

DASP NEWS

**The Newsletter of the
Dorchester Area Schools Partnership**

Issue 9

January 2007

DASP Gets A New School!



The start of the Autumn term of 2006, saw the opening of a new school within DASP. Frome Valley First School replaces Owermoigne First in the Partnership. Its brand new buildings are located in Crossways, where the majority of the school's children live.



The Dedication of the school took place on Thursday 16th November 2006. The children were delighted to welcome Bishop Tim Thornton, Bishop of Sherborne, who led a stimulating and joyous service of Dedication and Blessing of the new school.

It was also an event to celebrate the arrival of the school in Crossways and the school were pleased to be joined by representatives of all the groups from the village. Governors of the school, representatives from the builders and the architects, local Headteachers and other local dignitaries joined them, as well as parents of the children at school.

Following the blessing, the whole school very enthusiastically followed Bishop Tim, with lots of Holy Water. As well as blessing each classroom, the Bishop ensured a few adults were 'blessed' as well with the water, much to the children's delight! After this, he cut a special cake, which the children and the school's guests shared. The school then remained open until 7pm for other members of the community to visit – and lots of them did!

Headteacher, Helen Boyce said "The new school is a lovely building and we now have all the facilities we need for a school in the 21st Century. We are now able to offer a great deal more to the children and their parents than we could in the past, for example Breakfast and After School Clubs and Basketball and Dance sessions. The school is also a much needed resource for the village of Crossways."

Good luck to our new school.

Cerne Abbas Make a Rainbow



Our school is small, just three classes, recently named Giant, Trendle and Abbey Class. Our age range is 4 to 9.

In October, the Cerne Giant was given a new look by our children, to raise cash for Breast Cancer Awareness. The School Council came up with the wonderful idea, to place a huge fabric rainbow above the Giant's head and on Wednesday, all the children came into school dressed in a colour of the rainbow. Fourteen children walked up the Giant, to place the rainbow whilst all the other children had balloons and congregated at the viewpoint. Part of the idea of the day, was for the children to visit their class names eg The Abbey, The Giant and The Trendle.

We have chosen two children views on the day: –

By William Beavis – ‘ Today we went to the Abbey, gatehouse and the Giant Viewpoint. The other group went up the giant and on their trip they would have seen the Trendle. I really liked the Abbey because of the very old windows and doors.’

By Billy Moore – ‘Wednesday 18th October, Cerne Abbas School went on a walk to the giant, the viewpoint and the gatehouse. At the Giant viewpoint, the other group made their own rainbow on the Giant hill. The photographer took pictures and everyone had fun wearing loads of colours..

We raised money for Breast Cancer Awareness. We were very lucky because we were given permission by the National Trust to go close to the Giant.

We put a rainbow on him. Some people went to the viewpoint and saw the rainbow. It was an amazing view and a good experience to be next to the giant.’

News From Manor Park

Children from five DASP schools spent a day with artists Catherine Grimaldi and Maddy Pethick, making colourful lanterns for Dorchester's Christmas Cracker night.



The workshops, run by Dorchester Arts Centre for the third year running, were held at Manor Park First School, St Osmunds Middle School, Damers Road First School, Broadmayne First and Cerne Abbas First School.

Led by the drummers and musicians of Dorchester Samba Band, the children paraded through the town with the torch lit lanterns, adding a bit of extra Christmas magic to the festivities. It's so important to have visiting artists in school for projects like this. The children worked really hard with Catherine and Maddy – and were then able to show off their wonderful lanterns in the procession. Hopefully, it's something they will remember for a long time.

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Over the coming year pupils will be visiting local woods on a regular basis with Sean Cooch of Natural England and Dorset County Council ranger Wayne Hopes. The children will learn about woodland wildlife and habitats over the changing seasons, from people who manage and use the woodland.

On their first visits, on two rain swept days last term, they met Dorset hurdle maker Alan Brown at work in the hazel coppice, collected and planted tree seeds for their own woodland nursery, measured the height and girth of trees, and looked at trees from other parts of the world.

Teacher Cathy Nisbet said the children were fascinated. "Although it was lashing with rain, they hardly seemed to notice because they were so absorbed in looking at fungi, leaves, beetles and everything else. The woods were a revelation to them - and now they can't wait to go back."

Cathy Nisbet



Year Three children at Manor Park enjoyed two games sessions organised and lead by the Young leaders from St Osmunds Middle School.

