

Sydenham Primary School Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,








This has been another busy week, starting with an early morning for year 6 on Monday, some special visitors yesterday and Mothers' Day Lunch today. One of our special visitors yesterday was Tristram Hunt, shadow Education minister. Tristram had heard about our fantastic Ofsted from Miss Bond's brother in law who works in his constituency office and he asked if he could visit us!



When Tristram Hunt arrived he was welcomed by three of our learning detectives and was particularly keen to meet Miss Bond.








More photographs inside from this visit and other events.

Mothers' Day lunch photographs next week.

Easter Egg Raffle:
We will be holding an Easter Egg Raffle on Friday 27th March. Please send 50p in a named envelope if you wish your child to take part. This is also non uniform day.

DISCO
Reminder that the school discos are taking place on Thursday 26th March.



Mrs Westwood is tweeting again @ Sydenham Primary.

Best wishes

Carla Matthews

Associate Headteacher



International
School Award
2010-2013



Healthy Schools



SILVER
Extended Services
Warwickshire

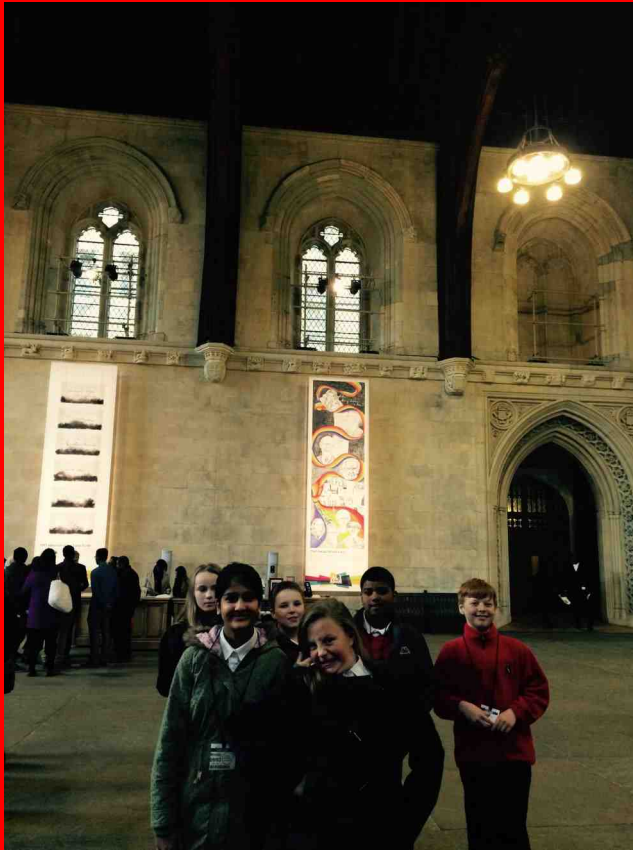


Year 6 visit to the Houses of Parliament

As this is election year the government decided to offer tours of the Houses of Parliament to schools. Back in November we booked one and you can read below the account of the visit by Indigo and Zoha in year 6.

On the 9th of March, year 6 got up bright and early and went to school at the ridiculous time of 6:15, to get on a coach to visit the Houses of Parliament in central London.

After a long coach journey, we got to the entrance. As we got in we were checked by security-Mrs Cook was stopped and had to be checked more thoroughly. To her relief she was not arrested.



The Great Hall had a beautiful wooden ceiling. Monarchs used to have banquets in the Great Hall until the 1850's when it became too expensive.

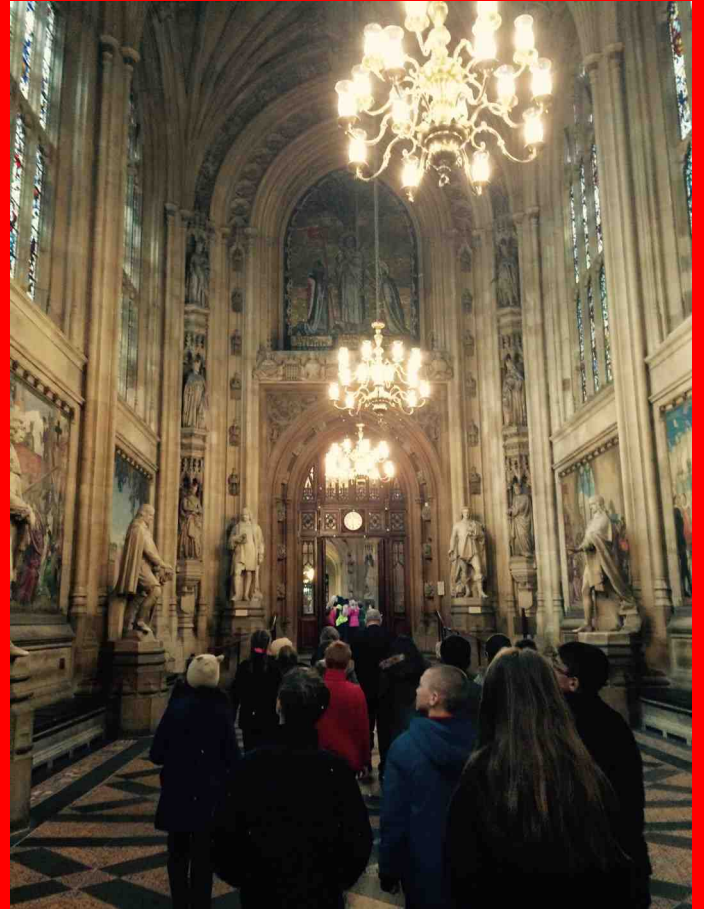
We went through the door into the main hall and met our tour-guide: Terry. The first room we went to was the medieval part which survived the Great Fire. In the past the Lords had their discussions and debates there. The place where the speaker addressed the arguments was marked for historical purpose.



