

# Thomas Ashton School Newsletter



Welcome to the Spring Issue, we would like to thank you for your continued support

## Reu the Rainbow Gnu

We had a lovely offer over the half term from Nicola at Reuben's Retreat. She offered 'Reu the Rainbow Gnu' mascot to come into school during World Book Week to read the story to the children. The mascot was accompanied by the author of the book Victoria Trundle, who read the story to the pupils.

In preparation for this, to lead us nicely into book week. The staff read the story to the pupils without them seeing the mascot, then we ran a little art competition, who could draw Reu the Rainbow Gnu, what will he/she look like etc The winner was chosen by the author herself Victoria

1<sup>st</sup> prize Morgan Ross

2<sup>nd</sup> prize Billy Heathcote

3<sup>rd</sup> prize Mathew Jones

The day was a great success and all the pupils enjoyed the experience. Some of the KS3 pupils were mentors for the KS2 pupils. Luke Fletcher was our meeter and greeter.



## Mettrick's Butchers

What a fantastic opportunity Emin group had earlier this week. Mettrick's butchers in Glossop, made it possible for seven of the pupils to take part in pie and sausage making. Mettrick's butchers has won awards for their pies across the County and have featured on many TV programmes. Pupils were able to work in the actual bakery alongside John Mettrick the owner and experience life as a Baker. They learnt a lot of new things as they embarked on making pork pies (but we won't give too many secrets away!). As the pork pies were baking, pupils also had the opportunity to make



their own sausages and see what actually goes into a sausage. They had fun working the sausage machine and trying to make and tie sausages. Pupils were also able to take away their pies and sausages and I received many messages from parents saying how delicious they were. Well done Emin!

## Emin

Emin have been busy making teacups with flowers in them for Mother's Day. Addison and Morgan Ross made a trip to Emmaus in Mossley and bartered with the staff for teacups. Back at school, Morgan Ross and Luke Fletcher led on this and they based themselves in the Design and Technology room and pupils came to them and printed their handprints, which were then shrunk down and made into labels.

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The Queen celebrates two birthdays each year: her actual birthday on 21 April and her official birthday on a Saturday in June. Official celebrations to mark Sovereigns' birthday have often been held on a day other than the actual birthday, particularly when the actual birthday has not been in the summer.

Angela Walker attended the Arts SEN hub meeting earlier this term and they discussed a possible opportunity relating to the Queen's birthday picnic event, which is hosted by the Arts Council on Sunday 12 June 2016. The Arts Council has been in discussions about the idea of the SEN hub perhaps working on something, for example a large 'Queens head'. All classes have been requested to create some art around the Queen's birthday as we are hoping to put this on display in the park on 12th June 2016.

In addition to this but along the same lines, Janine Barber who hosts this event has asked pupils to take part in Broadbottom's annual scarecrow event, each year we go on the hunt for them, this year we are actually going to make and display one. The theme of course for us will be the Queen!!! We will keep you posted.

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Sometime last year, school was offered the opportunity to exhibit artwork at Hyde Town Hall by Councillor Fitzpatrick. He was so impressed by some of the work by the pupils at Thomas Ashton School, that he wanted them to be celebrated in a public place. Currently our artwork resides in the main corridor of Hyde Town Hall. Last week I received a call from Councillor Fitzpatrick, saying that lots of people had commented on the art work and were pleased with its overall effect on how bright and colourful the corridors have become. So the offer has been extended for us to also supply artwork to the Conference and Review room at Hyde Town Hall. So if you are ever passing Hyde Town Hall pop in and have a look.

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Back in October 2015 Shania and Tyler had the opportunity to visit the battlefields in Belgium. Rolling on from this they have been asked to provide a quote and some images for a new magazine for Veterans it is the first of its kind and we are very excited about this. Watch this space.

Along these lines, Tyler and Shania are also taking part in PROJECT 110. This is a great opportunity for Shania and Tyler to be chosen to visit the Houses of Parliament. The Project strongly encourages students to think of innovative ways in which to deliver a project based upon their study of the First World War and visit to the battlefields of the Western Front.

By presenting their 'Legacy 110' projects within the local community, not only are students deepening their understanding of the First World War amongst local people, but they are also enhancing core work and life skills. Tyler and Shania hope to do this via a video, so we may be asking you to view this in the near future as they need as many views as they can !!!!!

# Easter Term 2016

I am delighted to announce that Ms Probert gave birth to a little girl this term and Ms Walker gave birth to a little boy! Everyone is doing fine and I'm sure you would want to join me in wishing them all well.

To help cover their maternity leaves, we welcome Ms Leevy and Mr Johnson. Ms Leevy is studying for her Level 3 teaching assistant qualification, whilst Mr Johnson has worked in our school before whilst he was at university and gaining a teaching qualification. They have both settled in really well and we are delighted to have them on the staff team.



