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September - December  
2014

Dear all,

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter which I hope you will find full of interesting articles about life at The Key. The Autumn term is a long one and I know that the pupils are looking forward to the Christmas break and some relaxation. We have been very busy this term and our pupils have had many varied learning opportunities. We are always looking for ways to engage our pupils and show them that learning can be enjoyable and productive. I think you will agree that the following pages are evidence of many such activities.

This term we have been very happy to have some new members of staff join us. Mrs Hiscock has taken on the role of ELSA, Ms. Marlow and Ms Smallwood are both new Teaching Assistants. In the office we have a new Senior Administration Officer, Ms Adams, and Ms Kerley has joined us as an Administration Assistant. They already feel as if they have been with us for a long time and are successfully contributing their skills to the Centre's work.

I should like to thank all of our parents and carers for the support that they give the Centre at all times. If we all work together then we will get the best results for all of the children who attend The Key.

Finally, I should like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

With all best wishes,

Mrs Alavi

Headteacher

September - December  
2014



## Our trip to Marwell Zoo

"On Tuesday 14th October, eleven students had a visit to Marwell Zoo as part of their GCSE RE course on Religion and Animal Rights. After an educational talk about endangered animals the group split into two and walked around the park, admiring the animals. There were hundreds of animals, such as leopards, rhinos, and meerkats. After a fun, busy day everyone returned with some great pictures and memories of a brilliant day."

"When we went to Marwell Zoo it was a good opportunity to see all the animals that are slowly going into extinction"

"We saw a tiger spraying on the window, a snake, a snow leopard and cub, a rhino, giraffes, a bird sanctuary, wallabies, turtles, an alligator, tapirs, camels, meerkats, penguins, zebra, oryx, a red panda and capybaras."

Marwell Zoo provided a workshop on engendered species, and the conservation work they do to help preserve animals at risk from extinction, and their habitats. Pupils were able to meet and touch two live animals; a Royal Python and Sally the stick insect. The pupils were considerably braver than the staff in getting to know these creatures close-up!

Miss Eveleigh and the pupils from the West side.





# Art & Design



Visiting artist and basket maker, Tim Johnson, has been working with the pupils at The Key for the first two weeks in December. The pupils have learnt about basket weaving at every stage - from growing and preparing willow to the weaving itself. Some of the pupils have been working as a team to create woven large scale sculptures that will be affixed to trees outside the art classroom. Other pupils have been creating bowls and plates with assistance and guidance from Tim. Perhaps the most stunning achievement is the collaborative creation of masks as shown in the picture above.

Pupils have taken an active interest in Tim's career and artistic background. Tim has gained popularity amongst staff and pupils for his innovative and inspiring designs and how he has adapted his style to suit all abilities. Everybody at The Key has appreciated his input and hopes he can come again.

Miss Drew



In the food and nutrition lessons we tend to have two main areas of focus:-

1. To widen the pupils' experience of foods and tastes, encouraging them to be braver and try new things; and
2. To give them the knowledge and skills to be able to produce nourishing, tasty and low-cost meals for themselves (and for their own eventual families) as they grow up.

## Food and Nutrition

Each recipe has a skills objective built in and we focus on the acquisition of basic skills, such as weighing and measuring, cutting, slicing, dicing, mixing, rubbing in, rolling out, boiling, simmering and serving up; all of which will be useful across the range of cooking projects we undertake, and in their own lives.

We take the notion of working safely, sensibly and harmoniously very seriously and "cleaning as you go" is encouraged as a sensible way of working. All pupils are expected to wash up, dry up and put away all the tools and dishes they have used during their cooking sessions, and hopefully they will enjoy the benefits of this at home as well.

This term we have made a Szechuan Chicken Stir-Fry; Southern Fried Chicken with Dipping Sauces; a Sausage and Vegetable Casserole; Mini-cheesecakes; Slow-cooked Pepper Steak; Chocolate Chip Shortbread; Pizza; Cheese, Leek and Potato Bake; Corned Beef Hash; Chilli Con Chicken; Chocolate Fudge; plus seven different types of cake (each class baked a different one) which were sold to raise funds for the Coffee afternoon we held on the 26th September 2014. This was in aid of the Macmillan Cancer charity, which provides nurses to support patients in their own homes, in hospitals and hospices. Well done everyone!

Mrs Hounam

# Science



Year 10 and Year 11 have been working hard on their GCSEs this term. They have covered topics such as Atomic structure, Acids and Alkalis and electric circuits.

