



LGJS Review
OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY EDITION

25th



Review

Magazine Introduction

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Welcome to the Leicester Grammar Junior School, 25th Anniversary Review. It has been a very exciting year for us as we have been celebrating our Silver Anniversary. In September 1992, Leicester Grammar School Trust opened its own Junior School following on from the success of the Grammar School which opened just over a decade previously. When LGJS opened in 1992 there were approximately 150 pupils and it was in Evington Hall on Spencefield Lane.

In the past 25 years the success of the school has gone from strength to strength. We now have around 390 pupils and we share this wonderful state of the art campus with the Grammar School. The children have fantastic facilities to learn in and the depth and range of experiences is ever-increasing. There are a few members of our current staff who were there in those initial days: Mrs Katie Tutt, Mrs Jean Thistlethwaite and Mr Andrew Needham. This year we have enjoyed marking the occasion with a few key events. The school year started with a delicious celebratory picnic. On Foundation Day, all the children and staff were given a special silver anniversary pin badge to keep. In the Advent Term, we created a fabulous glass

art installation in our entrance foyer. We all had a beautiful 25th Anniversary keepsake mug for Christmas. In April, the Friends of LGJS organised a Silver Anniversary Ball for the parents which was a great success. We rounded off the year with an attempt to break a Guinness World Record for the longest human chain of people patting each other on the back. This was suggested by Lucy Free in Year 5. Having completed 25 years, we all felt a pat on the back was a fitting tribute. We believe we have broken this record, we are just awaiting official validation from the Guinness Book of World Records.

Throughout the Review, you will see what a fabulous year we have experienced. We have had some amazing sporting successes, with the U11 Girls hockey team making it to the IAPS National Finals and the U11 Boys' cricket team winning the 6-a-side and 8-a-side county cup. Our LGJS choir has made it to the Leicestershire School Choirs Final and we never ceased to be amazed by the talent of our musicians as they play in concerts. At the centre of all we do, we aim to have happy and fulfilled-children who can achieve well in a positive learning environment. I am sure you will see that The Review captures just that, it is certainly what I see on a daily basis as I go around school.

Congratulations Leicester Grammar Junior School on your 25th Anniversary.

MEMORIES

Happy Birthday LGJS



It has been twenty-seven years for me! I started at Evington Hall Convent in charge of Kinders. LGS bought the convent when the nuns retired, and I came as part of the deal. Since then I have worked throughout the year groups, finally taking over the school library when we arrived on our new site. Being here so long, I have watched hundreds of pupils move through both LGJS and LGS. To see these pupils develop into lovely adults has been a privilege, alongside making me feel really old!

The Junior school, when you think about it, has been a huge part of my life. I watched my daughter start at 3 years old and move through both schools to her own path in teaching. As with life, there have been many laughs and tears ...mostly when pupils show fantastic acts of kindness, which reminds me why I love this job (I'm such a wet blanket).

Today I am so proud of the library and am very grateful for being given the opportunity to start from scratch and develop a place of calmness and knowledge. I am looking forward to many more happy years. Happy Birthday LGJS!

Jean Thistlethwaite

Twenty-five years is a long time to do anything but last year I celebrated not only twenty-five years of marriage but also twenty-five years at Leicester Grammar Junior School. LGJS started life at Evington Hall in September 1992, taking over the running of St. Paul's Convent and I knew this was going to be special the first time I heard the singing of the Lord's Prayer at the end of the first Friday's assembly.

The building had a unique atmosphere felt by everyone who entered. The regal staircase, the old chapel, carved marble fireplaces and the enormous floor to ceiling double doors. It was certainly a building ready to welcome all who entered.

The grounds were memorable too, the beautiful cherry blossom in Spring and an endless supply of conkers every Autumn. Certainly Evington Hall offered a lot more than the average junior school. Attic rooms for music lessons, filled with

memorabilia and who can forget the cavernous Victorian cellars, opened up by Mr Farrant as a Haunted House attraction for the annual Christmas Fayre.