Can I give a big thank you on behalf of everyone to Mr Alan Fitton, who leaves us at Easter to take up a permanent post in a mainstream primary school in Manchester. Mr Fitton joined us at a time when he was looking for a career change, and whilst with us he successfully completed a Level 3 Teaching Assistant qualification. We wish him the best of luck in his new job.

I am excited to see the school football team up and running. They had a fantastic experience in a tournament at the Etihad Stadium and were an absolute credit to the school. I am sure there is more to come from them before the end of the season!

Congratulations are due to Ms McDonough and Mrs Southall who worked together to put in a bid to the Arts Award Access Fund and were successful in getting just under £1,500 to fund an Arts project for our pupils starting in September.

A big thank you to Ms Olivia Peers from 'Born and Bred' Consultancy and Mr Steve Dempsey from Riffs Music Academy, for their hard work in supporting the KS3 Arts Project. This included a visit to the Contact Theatre in Manchester to watch 'Broke 'n Beat' and a performance in front of parents and fellow pupils in order to help them achieve their 'Explore' Arts Award. I hope to have a video of the performance on the school website soon.

Next term we are running a project for Key Stage 2 pupils with some pupils from Key Stage 3 using their skills and experience to help as mentors..

I'm very proud to have artwork from pupils at Thomas Ashton School on display in the Conference Room at Hyde Town Hall. We want as many people as possible to know about our school, our pupils and the fantastic work that they do! See the photos on our website.

Can I quickly plug an opportunity for parents that will soon be happening. Please keep your eye out for an invite to join a parent group that will meet three times before the summer in order to decide a programme of activities starting in September. I have organised for the co-author of one of the most popular parenting courses currently being offered to parents around the country to come and facilitate the Parent Group. She also happens to be a school governor! She has a wealth of experience working with parents and this will be a fantastic opportunity for me to see a Parent Group up and running in school.

All we need is you...!

Have a safe holiday and see you all on the 18<sup>th</sup> April

## Easter Raffle Winners

**First Prize: Mrs Jones**

**Second Prize: Billy Heathcote**

**Third Prize: Maddock Eley**

**Many other prizes have been won!**

All proceeds are being sent to the charity CICRA which is the 'Crohn's in Childhood Research Association', a charity close to the schools heart.

## School Dates

Finish for Easter	Fri 1st April 2016 1.30pm
Return	Monday 18th April 2016
Bank Holiday	Monday 2nd May
Finish for half term	Fri 27th May 2016
Return	Monday 6th June 2016
Finish	Tuesday 19th July 2016 @ 1.30pm

## Football Tournament

Thomas Ashton School football team have been practising their football skills since the beginning of the year in September. The football team is made up of a mixture of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils.

We have always had a football team, and each year the players have worked hard and shown good skills and a great attitude.

And this year is no different! We were over the moon when the team managed to achieve their first win on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016, narrowly beating Hyde Community College.

This has all been in preparation for a football tournament organised by 'Vision For Education'. The tournament was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 and the venue was the Etihad Campus on astroturf pitches.

Thomas Ashton School competed against Brownhill Learning Community, Southern Cross School, Woolston Brook, New Horizons, Nugent House and Spring Brook School.

Unfortunately, we did not get the results we were hoping for, however, we took away valuable life skills and a sense of achievement and camaraderie. Shania Keegan was the only female to play all games in the tournament.



On the 24<sup>th</sup> March, Da Vinci worked alongside JP's to host a very successful coffee morning in aid of CICRA. The charity CICRA, who are dedicated to helping those with Crohn's disease, were chosen by the school, as the charity that would receive all profits raised in the coffee morning. The Coffee Morning ran between 9:30am and 11:00am, in the school's hall.

In this very short period of time, the room was filled with lots of people, enjoying their drinks, eating cakes and buying gifts for their loved ones. And as an added bonus we were able to watch our dance class showing off their moves. Well Done!



## This term has been an exciting one in the Arts!

We have been lucky enough to take part in a project run in partnership with Contact Theatre, Manchester.

'Contacting Thomas Ashton' engaged our KS3 pupils in Dance, Drama, Movement, Music and Spoken Word. Pupils worked alongside creative experts from Contact Theatre. We visited the theatre and watched an amazing performance by the Broke 'n' Beat Collective. Contact even fed us Pizza!

Through this project, most pupils gained their Explore Arts Awards. We can't wait to do our next Arts Project.



## Let it Grow—Banksy

We have been looking at the Biodiversity of the school grounds. We carried out an investigation to see how diverse our school is. First we threw 2 hoops down in different areas to select our research area. We then looked closely inside the hoop and counted all the different plants. We found only 4 different types which were the same in both areas. From this we discovered that our school has a LOW BIO-DIVERSITY. We are hoping that the development of our wild area will improve the diversity and will encourage a wider range of plants and wildlife.



