

## SPRING NEWSLETTER - February 2008

# Neth Savan Sarana

(Home for children who are deaf and or blind and or disabled in Sri Lanka)

Neth Savan Sarana is an orphanage situated close to Ahangama, Sri Lanka. It is home to 56 boys and girls aged from 5 to 17 years old who have a range of disabilities, some are blind, some are deaf and others have severe learning difficulties. The facilities are very basic and there are just two toilets and showers for both boys and girls. There is nowhere to play and nothing to do after hours. The dormitories are mixed and there is little educational equipment or support.



Springfield School has adopted the orphanage and are fund raising to help to provide new sleeping quarters and an overhaul of facilities. Any coppers you may wish to donate will be collected and sent to help with this project.

## School News

### Annual Pupil Reviews

This is the start of our Annual Review programme commencing with the Sixth Form starting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Parents will receive individual letters and information regarding the child's review. We would encourage parents/carers to attend.

### New pupils to school

A warm welcome has been extended to Rahul Islam who rejoined class 2LM last Monday and we look forward to welcoming Joshua Holness who will be joining class 1PF on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008

## **School website**

We are in the process of updating our website over the next few weeks. Why not visit the site and make use of it? [www.springfield.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.springfield.cheshire.sch.uk)

## **Parent Evening**

The next Parent Evening is planned for the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Individual appointment times will be sent to parents by class teachers.

## **The Introduction of Subject Challenge days**

This year we introduce subject challenge days with the aim to give opportunity, to be innovative and present challenges / experiences in different ways to engage and extend pupil's learning. All challenge days are on mostly on a Friday, using the assembly to bring the day to a conclusion and "showcase" the work produced. The days are organised by subject leaders and the first three days have been both engaging and innovative, we look forward to the remainder of the days.

The subject programme is as follows:

Science challenge	November 30 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Completed
ICT challenge	January 11 <sup>th</sup> 2008	Completed
Work Related learning challenge	January 22/25 <sup>th</sup> 2008	Completed
Literacy challenge	February 29 <sup>th</sup> 2008	
Numeracy challenge	March 7 <sup>th</sup> 2008	
Humanities challenge	April 18 <sup>th</sup> 2008	
PSHE/ Citizenship challenge	April 25 <sup>th</sup> 2008	
Music/ RE challenge	May 16 <sup>th</sup> 2008	
Technology challenge	June 27 <sup>th</sup> 2008	
MFL challenge	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	
PE / Sports challenge	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	

Working in partnership with Malbank High school we have introduced the Young People's Arts Award, 15 students are currently working towards the bronze level of the award.

We had successful reassessments in Investors in People (IIP) and in the Leadership and Management module and gained the Family Learning (FLIGHT) kite mark for the first time.

## **School Governors**

Our thanks and appreciation to all our governors for their support and giving of their time, it is much appreciated and their work benefits all our pupils.

The current members of the governing body are:

Mr David Griffith – Chairman	Mrs Pam Bulmer – Co-opted Governor
Mr Ray Woolgar – Vice Chair & Parent Governor	Mrs Karen Hole – Staff Governor
Mr Peter Jones – Parent Governor	Mrs Janet Turner – Teacher Governor
Mrs Barbara Gibbs – Parent Governor	Mr Maurice Mogg Community Governor
Mrs Rose Lynn - Parent Governor	Mrs G Coupland – Local Authority Governor
Mr Ray King - Parent Governor	Vacancy- Local Authority Governor
M/s Alison Bowler – Co-opted Governor	

## **Next governor sub-committee 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

**Personnel and curriculum - 5:15pm**

**Finance and Premises - 6:15pm**

**Next main governors meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 7:00pm**

## **Class News**

### **Foundation Class**

We have been seeing spots before our eyes in Foundation class this half term! We have listened to the story 'Spots' during our Literacy lessons, and have all dressed up as doctors to help dolly and teddy recover from their spots. We have also played with lots of boxes exploring our Maths topic 'shape, space and measure'. We have been building box towers and of course knocking them down! Look out for our Sue Bailey made from boxes on the wall in our classroom as part of a display about 'people who help us'

The play room now has nice new flooring and store cupboards so we are looking forward to having some great shared play sessions with the children from Miss Flannigan and Mrs Rubery's classes in the next half term.

### **Class 1PF**

The class have been working hard during circle time. Lots of good sitting, turn-taking, sharing, switch pressing, listening, signing, some signing and eye-contact.

We painted lots of teddies for our display about our story 'This is the Bear and the Picnic Lunch'. We all enjoyed exploring the soft toys and props that accompany the story.

We made some stained glass fruit in Art, as we have been talking about healthy snacks.

We had fun in the hall during our soft play sessions.

Everyone has become more confident in the water following our Halliwick sessions and we look forward to resuming them after the Easter break.