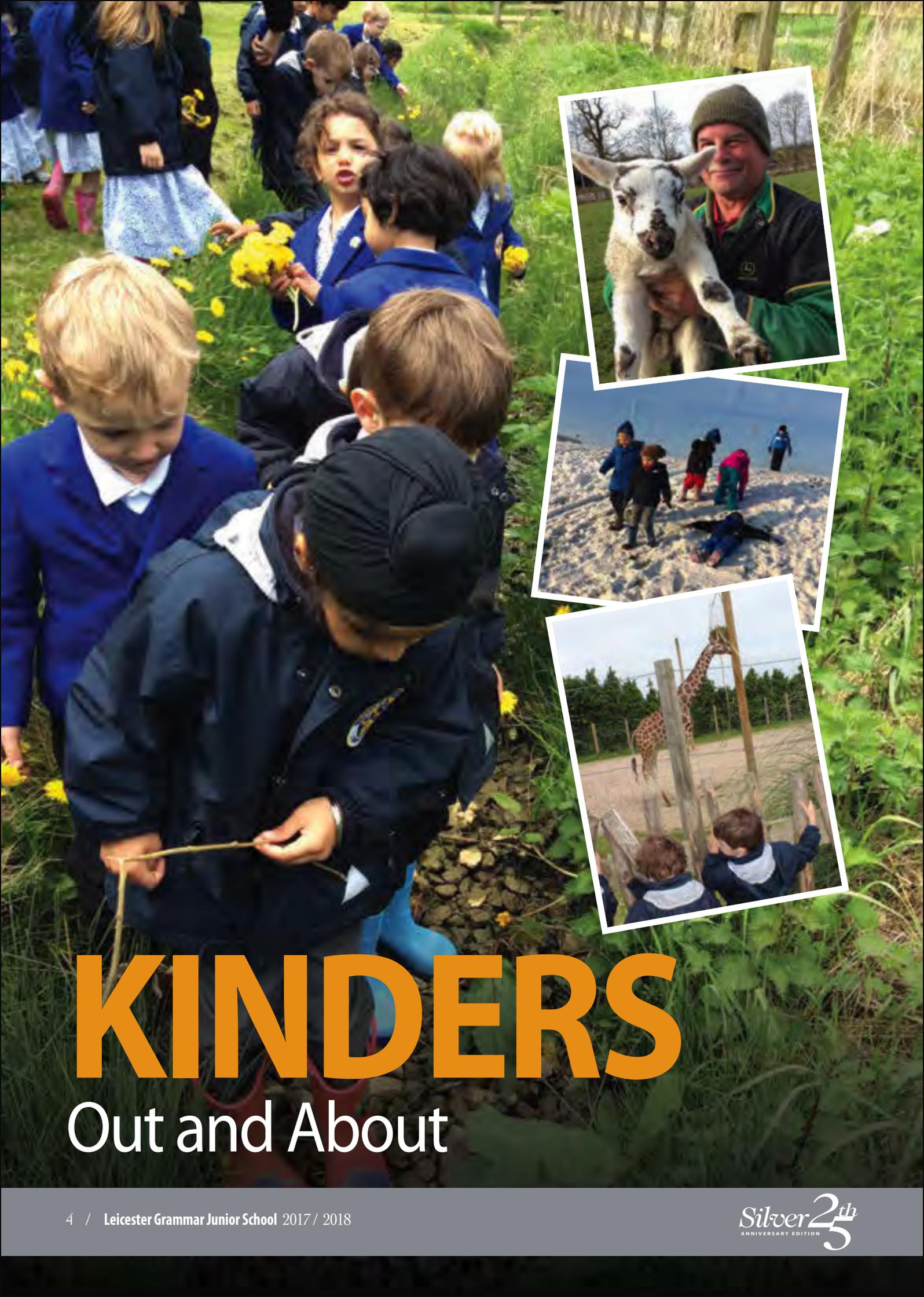
Rumours of a move began at least ten years before the actual event and at one point we thought we were all moving to Stoughton Farm Park! Would the school ever be the same? I must admit I was sceptical, however to quote our school song, it's hearts that make a school and 10 years in, the unique atmosphere remains.

I certainly feel extremely privileged to have had the opportunity to teach at both sites as well as giving my children such a solid, secure, exceptional education. LGJS



continues to evolve and although it is good to take the time to reminisce, it's important to look to the future too. Happy Birthday LGJS, and here's to many more successful years.

