corbett banged a chair on stage and everyone fell silent. Miss Corbett told us to go and sit in our places. But everyone did that at the highest noise level you could ever imagine.

Then I had to sit at the back because I had a headache. Miss White said she wasn't surprised. It took ages to run through the play because nobody would stop talking. Then it was lunchtime. The next day was the play and everyone was excited. When we went upstairs to the middle hall it went really well and finally it was over.

Maya

On Monday we had two rehearsals. The adults did not like it too much but I thought it was just OK. On Tuesday it was really scary for me because my parents were there. But it all turned out fine because everyone really liked it and all my friends really liked it. Altogether it was great.

Tallulah

Jamboree & Treetops News

In October half term Jamboree and Treetops took part in the 'Wear It Pink' day for breast cancer awareness. We wore pink, painted faces and Jamboree had a cake sale. We raised a massive £72 in total and had a great day. Thank you to all who supported us.

School Disco

Year 1 and 2 children had great fun taking part in a school disco on Friday 27 November. They raised

RECEPTION NEWS

As part of our science week celebrations we focused on recycling. We made hand-made paper and a junk model monster bin. Hannah from the Haringey Recycling Centre came to talk to the children about why it's good to recycle and how to do it. She read us a story and showed us lots of things we could recycle at home and at school. Tangerine Class also went bulb planting in

Finsbury Park. We spent the afternoon with John talking about growing. We had fun digging the soil and planting out bulbs.

Fancy dress fundraiser

Reception children also had a fancy dress day to raise money for activities. It was lots of fun with a fantastic variety of outfits!



Thalis (in a fluorescent jacket), Rana, Hazal, Abdurahman, Sabrina, with recycling objects



Arun holding a useful book entitled 'Why I Should Recycle?'



Alana, Thalia, Nicole Ilhan And Yidiray enjoy the Fancy Dress day in Reception.



Ruby Rose and Chanel on the dance floor at the school disco.

£65 for the school. As there was a great buzz, we will be holding school discos throughout the year for other year groups. Watch this space and start practising your dance moves. Thank you to Angela and Jill for all their support. Well done everyone.

Niamh Bays

SPECIAL DAYS OUT

A winning public speaker

Last school year our school entered the Haringey Public Speaking competition. First we held heats within the school. If you were in Year 5 and you wanted to represent the school in the competition you had to write a speech about something that interests you and say it to the rest of Year 5, Year 6 and our teachers. I wrote about having a younger brother. That was the speech where I think I was most nervous. The teachers then chose three people who they thought were the best and we presented out speeches to Ms Sewell. Ms Sewell then chose one of us to represent the school in the finals. I was lucky enough for her to choose me. I then had to write a speech about what makes a good teacher.

On the day of the competition Ms Sewell and Sue took me to the Teachers' Centre in Turnpike Lane. By then I was extremely nervous and was worrying that I would forget part of my speech. When it was my turn to speak Sue and I went into a room where there were three judges sitting at a table. They gave me some crisps and a drink and told me to start when I was ready. That time I was the least nervous because they made me feel really welcome and comfortable.

I waited a few weeks and then Ms Fletcher told me that I had won along with two other children. I had won £100 for the school, a £25 book token for me and I got to say my speech in front of teachers at a teacher conference. I feel really proud that I was able to win the competition and the money for the school.

Francesca Malila

STROUD GREEN STAFF

Teaching in London – a foreigner's view

A year ago, I moved from South Australia to South London to extend my teaching career. It was no easy decision to leave home, but the prospect of learning from the English professionals during the week and popping over to visit great places in Europe on the weekends was all too tempting! It is very safe to say that I haven't regretted my decision in the slightest.

After supply teaching in 18 different schools all over London, it felt as though I had found a new home at Stroud Green Primary School. The teachers were supportive, the people were friendly and the children brought me joy each and every day. I have loved embracing the high standards that UK schools set for their pupils, and I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching in multi-cultural classrooms that promote equality and inclusivity.

I will be proud to return home and boast that not only has teaching in London been a wild travelling adventure, but I'm also certain that I'm a better teacher for it too. I wouldn't change the year I've had for the world! Thanks to all at Stroud Green for your support.

Emily Corbett



Emily Corbett with Adam, Year 4