We shall be having playroom sessions with Foundation and 1PF. It will be a lovely opportunity for the classes to mix, share and form more friendships. We are hoping for some warmer weather this term and we shall be looking for signs of Spring.

### **Class 1HR**

We have had a very busy half term. We really enjoyed our Science this time, looking at changing materials. We had lots of fun baking bread and cakes, making jelly and playing with ice. We also made our own ice lollies and enjoyed them on the last day of term.

We have also had excellent progress with our reading skills and now have many children taking home their books to read to mum or dad. Everyone uses PECs in class for all activities.

In Maths we have been looking at 'making patterns' and we have tried lots of different ways to do this. We are making a 'Big Book of Patterns' for everyone to read.

Good work from everyone – well done!

### **Class 2AB**

We all enjoyed the story "Can't you sleep little bear?" We had fun making dark places and (VERY CAREFULLY) using the lanterns. We tried talking about other scary things but everyone was hooked on the idea of the dark! I shall return the bears etc but could you remind me in the diaries which are yours, please – I forgot to keep a list I'm afraid. Thanks for your help – next time I shall certainly write everything down!

Science was all about changing materials for most of us so we did lots of cooking – cakes, jelly, melting chocolate – obviously very popular! This term we are looking at electricity. We will be making circuits later on.

We are working on rivers this term in Geography. We have a lovely display about the water cycle on one of our boards which you will probably see on parents' evening. We are now going to be talking about what leisure activities can take place on the river, uses of water and animals, insects etc that live in rivers.

Our story this half term is "The Snow lambs". I shan't ask to borrow anything else until I have returned the bears and lanterns! Please keep writing News and sending in snack, thanks very much from all in 2AB, Anthea B, Di, Tracy, Margaret and Kayleigh.

## **Class 2LM**

2008 has seen lots of changes for Class 2LM. They started the year with a new teacher, Miss McKie. January also saw the welcome return of some familiar faces, with both Jessica Witter and Jason Astley coming back to school after a period of illness.

On every Thursday, we have been going horse riding to Sandy Lane Equestrian Centre. The children have had lots of fun with their horses and are becoming really good riders.

We have also been fortunate enough to have an artist come into school to work with us this term. We made our own felt pictures and flowers, as well as creating paper batik.

In Literacy, we have been reading all about Flat Stanley, who got squashed as flat as a pancake. The children enjoyed creating their own Flat Stanley and an envelope to post him on his journey. We even made our own pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!

## **Class 2JD**

This busy half term has included a production of Sleeping Beauty by the Bitesize Theatre Company. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed it. Our extension work has included some fabulous art work for a classroom display.

Numeracy work has involved numbers up to 100 and our Literacy work has produced some excellent written work.

A number of children from Class 2JD have been taking part in a football tournament against other special schools at Crewe Alex. All participants tried really hard and managed to win a match!!

Phoebe Lowe, Millie Yoxall and Jamie Maclellan competed in a swimming gala at Warrington. They all did exceptionally well. Special praise goes to Millie Yoxall who won her race despite being very nervous and won a gold medal!!

We look forward to a busy and productive half term.

## **Class 3RP** *(see separate sheets)*

## **Class 3GD** *(see photos)*

A super half-term was enjoyed by all here in Class 3GD. We have enjoyed experiencing some aspects of life in World War II and have had great fun exploring original artefacts and costumes.

We also enjoyed the ICT Challenge day during which we explored animation and making our comic style newsletter.

During 'What's My Job' week we entered the dragons den with our Grandma's Cookies – very tasty and a huge success.

We are currently preparing for the Literacy Challenge Day when we plan to perform a few scenes from Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' during assembly. We have had great fun with paint and materials making props and scenery as well as experiencing 'the storm'. We are convinced we will be the stars.

## **Class 4CT / AS (see photos)**

It's been a good half term. I can't believe it has gone so quickly!

We had fun making cartoon strips and animation videos for the ICT Challenge day and we joined Class 4JT to organize a disco on the Enterprise Challenge day.

Lots of progress has been made on the AQA Units for English, RE and Geography and **Vicky, Michaela, Jamie** and **Natalie** have produced some great work for Entry Level English with Mrs Hodgkison.

Congratulations to **Michaela, Natalie, Jamie** and **Vicky** who were awarded Certificates of Participation for successfully participating in and helping to create Crewe Library's 'Teen Zone'. Their work is on display in a corner of the library if you would like to see it.

## **Class 4JT**

This term we have started a new module in Transition Challenge – Personal Development. In the last few weeks we have completed two sections. One involves making a snack or drink and the other was a follow-up to our visit before Christmas to the Pantomime, in Crewe.

We are beginning our preparations already for the Summer season by sowing ornamental grasses and Black-Eyed Susy. If there is anything you would like Key Stage 4 students to grow for later in the year, please let us know and we shall certainly try for you – don't think it is too early – a couple of people have already put in their orders.