Katie Tutt



KINDERS

Out and About



Busy as always, this year Kinders have been out and about whatever the weather. We have enjoyed sun, snow, rain and high winds. Even our class assembly focussed on being out and about in all weathers.

The snow in December and January was very welcome, for the children at least, and happy times were spent playing in the freshly fallen snow.

The warmer weather brought opportunities to explore the extended school grounds. The children enjoyed making potions and looking for signs of life in the brooks and streams. Collecting natural materials is always irresistible and the children enjoyed opportunities to create pictures with their collections. The lambs in the adjacent fields were particularly photogenic this year and our friendly farmer was only too happy to talk to Kinders about the new arrivals.

A highlight of the year was a trip out to the zoo. The children toured in small groups and enjoyed recognising some of the animals they had previously learned about in class. The pink flamingos were a favourite, as were the lemurs and the giraffes. The animals inspired some great paintings when the children returned to school.





Once upon a time, long, long ago in the year 2017/18, in a land not so far away there was a castle called L.G.J.S. In that castle were three rooms which were commonly known throughout the Kingdom as 'Reception'.



In the first room, at the furthest end of a long, long corridor were Reception S. They explored the seven seas to discover which objects floated and which ones sank.

The second room was where Reception P had many magical adventures. They learned to read books and to write many things.

The third room was also a magical place; for in here, Reception C learned to tell the time so that their parents could no longer trick them into an early bedtime.

The first big adventure was a fight with a ferocious dragon called 'Colin'. Early in the year, whilst Reception were out for a stroll in the forest they met some woodland people whose village had been damaged by the dragon.

They put on their trusty puddle suits and wellies, trapped the dragon and helped the woodland people to remake their village. After that, they all sat down for a well-earned cup of hot chocolate and a biscuit.



Reception



It was also necessary during the year to learn some survival skills ... because the children never knew when the dragon might come back! The children learned to halve and double amounts of objects with their magic wands. They put their reading and writing skills to good use when writing exciting stories in their Sparkle books.

One fine afternoon the Mummy's and Daddy's and Grandparents of the children came to the castle to help them to make a giant friendship garden. A good time was had by all and they even came back later in the year to help build theatres so that the royal children could watch shows.

Around Christmas time, when the snow was thick on the ground, everyone ventured outside to a different part of the Kingdom called 'The Curve' to see the famous Snow Dragon.

Meanwhile, back at the castle, Reception S were busy planning a wedding. Prince Harry and Miss Meghan Markle (who spent their time in Reception S) wanted to marry each other and so an amazing wedding was planned.

The day of the wedding dawned. Everyone looked so beautiful (except for the two ugly sisters) and people came from across the world to join the happy occasion.

After the wedding, Reception got straight back to the busy business of learning and growing, and preparing for new adventures in the rooms across the corridor! Everyone lived and learned happily ever after ...





Year 1

A Castle Adventure!



It was a cold and wintery day in Spring when we excitedly boarded the coach to Warwick Castle. We were looking forward to seeing all the things we had learned about at school. Upon approach to the castle, and having seen the characteristic battlements through the coach window, Miss Hart suggested we all keep our eyes peeled, for the DRAGON!

Once we had arrived, wrapped up warm in hats, scarves and gloves, we set about exploring the entrance to the castle. We headed to the gatehouse and were a bit sceptical that standing under the portcullis was a good idea; we knew too well why it had been put there in the first place! Very sadly, the weather prohibited us from going up the motte but we marvelled at its ascent from the bottom and imagined that during winter, it would have been far too slippery for enemies to have climbed and attacked as well! The 'Kingmaker' exhibition was a good opportunity to see all the things we had learned about in action, including a

squire busily dressing his knight and a lord knighting an honoured squire. We also saw the blacksmith making formidable-looking weapons and the clerk keeping count on the castle money. We were particularly interested to encounter a medieval 'toilet', which was no more than a hole in a stone seat. This gave us more evidence to suggest invaders would not have wanted to swim through the moat to get to the castle walls! We headed next door and some of us dared venture into the castle's gaol. Pitch dark and damp, we all agreed it would have been a very miserable place to be imprisoned. After lunch, there was still time to visit the castle's 'Time Tower' exhibition, which enabled us to travel through history to experience castle life from its humble 914 beginnings as an Anglo-Saxon settlement, to its current standing as a 21st century attraction. Worn out by the many sights and experiences on offer, we headed back to the coach for the trip home. Having removed all of our many layers, we concluded it must have been a day far too cold for the dragon after all!





