



Norfolk House School

# NEWSLETTER

## END OF SPRING HALF TERM



Norfolk House School

15 February 2018

Dear Parents,

Alongside our daily focus upon a structured academic programme, the pupils have also benefited from a range of extra-curricular events and activities this half-term designed to expand and enrich their learning. Our first events of the New Year concentrated upon two theatre trips involving each class in the school and, for the younger pupils, the theme of *Stick Man* inspired some good follow up opportunities in the classroom. For our older pupils, excellent links have been forged with local independent senior school Outreach programmes with History workshops for Years 4 and 6 led by staff from King Edward's School and a Creative Writing event for Year 5 this week at King Edward's High School for Girls. This week has also seen the pupils enjoy a Chinese New Year themed week with a specially designed lunch menu and some challenging and interesting activities to broaden the pupils' knowledge.

After another exciting competition of House Times Tables, run by Mr Champs, and the Primary Mathematics Challenge, we are very pleased that five of our pupils have been invited to take the Bonus Round stage of the national competition. We wish them every success and look forward to hearing more of their achievements in due course.

Finally, as we approach the Spring half-term break, our Open Morning held last weekend proved once again to be a very popular event for new families to come and see our facilities and the work being carried out in the school. Year 6 pupils excelled as guides and ambassadors for the school and received many compliments on their mature attitudes, clear communication and confidence when guiding parents. Well done and thank you, Year 6, for your support!

Please be sure to save the key dates in your diary for our up and coming events for the second half of term and may I wish you all a wonderful half-term break.

Mrs Sarah Morris

Headmistress

### WORLD BOOK DAY



On Thursday 1st March, we are inviting pupils to come into school dressed as their favourite book character. Please remember to bring in a warm coat and sensible footwear and we are looking forward to celebrating our love of books with you during the day.

### PREFECTS



Congratulations to our new prefects:

Megan Humphries &

Benjamin Little



# Mr George is 100 Years Old!

We began the New Year with a very special birthday.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Mr George was 100 years old!



Previously, the children in the Reception class had found out about Mr George, who is a veteran of the Second World War.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017, the day before Armistice Day, the Reception class learned about the Poppy Appeal and why we wear poppies.

As a cross-curricular activity, combining ICT with this historical event, the Reception class used Skype to talk to 'Mr. George', as he is now too frail to travel to School to meet the children in person. We asked him questions about his RAF uniform and his medals. Mr George flew Spitfire aeroplanes in the past and, of course, the children had lots of questions about what it was like to fly them.



The children each coloured Spitfire aeroplanes and made a super 100<sup>th</sup> birthday card for Mr George which he was very excited to receive. It now takes pride of place in Mr George's home and joins another very special card which he received from the Queen!



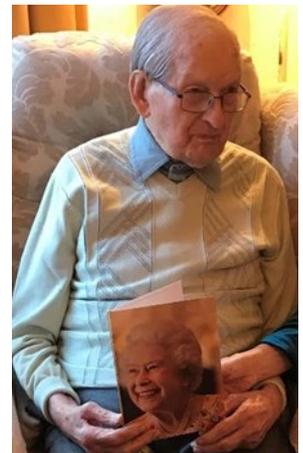


We were delighted to be able to use Skype once more to wish Mr George a very happy 100th birthday. The children sang Happy Birthday to him and Mr George thanked the children for making such a lovely birthday card for him and for their messages.

Using Skype we could see the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday cake and also Mr George showed us his special card from the Queen.



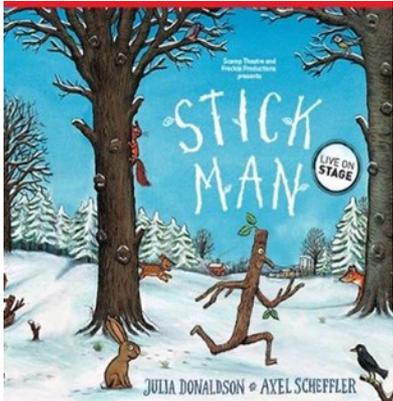
What a privilege it has been to celebrate Mr George's centenary and personally wish him a very happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!



Reporter: Mrs R. Hifle  
Head of Lower School

## Theatre Trip to 'Stick Man'

The younger children at Norfolk House School in the Transition, Reception and Year 1 classes were so excited when, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, they travelled by coach to the Birmingham Town Hall to see the fun-filled stage adaptation of *Stick Man*.