H and C spent a lesson looking at emulsions and why some liquids don't mix together. To some it looked like a mess, to Miss Drew, it was art. Cross curricular learning at its best!



Whilst the weather has stayed dry we have also looked at forces and we built water rockets and egg landers. These challenge activities bring out the competitive side of the pupils who are all determined to make their rocket go the highest or keep their egg alive for longest.

Mrs Langdon-Saunders

# PSHE

This Autumn term has seen the pupils thinking about two very different topics; Sex and Relationship Education and Personal Finance.

## Sex and Relationship Education

The pupils have thought about the different kinds of relationships that exist between people, and how a regular friendship might develop over time to become a more intimate relationship. We looked at the things that made a good relationship and those things that can make a relationship deteriorate. As a group we discussed the age of consent and how this might have an effect on the pupils themselves. The pupils also thought about the changes that happen to our bodies during puberty and how this can have an effect on our relationships with the opposite sex. We looked at what might happen if we do not use appropriate contraception, and how we can treat STIs.

## Personal Finance

In personal finance, we have been looking at the different services and support available to the pupils when it comes to their own money. The pupils have looked at how much money they receive and how they choose to spend it each week, and how they might be able to save some of their money if they choose to budget their finances correctly. Each group also had a challenge to raise as much money as possible for two different local charities.

Miss O'Toole





# Maths

Well done to all the pupils who sat their maths mock exam on Friday 12th December in preparation for their IGCSE maths exam in January. All Year 11 pupils should have received a letter about their actual maths Exam taking place in January. Paper 1 is on Tuesday 6th January in the afternoon and Paper 2 is on Monday 12th January. Revision over the holidays is important for them to do well.

Good luck to everyone taking their exams.  
Mrs Sherwood

This term in English we have been studying different media based around life in World War One. We have watched and had discussions around the film 'War Horse', which has opened lots of the pupils' eyes to the conditions the soldiers had to deal with in the trenches and the huge amount of casualties on 'No-Man's Land'.

Having watched the film, they have written letters as if they were soldiers from the trenches, including the strong emotions they thought the soldiers would have experienced and the sort of language that would have been appropriate for the time of the war.

# English

The pupils assisted me in creating a beautiful wall display of "The Christmas Truce" by Carol Ann Duffy, a poem written about the cease fire that occurred on Christmas Day in 1914 and the communication that went on between the two sides of the war. We then looked at the language in the poem and discussed how the poem made us feel about the war.

They have been very sensitive in the way they have approached the subjects raised and have shown great maturity in the discussions we have had. There has been some lovely work produced and overall I am proud of the pupils who have participated in this topic.

Miss Shrubb





# Design Technology



A great many artefacts have been made this term with a good variety of designs and materials used. The pupils are developing their skills all the time and are gaining in confidence with hand and machine tools, to the extent where they are becoming far more independent. The introduction of the laser cutter has meant that pupils have a hands on experience of CAD/CAM (computer aided design computer aided manufacture) and have used the technology to improve both the accuracy and aesthetic quality of their work.



A skate ramp



The tables and stools are more developed and also of a better quality than earlier work.

It has been extremely rewarding working alongside the pupils and helping them develop their skills, making and social skills. The most exciting thing for me is seeing their confidence develop through making artefacts and seeing the smiles and pride as they watch their work materialise in front of them.

Mr Hiscock and Ms Walker.

# Extra special Events

## Work Experience

On Wednesday 12th November I visited Rainbow Nursery for the day, it is in a village called Froxfield which is near Petersfield and in the middle of the countryside. It was a really long car journey away.

When we arrived I was introduced to the staff and then I helped Jackie who is one of the teachers to make Christmas cakes with the children. I then sat down with some of them and helped them with their numbers and letters, after that, one of the little girls asked me to sit with her and read her a story, some of the others came to sit with us. Wherever I went that day, three or four of the children followed me and wanted me to do an activity with them.

As it was a nice day, all of the children put on their welly boots and coats ready to go for a walk in the field. They found me some wellies too and I went on the walk with them, they were all trying to hold my hand at the same time. After our walk it was lunch time and I had my lunch as well, we had to sit on really tiny little chairs.

It was a really good day at Rainbow Nursery and I thought the children were really sweet. When I got home I had a sleep, I was so tired.

S Yr9

## Christmas comes to The Key



In food and nutrition we are currently making Christmas Dinners with all the classes.

We have put classes together in pairs for this task so that pupils are potentially producing dinner for quite a number of others. It also gives pupils the opportunity to sit down at the table for a festive banquet with a large jolly group of pupils and staff.