Miss Hart suggested we all keep our eyes peeled, for the DRAGON!





Year 2

Transported back into the thick of wartime Britain



We were transported back into the thick of wartime Britain in 1942. Intrepid Year 2 evacuees and their teachers were billeted into the leafy Northamptonshire village of Holdenby. All children were fully prepared to do their duty for King and Country and put on brave faces, stiff upper lips and marched on ...





The story of an evacuee!

Year 2 visited a big house and pretended to be evacuees. I thought we were actually going to Clay Coton. I was surprised and shocked when the air raid siren came on. It was exciting. After we lined up we went into a little room with Mrs Fo. She showed us how to make a little pom pom and 'make do and mend'.

Next the land girl Stella showed us a real gas mask box and a baby gas mask like a big bag. She told us that children had Mickey Mouse gas masks that made a funny noise. We went down into the dark cellar and I put on the soldier's metal hat. After that we went out into the garden. I pumped the stirrup pump really fast and hard and Fraser held the pipe to spray water at an old bomb.

Finally, Mrs. North, the cook told us what was rationed and not rationed. I had a brilliant day although I thought I might really be evacuated!

Luke Hinson 2 J





MUSIC

The excellent performances from our talented musicians have provided audiences with a wide variety of musical entertainment during the year.

Our summer concerts demonstrated a wealth of musical skills and diversity. The musicians of the orchestra have developed enormously and the orchestra's performance this year was outstanding. It is good to see such dedication and enjoyment amongst such young musicians. The range of ensembles grows each year and we are so fortunate to have professional music tuition from our visiting instrumental teachers. The Choir and Soloist concert was a great success.

Audiences loved the choral repertoire – songs ranging from the rousing 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' to the gentle 'Song of Ruth'. The choir will be singing both songs in the final of the Leicestershire School's Choir Competition at the end of term. Instrumentalists from Year 1 and 2 gave a wonderful performance in their Infant Strings Concert.

Our Church services at Leicester Cathedral and



St Cuthbert's are always a highlight of the year as we celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter through music. Jailu Li won 'Best Soloist' for her beautiful piano performance in the House Music Competition. The 'Best Group' went to St. Giles for their excellent choral and instrumental performance.

Speech Day featured our musical scholars, Sonia Naidu and Vivek Patel, music from the choir, Year 5 and 6 Ensemble and songs from the whole school.





Year 3



“The Deep was a fun place full of vivid and sometimes dangerous fish, with an adorable penguin enclosure and the best gift shop ever!”

After enjoying so many new experiences in our first year in the Juniors, Year 3 embarked upon our final challenge - a night away!

For the children, being away from home and parents for a night is an exciting opportunity to develop their independence, make decisions for themselves and to consider the feelings of their friends. When we were thinking about how to encompass the educational purpose of our residential and combine it with the necessary ingredients of fun and adventure, we put all these elements in a Viking helmet, shook it all about and out dropped York and The Deep and a new Year 3 residential was born!

So ... bright and early, on a gorgeous June morning, 52 excited little Viking warriors, guided by 6 fearless chieftains, headed up North on the A1. Were the citizens of York prepared for this invasion?!

On arrival, we uncovered our Viking ancestors at The Dig, peered down into the ruins of the Viking long house and relished the not so pleasant sights and smells of a fabulously reconstructed Viking settlement

at the Jorvik Centre. Some of our little warriors were transported to the land of Asgard as they were enlisted to retell the saga of Thor's Hammer which was much enjoyed by all of us.

As the summer sun sank behind the resplendent architecture of York Minster we explored and discovered many of the wonderful sights of this historic city, enjoying the view from the city walls and a stroll along The Shambles before settling for the night in our hostel dwelling.

Our revelling continued the next day, as we enjoyed the ancient ruins of St Mary's Abbey in the Museum Gardens, before saying farewell to York and heading off to a fabulous aquarium in Hull where we became fossil hunters and keen marine biologists as we wound our way through the zones of 'THE DEEP'. Our favourite creatures were pulsating jellyfish, gliding stingrays, wandering turtles and Stanley and Brian the Gentoo penguins.