The Victorian rooms were next. First, was the room where the Monarch would enter with a carpet laid out especially on the stairs (The Queen is restricted to a small part of the Houses of Parliament).

Afterwards were the House of Lords. Nobody was allowed to sit on the seats unless you were to show a certificate signed by the Queen to say you were a part of the debate or a Member of Parliament. Michael Jackson came to the Houses of Parliament and asked if he could buy the Queen's royal throne (made of 15 carat gold) in 2002. We are glad that they said NO!

Later on was the visit to the House of Commons-a member from the Lords would come to the door and knock hardly leaving a dent. In the House of Commons the Queen was forbidden to pass through the hall. If you wanted a seat you would have to be in Parliament and reserve a seat to be able to sit down.



The Ghost of the Great Hall

In the 18th Century a man was found beheaded in the Great Hall. No one saw this happen. These murders went on for a few weeks until the Parliament had had enough. They sent the guards to have a stake out and watch out for the mystery killer. Late in the stormy night the guards found a mysterious black creature lurking in the shadows. The guards went to catch the dark figure but as they went to grab the creature...lightning struck and there was nothing left but footprints. So no one ever found out where the bodies had come from.

However one night Terry, the tour-guide, was working at the gift shop and he saw the black shape disappear into the shadows. He told himself he would never drink again!



Date: Thursday 12th March..Time:11.45
3 excited learning detectives meet and greet Tristram Hunt (shadow education minister) and Lynette Kelly (labour candidate for Leamington and Warwick). Well done Tanveer, Lucy and Ben.



Question time in Year 6: The politicians must have thought they were in the Houses of Parliament as year 6 questioned them about why we have SATs? What is being done for Sport? What are the changes to KS4 exams?



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After question time with pupils the learning detectives gave a quick tour of the school. The horses' heads were much admired and our visitors were impressed by the fact that our book and writing are being exhibited at the National Gallery this year.



The last item on the itinerary was a question time session with staff. Staff appreciated the thoughtful manner and detailed answers they were given and had the opportunity to give their opinions on a range of subjects.



Looking at Learning ~ in Year 2



LO: To learn facts about owning a pet in order to write a non-chronological report.



Mrs Rowan Lancaster brought in her pet dog, Lola, so that we could hear what it is like to own a pet dog. We heard that Mrs R-L is responsible for feeding Lola and taking her on lots of walks for exercise. Lola eats complete dog food which is made from meat, rice and cereals. Lola eats one large meal once a day. We learned that Lola sleeps on a bed in the kitchen. Lola likes people a lot and shows that she likes them by giving licks. Lola can do some tricks. She can sit, lie down, jump up and give her paw. When Mrs R-L trained Lola they practised these tricks lots together and Mrs R-L rewarded Lola with treats, praise and smiles for following instructions. Lola likes to learn and likes praise when she has done something right. Lola's tail wags when she is happy.



Musical Events

We had a music event event 3 weeks ago when we saw an extract of a performance of CRAZY CREATURES performed by 3 members of the band 360%. Next week our final concert is being performed by the Villiers String Quartet and we have been sent some information to share with you.

VILLIERS QUARTET MAKES LEAMINGTON AND BBC DEBUT

The final concert in the 2014/15 Leamington Music International String Quartet Concerts series at the Royal Pump Rooms in Leamington will be given by the **VILLIERS STRING QUARTET** on Friday 20 March at 7.30.

The concert which will be recorded by BBC Radio 3 has a programme consisting of Haydn's Quartet in F minor Opus 55 No 2 and two quartets written by the English composers Delius and Elgar during World War One.

The Villiers Quartet which was formed in 2010 and will be playing in Leamington for the first time has a line-up of James Dickenson and Tamaki Higashi violins, Carmen Flores viola and Nick Stringfellow on cello. Nick Stringfellow is well known in this area for his work with the Orchestra of the Swan.

Named after Villiers Street in central London, the Quartet already has a big reputation for playing English composers and is also very involved in a wide range of activities in contemporary music.

The Villiers Quartet will visit Leamington on Tuesday 17 March to give workshops in Sydenham and Whitnash Primary Schools, followed by a visit to Claverdon Primary School, all as part of the Leamington Music Education Programme.

The Quartet series at the Royal Pump Rooms is followed by the Leamington Music Festival Weekend, which runs 1-5 May and which is launched by the Fitzwilliam Quartet and finishes with the Henschel Quartet from Germany, whose concert will be the 100th string quartet concert mounted by Leamington Music in its nine years existence. The Festival also marks the one hundredth festival that Richard Phillips has created or directed.

Tickets for all Leamington Music concerts are on sale at the Leamington Town Hall Box Office, telephone 01926 334418 or online www.royalspacentreandtownhall.co.uk.

School Choir

Our school choir are going to be very busy this weekend and early next week rehearsing for the performances of the Musicals **Jungler Book** and **Dr Seussical** which are taking place next weekend 21st March.

We would like to wish them all good luck.

Sydenham Super Stars!

Congratulations to all of this week's Sydenham Super Stars!

Friday 13th March, 2015



Some Diary Dates:

We break up for the Easter holidays on Friday 27th March and return to school on Monday 13th April.

Thursday 23rd April: English Touring Opera in school performing Shackleton's Cat for KS2

Thursday 23rd May: year 5 Residential trip to London for Kip in a Ship

Friday 24th April: Infants Share a Book

School will be closed on Monday 4th May for bank holiday and Thursday 7th May for election day.

Thursday 16th May y3/4 Bikeability Level 1 free training.