

Caen Community Primary Newsletter

Friday 9th February 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to start by just passing on thanks from Nicola's family to those who have donated either through the school or the Just Giving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ruth-gilson1>). The total raised so far through the page is over £5100 and the donations are going to North Devon Hospice.

I went to the Devon Association of Primary Head Teachers (DAPH) Spring briefing on Tuesday and a key message they are trying to get out, along with Devon County Council, is about **school funding**. A school's budget is set by the number of pupils it has and different authorities are funded in different ways. DAPH have calculated that if Caen was just transplanted to Cornwall our budget would be over £130,000 greater, if in Westminster it would be more than £300,000 greater and if in Hackney (London) it would be more than £490,000 greater. These differences are huge and DAPH are trying to bring this to the attention of our county's MPs. I have attached the letter that DAPH are sending out and schools are encouraging parents to write to their MPs and I have already done so as Head Teacher. We expect our schools to get our children to the same point and help all of our children to have the educational foundations to succeed and we all contribute to the funding of our schools so why shouldn't a school in Devon have the same proportion of funding for its pupils than one in London? If you are writing to our MP (Peter Heaton-Jones) please do let me know.

We are a growing school and with our nursery we now have over 400 children which is fantastic. What it also means is that the playground is busier. Please remind your children that they **cannot skateboard, scooter or ride their bikes in the playground before or after school**.

On Monday it was the Braunton Learning Community **Swimming Gala** which is now in its fifth year. We have won this event for the past four years and once again Caen triumphed! There was some very impressive swimming for our children and those from the local schools. Our very own Miss Fogarty organises and runs this competition and she was ably helped by a number of parents once again. Thank you to those who helped look after our team and made the smooth running of the gala possible. Thank you also to Miss Sayer and the Y9 girls from the Academy who helped get the children into the right lane. Lastly, thank you to those who came to watch and added your voices to the wonderful atmosphere.

Throughout the week we've had **YR** doing their **Balanceability** and **Y4** doing their **Bikeability** courses. They have all enjoyed these sessions and I have learnt some valuable lessons as well.

On Tuesday a group of **Y5** children went to Braunton Academy for a **Taiko Drumming** workshop. They had a great time using these impressive Japanese drums.



Stars of the week

Well done to:

Jude Burke, Noah Coulson, Harry Jeffries, Ben Sands, Rhys Orchard, Phoebe Symcox, Tom Ward, Edie Cooper, Riley Hookway, Isabella Chalmers, Ben Stokeley, Toby Alexander



WE ARE RECRUITING

We are looking for a **lunchtime activity co-ordinator** as Celine Townsend who has been doing a fantastic job in this role is now taking on a similar role at Tyspanne. You will need to have energy and enthusiasm to run lunchtime activities such as scooter and skateboard club; and, netball, dodgeball and football games and house competitions etc. Please see the office, Miss Fogarty or Mrs Latham if interested.

Water/ drinks

Please note that the policy has not changed in school: **just water in drinks bottles.**

Tuesday was also **Safer Internet Day**. I have written before about checking location settings on apps and just what your children are watching, playing and uploading. Children can easily click through to inappropriate content or communicate with people who may not be as they seem. www.thinkyouknow.co.uk has lots of information for parents and children about keeping safe online.

On Wednesday a group of children went to take part in a **hockey tournament** at The Park Community School in Barnstaple. The children had a great time and won one game, drew three and lost one. They didn't progress but were able to play some additional matches and they thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

On Thursday **Mr Edwards**, who leads the Forest School sessions, went to visit Sticklepath which has a very well established Forest School. He came back enthusiastic and invigorated, brimming with ideas and we look forward to this element growing and developing.

As well as **Pitch in a Pound** for the Hospice (thank you for your donations) today has been **Elmer Day** for YR. Mrs Sim and her team have based much of their learning this past half-term on this wonderful book about celebrating what makes us special and unique. The children have learnt the story and performed it for parents (the film is on the website) and today they came in wearing their Elmer outfits and they all look wonderful.

Also this morning **Y3** performed to their parents on the front playground. Each class has been having a weekly **brass** lesson from Paul Molten this half-term and Miss Reed and Mr Holker have been practising for 10-15minutes most days with their classes. The practise really paid off and both classes gave great renditions of 'Hot Cross Bun' and 'Mary had a little lamb'. Thank you to Jo Howard and the PTA who have funded the brass tuition that Y4 and Y3 have received this year through a grant that Jo wrote.

Thank you to Celine Townsend who has been great on the playground at lunchtimes and we look forward to working with her when she is settled into her new role as Activity Coordinator at Tyspanne Nursing Home. We are very keen to work across the generations meaningfully.

As ever, if you or a relative/ friend would like to volunteer at Caen in some capacity please let me or the office know.

It's been a busy and productive half-term and I hope that your children and you have a good week away from school and are ready to start back on Monday 19th. The videos of the brass performance are on the 'School News' section of the website as are more photos from this week's activities.

Kind regards,

Mr Page