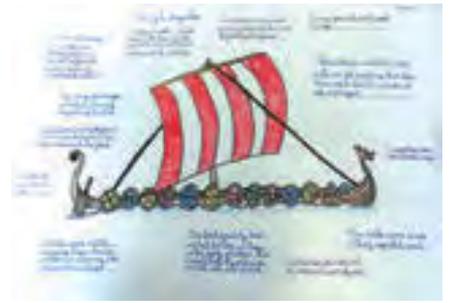
After a quick stop for pizza in Worksop, we ended our journey exhausted, yet happy, but full of wonderful sagas to tell about our Viking adventure.

A NIGHT AWAY!





“I felt like I was standing on history as I admired the view of York from the city walls.”



“I felt like eyes from the past were watching me, as we moved through the darkness of 9th century York.”



“I had such a fun time away with my friends, I’m now looking forward to the next residential in Year 4.”



Keepsake pin badges for everyone



A biscuit bake sale



OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY



Celebrating with an indoor picnic



The Friends Silver Anniversary Ball





Attempting to break a Guinness World Record!



Glass fusion art created by every child in school



Christmas keepsake mugs for everyone





Year 4

BEOWULF

Beowulf /Anglo Saxons Work

Our Anglo-Saxons topic led us, inevitably, to the tale of Beowulf and his defeat of the monster, Grendel

We love scary stories in Year 4! Our Anglo-Saxons topic led us, inevitably, to the tale of Beowulf and his defeat of the monster, Grendel. We first heard the story when Suzy and Robert from Tempus Fugit came to visit, we listened, engrossed as King Hrothgar's castle was terrorised by Grendel. The hero, Beowulf sailed across the seas to vanquish the beast.

"Beowulf would never stop defending all of the people. He was loyal and his faith never let him down. He was a bare-handed, monster-defeater!"

Character description of Beowulf.

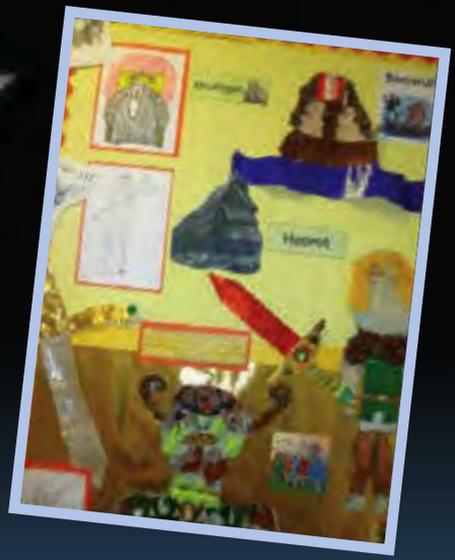
"His skin was tough, thick and scaly. In fact, it was so thick a sword would not make him bleed"

Description of Grendel.

"The ivory, silver and gold glistened in the moonlight as the cool breeze whistled past."

The Great Hall of Heorot.

Our Year 4 Workshop soon took up the theme, incorporating several drama techniques including freeze frame, conscience alley, soundscapes, physical theatre, hot seating and thought tapping. Pupils went on to create some imaginative artwork depicting characters from the story. Just as we thought it was safe to move on to the next to term ... we discovered the bloodthirsty Aztecs!





Flori and Hannah on Anglo-Saxon Day



Learning to live like an Anglo-Saxon





Another amazingly busy year in the Science Department! This year saw us investigating our engineering abilities using our new Kapla blocks, building fantastic structures and gravity defying models

SCIENCE



Another amazingly busy year in the Science Department! This year saw us investigating our engineering abilities using our new Kapla blocks, building fantastic structures and gravity defying models.

Year 3 produced some fantastic fairy tale shadow puppet theatres, using their knowledge of how light travels, and transparent, translucent and opaque materials.

Year 5 showed their Space knowledge with another year of awesome 'Alternative Earth' projects, even including a rocket model large enough for three pupils to fit inside.

We took part in the National Battery Hunt this year, aiming to recycle as many batteries as possible. We managed a truly electrifying total of nearly 50,000 batteries in just a month.

And of course we had our Sense themed Science Week, with the children able to take part in a rather stinky treasure hunt!