Every pupil also gets to pull a cracker containing a hat and joke.

The focus has been on preparing everything beforehand, ready to "switch on" and cook, and then on carefully calculating the start-times, working backwards from the time the meat or bird is due to be ready.



# The Charity Fundraiser



In their groups, the pupils planned and contributed to our very successful fundraiser that took place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

After discussing a variety of different ideas, each group then decided upon an activity or stall that they would run at the charity event. The **Yellow Group** took control of the raffle, whilst the **Blue Group** made a variety of Christmas decorations to sell in D and T with Mr. Hiscock. The **Red Group** and the **Green Group** were in charge of the games which included Guess the Amount of Sweets in the Jar and Guess the Name of the Teddy, and the **Orange Group** organised the Lucky Dip. The **Purple Group** made some delicious Rocky Road tray bake whilst the **Pink Group** decorated cupcakes. All of these items went on sale, which both staff and pupils were able to buy.

All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves participating in all the activities that were put on by the other groups.

In total we raised **£72.25** which was all down to the hard work and dedication of each of the pupils.

This is an amazing amount of money which will be appreciated by each of the charities. A huge **congratulations** to all of the pupils who took part in the fundraiser.



# Meet the Staff

## Sarah Newell - Management Committee

Since I started working as a member of the Management Committee I have witnessed many changes. From the inadequate, poorly heated, make do classrooms, to the fit for purpose building, that is now being used as the Education Centre.

Along with taking a keen interest in The Key, I work for the RSPCA in Stubbington, re-homing the cats, dogs, ferrets, budgies, rabbits etc. I have even re-homed a chicken called Percy!!

I am also a member of Home-Start Gosport and Fareham, which assists families of pre-school children and helps to build their confidence to make their lives better.

I am a receptionist at the Citizen's Advice Bureau in Gosport. This role is extremely rewarding although it does have many challenging moments. The demand for the service is huge so therefore the staff must have great empathy and a sense of humour is vital!

I enjoy walking with my Yorkshire Terrier Leila and making a variety of cards. Gardening is an activity I have recently undertaken but I still have a lot to learn as I am still trying to decipher the difference between flowers and pretty weeds!!!

## Mrs Jane Hiscock - ELSA

At the beginning of September I took up the post of ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Advisor) at The Key Education Centre. I had previously worked at Crofton School for nine years, for the last four, working in the same role. An ELSA works with pupils who have low self-esteem and need help in understanding their emotions. This in turn helps them to understand the emotions of others and encourages them to build healthy relationships whilst increasing their resilience. An ELSA programme initially runs for a six week period but can be ongoing depending on individual circumstances during this time, sessions are a mixture of one-to-one consultation, activities and sometimes games.

A Pupil Referral Unit is a very different environment to mainstream school, and the relationships that you have the opportunity to build with the pupils are very different but in essence more rewarding, tiny steps of progress feel huge. I can truthfully say that I have loved getting to know the pupils, feel honoured that they have trusted me enough to confide some of their anxieties, worries and also their successes.

As Christmas approaches I feel very much part of the family, every member of the team, from the very first day have made me feel welcome and I feel thoroughly supported in my role. Christmas will bring a well deserved break and I hope that the New Year is happy and peaceful for us all.



# Year 11 Exam Dates

All staff at The Key  
would like to wish Year  
11 pupils the best of  
luck with their  
forthcoming exams

**IGCSE Mathematics Paper 1 – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015 – 1-3pm**

**IGCSE Mathematics Paper 2 – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 – 1-3pm**

**All Year 11 pupils must be in the Centre by 12.45am and will NOT  
be allowed to leave until the exam is over at 3pm!**

## Further Information and Useful Contacts...

### Mobile Phones and I-pods

Carers/Parents, please can you remind your children that mobile phones and I-pods etc. must be placed in lockers on their arrival at The Key. Pupils will be provided with a key.

### Reminder to Carers/Parents

If your child is not going to be attending The Key for any reason, please can you ensure you inform us by phoning: 02392 528653 before 8.15am.

### Emergency Contact Details

In the case of an emergency, it is important that we have your most recent contact details. Please notify us of any changes of address and telephone numbers.

**Thank you**

### Parentline Plus

Tel: 0808 800 2222

[www.parentlineplus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)

### Childline

Tel: 0800 1111

[www.childline.org](http://www.childline.org)

### Motiv8

Tel: 02392 834027

[www.motiv8south.org.uk](http://www.motiv8south.org.uk)

### Italk

Tel: 02380 383920

Happy Christmas from