## **Lower Sixth**

Last term was both busy and exciting for staff and students. Many personal goals were achieved by our sixth formers as they worked towards their GCSE and Gateway Award accreditations. It's good to see them grow and develop into young citizens of which we all can be proud.

January is never a month to embrace but the successful football events, college activities and placements have brightened our days. On February 6<sup>th</sup> some of Lower 6<sup>th</sup> had the opportunity of seeing 'High School Musical' at Malbank School. This was a delightful evening and a wonderful performance by the students of Malbank.

On Friday afternoon the Arts Award are a real asset as they deliver a great session of drama which all students enjoy. The skills and qualities developed here, such as confidence and speech and language are significant.

At Reasheath college students are about to study 'bovine and equine'. They really enjoyed working with the piglets although the squealing was quite ear piercing on all accounts.

However, their experiences and interactions with sheep and pigs were all too obvious on their return to school! The overalls needed a good laundering and windows were opened.

Entry Level Life Skills units and GCSE food tech. and graphics are on track and staff are all pleased with the progress. Swimming will soon finish and the D of E scheme of will begin. This means lots of camp cooking, tent erecting and walks.

Thank you for your support with homework tasks and do feel free to get in touch anytime.

## **Upper Sixth (see separate sheets)**

Hello everybody.

Please find enclosed our work news comic 'Springfield Sings' dedicated to our radio station; ASE FM. The station itself is based at Adelaide School in Crewe although we had the equipment here for a few weeks. It was really good fun.

Swimming had continued and we had the swimming gala, well done to all the winners. We also had the football tournament with the other schools in the county. Some really hard games and we scored some good goals. Everyone tried really hard and were a credit to the school.

The Entry level Award scheme is approaching completion and hopefully will be done by Easter and once the weather picks up we can begin our Duke of Edinburgh Expedition training.

Another short half term until Easter so the time will fly by.

## **P.E & SPORT**

Last half term has been a really busy time for the sports teams. The football team participated in their second tournament at Crewe Alexandra Soccer Academy. All teams played extremely well, with the under 16 boys and girls team winning 3 out of 4 of their matches. Well Done to you all!

We also had the swimming gala at Widnes Leisure Centre. Everyone swam incredibly well and a big congratulations to Millie Yoxall, Kathryn Pratt, Ben Wood and Martin Mitchell who all won gold medals!

### **Forthcoming Events:**

*Football Tournament* – Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March at Moss Farm, Northwich.

*Final Football Tournament* - Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April at Nantwich Town Football Club.

*Boccia Competition* – Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, venue to be confirmed.

### **Tesco Vouchers**

Thank you very, very much too all those people who collected Tesco Sports vouchers. We have been able to purchase netball posts, netballs and relay batons for the summer athletics competition!

It is now time to start collecting the Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers! We are hoping to collect enough this time for some badminton and volleyball nets, so all vouchers gratefully received!

## **Nurses Corner ☺**

We should be having the dentist visiting school soon. This time we will be sending a note for consent to be seen and you should return it to Sue, once signed. Even if you prefer your child NOT to be checked by the dentist please return the form as it helps me co-ordinate more efficiently.

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Again a reminder that any changes to your continence order must come through Sue – BUT I am unable to activate a delivery for you. To do that you need to ring 01270 415411

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Please remember not to put ANY medicines in children's bags – give to transport to hand in at school.

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Sue will be available as usual for the next Parents Evening

## **Speech and Language Therapy News!**

The Current Speech and Language Team at Springfield School is:

Jo - Mondays

Dave - Mon./Tues./Thurs.

Nikki - Mon./Tues./Friday

You can contact us directly on 01270 275647.

This term Jo and Dave have been providing PECs refresher training to all staff and up-dated the pupils individual PECs targets.

Dave has recently been on a feeding course, and is currently studying for his qualification.

Any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us! --- Jo, Dave and Nikki

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|                                       |                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2008 | Upper Sixth Reviews                                                       |
| Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> February      | Literacy Challenge day                                                    |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March          | Continuation of sixth form reviews                                        |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March          | Numeracy Challenge day                                                    |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March         | Continuation of sixth form reviews                                        |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March      | 4JT Reviews                                                               |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March       | PARENTS EVENING for pupils in Foundation, key stage 1 / 2/ and 3 classes. |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March         | BOCCIA competition.                                                       |
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March         | 4CT/AS reviews                                                            |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March       | End of term pupil achievement assembly.                                   |
|                                       | End of term-school closes at the usual time.                              |
|                                       |                                                                           |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2008     | School reopens for the summer term.                                       |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April         | Transition Reviews                                                        |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April      | Transition Reviews                                                        |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April         | Humanities Challenge day                                                  |