And no year at LGJS would be complete without the appearance of our Easter Chicks, 7 this year, including Megg-Hen and Hen-ry ready for the Royal Wedding.



Year 5 experienced life in a Victorian classroom, including some of the punishments!



What was it like being a child in Victorian times? Children in Year 5 had an insight into this when we went to

Beaumanor for a Victorian Day.

They experienced life in a Victorian classroom, including some of the punishments! Writing with Victorian ink pens proved not so easy – unfortunately, many of them blotted their copybooks! Lunchtime was spent playing Victorian skipping games and playing with Victorian toys. In the afternoon, the children found out what it was like to be a laundry maid. Although the day was great fun, most children thought they would prefer to be a child in 2018.

Our drama workshop this year continued our Victorian theme and was based on our

class novel, 'Street Child', all about the life of Jim Jarvis. The drama was full of pathos, and tension, but luckily, there was a happy ending for young Jim.

In the Lent term we took a trip around Victorian Leicester - we were amazed to see how many Victorian buildings there are in the city centre. Many of the buildings held fascinating clues to their history.

To finish off our topic on Victorians, the children worked in groups, to research and create a memory box for a famous (or not so famous) Victorian. They then presented their boxes - we found out about some extraordinary Victorian explorers, artists, scientists, and inventors. Year 5 can definitely answer the question 'What did the Victorians ever do for us?'



Year 6

INDEPENDENCE

Independence has been the buzz word of our Year 6. We have worked really hard to develop the skills we need in preparation for our transition to our next school. Drama has been an important part of our year. We have become more independent by writing, and directing our class assemblies and our Shakespeare workshop of Macbeth. This culminated in our Year 6 Production of Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies. Whilst we followed a script, we were able to add lots of our own ideas and direction.

Going abroad for our residential trip to Desvres in France gave us lots of opportunities for independence. We were encouraged to organise our own packing and ensure we had the correct documents and money in school at the right time. Whilst we were there we spoke lots of





French, met our pen pals and bought gifts in the market – all requiring confidence and use of our language skills.

Back in school we've enjoyed our DT projects, both with our teachers and when we had a day in the LGS DT department. We learnt how to use tools safely and to organise our time efficiently.

Throughout the year we have had many times to set good role models to the younger children in the school. We accompanied Year 1 to St Cuthbert's for a Christingle service, looking after them as we walked down to the village church. As Year 6 helpers many of us have helped out each week with jobs for teachers, working with children and playing with our youngest pupils in their playground.

All this has helped us to be ready for the next stage in our school career.



Sport really is for everyone here at LGJS!

SPORT

Our extensive extra curricular club opportunities have continued to be extremely popular this year with numbers attending reaching record figures. We are so proud of the enthusiasm, energy and commitment our pupils show from week to week.



CRICKET

Our Junior girls have embraced the cricket season with enthusiasm and energy this term. 2018 saw the first year of girls cricket at LGJS. Our Junior cricket clubs were oversubscribed with over 70 pupils attending each club. We played an inter County Cricket Tournament during club nights. This gave all the children the opportunity to develop their match play and gain a better understanding of the rules of this exciting game.

We are very proud of the Under 11 boys who became County Champions in the 6 aside hardball league this year. They then went on to become Regional Champions representing the East Midlands at the National finals at Oakham School.



HOCKEY NATIONALS

What a year for our Under 11 Hockey girls. The girls qualified through to the National Hockey Finals at Millfield School in November. The girls put in extra work in preparation for this tournament, meeting on a Wednesday morning with the PE team to go through set plays and tactics. We were so proud of the girls, they really stepped up against some very tough opposition and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Well done!



CROSS COUNTRY

As ever Cross Country featured highly on our calendar during the Winter Months. We were extremely proud of all our Junior Pupils who trained hard all term in preparation for the

Leicestershire Primary School Championships at Prestwold Hall. We had a record 109 runners attending the championships and we were so happy to come 2nd in the County!

We were also thrilled that many of our pupils were selected to represent Blaby and Harborough in the County Championships this year.

House Cross Country afternoon was a fun, exciting afternoon. All the children from year 2 to 6 took part and represented their house. The parents enjoyed spectating and cheering on the children. Congratulations to St Giles who won the competition.