This enchanting version of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's hugely popular children's book *Stick Man* was an hour-long, interactive show, specially adapted for young children. Touching and funny, this original award-winning production featured a trio of top actors and was packed full of puppetry, songs, live music and funky moves.

The show was a perfect educational introduction for our children to live theatre which was full of dance, music and costumes and had us laughing, singing and interacting all the way through.



First published in 2008, *Stick Man* has become one of the best-loved books from Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, creators of *The Gruffalo*. *Stick Man*'s story is a tale of adventure, courage and the wonderful bond of family. *Stick Man* lives in the family tree with his *Stick Lady Love* and their stick children three.

After going for a jog one morning, *Stick Man* encounters a bounding dog, who just wants to play fetch. This sparks a series of unfortunate adventures, which lead him far from home and, in the theatrical version, had the children enraptured and laughing delightedly.



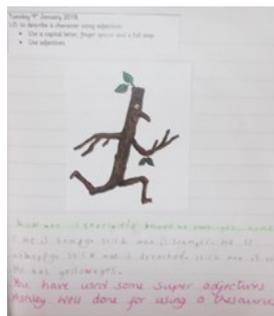


As the seasons pass, Stick Man meets a surprising friend who is able to help him get home to his family and the story ended happily, much to our relief.

There are so many benefits of live theatre, apart from the immense pleasure it provides. Watching a live performance provides a sense of vitality as well as a memorable experience socially, culturally and emotionally. Educationally, taking the children to the theatre boosts their literacy learning cultivating their curiosity and teaching them to imagine the unimaginable; skills necessary for creative writing. Theatre also connects to the importance of reading and has the ability to jump a story off the page and bring it to life. This can be a revelation to regular 'bookworms' but also a real positive effect for reluctant readers who may not show a natural interest in reading. Live theatre can help engage these children into reading texts so that they become skilled and even enthusiastic.



The changing scenes and creative acting, with use of props, within the live version of a theatre production, rather than animated films, demonstrate to even our youngest children, that with imagination they can make-believe and role-play any story.

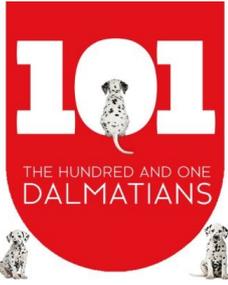


Our children, within their classes, have also been immersed in cross-curricular topic learning based on the Stick Man story culminating in the theatre trip. A real treat for us all!

Reporter: Mrs R. Hifle  
Head of Lower School



## Theatre Trip to see *101 Dalmatians*



On the 10th January 2018, Years 2–6 went on a school trip to watch *101 Dalmatians* at the Rep Theatre.

It was very exciting and enjoyable; I have watched Disney's film version of the story many times but it was different seeing it on stage.

The story was about two adult dogs, who live with a human couple and have a very large number of puppies that have beautiful white coats splattered with black spots. Their lives are happy ones until, one day, the puppies are kidnapped by an awful devil called Cruella de Vil. She wants to make a beautiful coat for herself by killing the puppies and using their fur.



It was funny watching the actors use puppets for the Dalmatians. Cruella was a very scary, cunning woman, who only wants fur. The stage was lovely, especially when they changed scenes.

I enjoyed the production and think that everyone should see it. The music was different to the film but it was still amazing.

I would give it: ☆☆☆☆☆

Reporter: Madeleine Hunt-Cox  
Year 6



## CHINESE NEW YEAR

On Theme Day, Year 2 painted dragons, as well as completing dragon masks to use in their PE lesson, during which they learned a dragon dance. The class thoroughly enjoyed the themed day as it was linked to the class Topic on China, in which they have created a beautiful display with a collage of The Forbidden City and interesting facts about China. In English, the class are researching China to write a non-chronological report on the country. They were especially fascinated when they discovered that fireworks were invented in China.

Miss Gill



The Lower School have also been celebrating the Chinese New Year of the Dog. On Friday 16th February, they took part in the following fun activities:

Dragon Dancing

Eating with Chopsticks

Chinese Writing

新年快樂



### Concert

The Music Department is thrilled to invite you to this year's Spring Concert, which will involve Orchestra, Samba Group, Choir, Violin Ensemble as well as many more individual performances by our talented musicians.

