

SCHOOL NEWS

During the long winter months there's nothing nicer than wallowing in a good story. The children in Duffield Class have been sharing and extending their knowledge of traditional stories – retelling, acting and writing... creating and cooking!

Alfie, Thomas, Grace and Ashleigh use a secret recipe to cook less athletic gingerbread people!

Ashleigh admires the results.

Here is just one sample of a young author at work...

The Gingerbread Man retold and typed by Megan aged 5

Once upon a time there was an old man and a old lady and they made a gingerbread man and they put it in a oven and they opened the oven and it jumped out of the oven and it ran out of the oven and the old man and old lady said stop but the gingerbread man ran on. He ran past a dog. He ran past a cow. They chased the gingerbread man but he said run run. He went passed a wolf and the wolf said climb on my back I can swim you over the river the gingerbread man did but the wolf ate him all up.

The wonderful magic of stories is that they fire young imaginations to go on voyages of their own, pirates ahoy!

The children in Anson Class have written extended stories AND designed their own puppets for 'in house' performances. Matthew with his puppet are on the cover page. **LESLEY CLARK**



1ST MARCHAM GUIDES

As usual it has been a hectic and fun filled year for all of us. We currently have 30 or so girls which makes us the strongest unit in the district but our numbers have fallen slightly due to the simple lack of 10 year old girls in the village. We still met on Monday nights at the SSSC.



We have had many enjoyable meetings covering a whole range of activities and learning a whole lot of new skills. Some included, Taking our daughters to work project which had us learning about a lots of different jobs from floristry to vet, lawyer to army officer, and a yummy trip to a bakery in Salisbury. We have excelled our cooking skills with chutney and jam making, biscuit making, tossing pancakes and outdoor cooking. We've learnt many new crafts including table centres, card making, On the more active side we have completed a sponsored bike ride, been swimming.

We have been very busy away from the meeting as well. Camping is still a major part in guiding and we've had 2 camps this year. Our main camp we were the Romans and enjoyed mosaic making, chariot racing, toga making and a trip to the local archaeological dig (yes due to time constraints on the leaders we did stay closer to home this year!) as well as all the usual camp mayhem and fun.

We also had a weekend away in Dover with a day trip to France in May. Our patrol Leader and Seconders also had a night away in October for some team bonding.

We have competed in the Oxfordshire Green Hamster Competitions district football day and division outdoor cooking competition which we progressed to the 2nd round and were runners up. Further afield our Young Leader was selected to March 2005

represent Anglia Guiding region on an international camp to Russia. She met loads of Guides and Scouts from around the world, It was a amazing experience and one which will stay with her forever. We ended the year with our Christmas party in a traditional St Lucia festival .

Lots of girls have completed badges and Go for it's this year and our 2 oldest completed their Baden Powell in October.

This year has also seen some changes in the leadership team, It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Margaret Willis although we know she will be back to check up on us! She retires after a huge number of years service in guiding and was involved in re-starting Marcham Guides years ago. She will be very much missed especially at camp as who will clean the toilets! We want to thank her for all her hard work and commitment and wish her a happy retirement. We also have a new young leader and new assistant guider joined us and both are settling in well.

We would also like to thank all the many people in the Village who have supported us in different ways over the last year.

If any of you are interested in finding out more about Guiding please contact Jill Rowe 390885.

EMMA ROWE

NEWS FROM PLAYGROUP

The children have been very busy in Playgroup since Christmas, making butterflies, lots of cakes and some brilliant daffodil pictures using their hand prints. The theme for after half term will be animals and the children will be doing lots of animal related crafts and cooking. With spring just around the corner, we hope our outdoor play area will be ready for use by Easter.

After just over 2 years at Playgroup, Nichola Preston has decided to leave and concentrate on her career as a care assistant. We would like to say a big thankyou to Nichola for all her hard and enthusiastic work. The children and the committee will all miss her and we wish her all the best for her future.

With our Annual General Meeting approaching in June, we face the possibility of losing several of our most valued and experienced committee members after many years of dedicated volunteer work. It is vitally important that parents get involved (and this includes Dads as well as Mums!). The playgroup committee is only as strong as we, the parents, make it. If you can spare even just a couple of hours a month, please get involved to share your ideas and your enthusiasm. Committee meets once a month - any parent who would like to come along is welcome.

Finally we are hoping to run a first aid course for parents and carers. This will be open to all parents, even if they are not involved in playgroup. It is likely to cost in the region of £37 per person: this may seem like a lot of money, but could mean the difference between life and death of a child in a medical emergency. If anyone is interested, contact Julia Davies 391912. **CR**

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Marcham Baby and Toddler Group meets each Tuesday morning (including during school holidays) at All Saints Church, from 0930 to 1130: it's a chance for all parents and carers of small children to come along and have a drink and a chat – and for their little ones to do the same! The children have been enjoying making Valentines cards and practising rolling out wiggly worms from playdough.

We are currently doing an inventory of all our toys and would like to appeal for donations of any GOOD QUALITY, second hand toys, especially any dolls, play food/pots and pans, toy cars, car mats, dressing up clothes, etc.

Our programme of activities for March includes making mothers day cards, fondant hearts, hand print painting, an Easter Egg hunt and weather wheels. All new parents and children are of course welcome – just turn up; we look forward to seeing you.

For further information about Marcham Baby & Toddler Group contact Clare Eveson-Roberts: 391731.