The Young Leaders were accompanied by Andrea Williams, our School Sports Co-ordinator. The children had a great time and hope that these sessions will happen again soon."

Robbie Noy

News from Puddletown First Supporting Oxfam Unwrapped

This year, our Year 4 teacher Mr Berry, suggested we could help Oxfam to overcome poverty and suffering in other parts of the world.



The school's Alpaca-ometer

A letter was given to all our pupils, asking them and their families to consider the harmful impact cutting down trees has on our environment. Converting timber into paper, to make Christmas cards, is also a very energy intensive process. So Mr Berry thought it was better to let each child write a Christmas message on a small sticker, to be displayed on a board in our hall. The children were asked if

they would like to donate the money they would have spent on Christmas cards, towards supporting Oxfam Unwrapped, where all of the gifts available will help someone in the developing world. Whether it is an alpaca to earn a living from, the means to plant an allotment or safe water to drink – the result is that their lives are much improved.

We raised an amazing £125 and were able to buy a number of things to help in other countries (including a goat!).

Healthy Schools Award

Puddletown First School are delighted to announce we have gained the Department for Skills and Education Healthy Schools Award, for our commitment to good dietary and fitness programmes.

As a Healthy School, we promote the health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff through a well planned, taught curriculum Experienced in a physical and emotional environment, that promotes learning and healthy lifestyle choices. This is achieved by promoting a whole school focus on health and encouraging children to make informed choices.



Teaching Assistants Mrs Downes, Mrs Ghataura and Mrs McCarthy celebrate with pupils.

HATS OFF TO BROADMAYNE!!

Our photo below shows Broadmayne pupils modelling Christmas party hats, made during a 2 day Art/DT project held at the end of term. This was a very creative project developed by our Art coordinator, Anna Felgate and based on an idea borrowed from Portesham Primary. It involved all children from Y1 –Y4 working collaboratively with a partner from another year group. The children had to design and produce a party hat, evaluating success and overcoming problems along the way. The children also assessed the finished hats of other children in their family group, by commenting on what was effective and what could be improved next time.



Some comments from the children when asked - What did you think of this way of working? -
 'It was fun and exciting.'
 'Thumbs up and it is fun sharing ideas.'
 'It's challenging.'

The format of this project can be used to design and produce other products and we plan to use this format again. To breathe real creativity into our Art and DT work and to give the children the time to really develop their own ideas and learn how to work collaboratively.

Dorchester Learning Centre join DASP

The Partnership is back up to 18 establishments, with the addition of the Dorchester Learning Centre. Based at the Old Rectory at Winterbourne Monkton, it aims to provide the very best in education and support for all children who, for what ever reason, find themselves outside of mainstream school education.

John Taylor is the Zone Manager for Dorchester Learning Zone (DLZ). This encompasses three separate sites in Dorset; including not only the Dorchester Learning Centre, but also "Number 17" Bridport and Kingfisher Ward, West Dorset General Hospital.

We welcome John and his staff and students to DASP.

DASP Showcase Day

On January 3rd, the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership celebrated 15 years of working together, by having a Showcase day at the Thomas Hardy School. Replacing the usual training day, it was a chance to see some of the ways in which DASP works and why we are so successful.

The day was opened by Jim Knight MP, Minister for Schools. He spoke of the

Governments plans for Extended Schools and how Partnerships were the way forward. He cited DASP as an excellent example of this in practice. He was followed by some ex Thomas Hardy students, who had actually been through the DASP system. They spoke of the inspiration and encouragement they had received from teachers along the way.

The bulk of the day was taken up with workshops, run by DASP teachers. There were examples of lessons and special projects, mixed with fun activities, such as art and juggling. Topics included ICT, Films for Learning, Speaking & Listening, Gifted & Talented, Cultural Awareness and behaviour management. This was often a chance for Thomas Hardy staff to see what their First and Middle colleagues have been doing and vice versa!



With over 300 staff attending and more than 20 different workshops running up to 4 times during the day, it was also a triumph of organisation. Thanks are due to the DASP Development Group, for planning and organising the day. And in particular Julie Taylor, Deputy Head at the Thomas Hardy School, who worked especially hard to ensure the day was a success.



To contribute to this newsletter, e-mail:

rscott@thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk

DASP Website: www.dasp.org.uk