Due to the high number of performers, and the space required for the Orchestra and Samba group to perform, we shall be performing the concert twice. The first performance will be on Tuesday 20th March for the parents of Year 5 and 6 pupils involved. The concert will then be repeated on Wednesday 21st March for the parents of performers in Years 1 to 4. On both days the performance will begin at 2.15pm and finish in time for the end of the school day. We hope that you are able to join us for this event.

Mrs Brockman

# Awards Assembly Winners

In our half-termly awards Assembly we look to celebrate the success of those pupils who have impressed their teachers in each year group from Reception upwards. May I offer my thanks and congratulations to the following pupils for their valuable contributions to the school:-

## Awards Certificates

**Reception - Gobind Singh** *For persevering to learn his phonics and trying hard to apply them to his reading and writing.*

**Year 1 - Sachin Chand** - *For being more engaged in his learning and making super progress in English.*

**Year 2 - Carter Gabriel** - *For producing excellent English writing work and having a wonderful hard working ethic in all lessons.*

**Year 3 - Aneel Dhaliwal** - *For excellent work in mathematics, particularly with converting different units of measure up to 2 decimals.*

**Year 4 - Daniel Zhao** - *For perseverance in all things including class contribution.*

**Year 5 - Ryan Bahmani** - *For an improved attitude to work and better effort in all lessons.*

**Year 6 - Tomiwa Odusami** - *For excelling in our work on Macbeth.*

## House Times Tables:

The following pupils achieved the highest number of correct responses in the competition:

Year 1 - Srika Sreekantam  
Year 2 - Carter Gabriel  
Year 3 - Abu-Bakr Ismail  
Year 4 - Raafey Huda  
Year 5 - Mufaddal Kaderbhai  
Year 6 - Aisha Afroz  
Year 6 - Manav Kumar  
Year 6 - Yuvraj Lall  
Year 6 - Benjamin Little  
Year 6 - Christopher Nyangoni

## House Positions

1st Place : Ludlow

2nd Place : Kenilworth

3rd Place : Warwick

## Headmistress' Send Ups

Congratulations to the following pupils on their excellent work on Animal Shelters in Design Technology which has earned them a Send Up. Mrs Stone was very impressed with the quality of their work:

### Year 6

Isabella Brighton  
Amaiya Burmi  
Sunil Chand  
Megan Humphries  
Madeleine Hunt-Cox  
Khepri Sewell

### Year 2

Congratulations to the following pupils for their project work on China:

Dylanvir Sivia  
Laila Owens  
Beant Jhutti  
Ava Fisher

## KES Maths Challenge

Monday 22nd January was the date of the King Edward's School's annual Year 4 maths challenge. The Norfolk House School team consisted of Devina, Tifeoluwa, Raafey and Krishna, all of whom performed admirably in the challenge.

The first round of the competition consisted of a 'Crossnumber' puzzle (a crossword that has mathematical clues and uses numbers as answers) and the team achieved a very good score.

The second round, which was a maths relay around the school hall, proved trickier. However, the children did very well and we eagerly awaited the results in the afternoon.

After lunch, the pupils took part in some Maths games put on by the KES Maths staff and were then treated to a talk by Dr Katie Steckles from 'Think Maths' who discussed her favourite mathematical shapes and how you can create smoke rings using them. The prize-giving saw the pupils win third place. We were very proud of the children's efforts.

Mr Champs

Please make a note of these important dates for your diary

- 28.2.18 Professor Broccoli Author Workshops - Transition to Year 1  
House Netball Years 3 & 4
- 01.03.18 World Book Day - Book character and costume dress up day.  
Please come dressed in your favourite book character costume.
- 02.03.18 SATIPS Handwriting Competition Day  
House Netball - Years 5 & 6
- 03.03.18 Dudley Festival
- 09.03.18 Mother's Day Event 2.15pm. Separate letter already issued.
- 15.03.18 Year 3 Introduction to 11+ Meeting 3.00pm (Hall)
- 20.03.18 Spring Concert 2.15pm
- 21.03.18 Spring Concert 2.15pm
- 22.03.18 Last Swimming Session for Years 4-6
- 24.03.18 Dudley Festival Weekend
- 27.03.18 Target Cards Issued to Parents in Years 1-6  
Bushcraft Meeting for Year 6 pupils and Parents 2.45pm (hall)
- 29.03.18 **SCHOOL BREAKS FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS** (12.00noon)  
(No after school club on this day)