SPORTS WEEK



Our annual sportsweek was inspired by The Russia World Cup 2018. All the children were split into groups and named after a World Cup Country. The week was jammed packed with Foundation Stage Soft Play, a Martial Arts Masterclass from Mark Deacon, Tennis workshops, Triathlons, 3 sports afternoons and an early morning Junior workout. To mark our 25 year anniversary, there was an extra special touch from our resident cheerleaders who opened all the sports afternoons with their spectacular display, taking us all back to 1992! It was the most memorable, inspirational and enjoyable sportsweek to date. The children all deserved their special wristbands, medals and certificates to mark the occasion.

HOUSE MATCHES



All the Juniors have taken part in House matches throughout the year in Rugby, Football, Cricket, Netball, Hockey, Cross Country and Swimming. These matches are vital in ensuring all pupils gain competitive opportunities in sport in a relaxed environment.



TRIATHLON

Year 6 were given the opportunity to complete a full triathlon in the afternoon with transitions. We were delighted that 26 pupils chose to compete. The triathlon was 6 lengths of the 25m pool, 2km bike ride and 1.5km run. The whole school came out to support and the atmosphere was electric. It was certainly a memorable day! The last day of sports week was certainly an inspirational day for most of the children. The whole of year 5 and 6 took part in the morning triathlon. They competed all 3 stages of the triathlon during the morning and encouraged each other on.



CURRICULUM

Foundation Stage have had a wonderful year of sport. They have been fully involved with a broad curriculum of activities, including Movement to Music, Gymnastics, Games, Tennis, Cricket and Athletic skills. We are so lucky to be able to teach the children outside during the Summer Months in our fantastic grounds and allow the children to explore and have fun.

The Gymnastic curriculum continues to grow and develop, allowing all the children in the school the opportunity to develop their strength and flexibility. Fitness continues to feature highly on our curriculum along with Dance, Cycling and Athletics.



FIXTURES

Our fixture list has been jam packed this year, with friendly matches on Wednesdays and Thursdays predominantly. Our aim is to provide fixture opportunities for all the Juniors in a variety of sports. We have enjoyed Swimming Gala's both home and away, Netball, Hockey and Cricket for the girls, Rugby, Football and Cricket for the boys. The children love playing sport against other schools and it is a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their confidence, games awareness and social skills.





...build a den



...borrow a library book



...follow a recipe



...catch a falling leaf



...Jump in a puddle

A Bucket List!

- Go for a long walk
- Borrow a book from your local Library
- Hold a door open
- Read a book to someone
- Take a photo of your family
- Catch a falling leaf
- Skim a stone
- Learn to recognise 5 plants in your garden
- Try a new food
- Play a tune on an instrument
- Learn the names of 5 different trees
- Build a den
- Roll down a hill
- Grow a vegetable
- Jump in a puddle
- Make a silver foil sculpture
- Follow a recipe
- Visit a museum
- Go for a bike ride for 25 minutes
- Say hello in a different language
- Paint a picture
- Spot the North Star
- Find out what your parents were doing 25 years ago
- Look for pictures in the clouds
- Feed the birds in Winter



...ride your bike



...grow a vegetable



...skim a stone



...take a photo of your family



...play a tune



...feed the birds in winter

Celebrating 25 years of caretaking at LGJS

MR ANDREW NEEDHAM

(Interview by Clemmie, Evin, Mili and Madeleine)

Why did you decide to work at our school?

It was just fate really. Years ago I worked at the school where Mrs Rigby's dad was the Head. I then moved to work with the nuns at Evington Hall a few months before LGJS opened there.

What was the school like when you first started and how has it changed?

It was much smaller when I first started – there were only 147 kids. Now we've got about 1200 on one site, so things are more complicated now. In those days the Senior School was in town.

Are there any of the original teachers still working here?

Yes Mrs Tutt came at the start and Mrs Jean was there even before LGJS started.

Are there any of the old pupils who stood out for you?

I always remember a boy called Matthew because whenever I went into a classroom, all the other kids would say 'Good Morning Mr Needham,' but he'd always say 'Hi Andy,' and this carried on all the way through the school. I found it quite funny.

How many Headteachers have you worked with and who was your favourite? (apart from Mrs Rigby of course!)

I'd have to say Margaret Redfearn. We worked together from the start, long before she even became Deputy Head.

What's the worst part of your job?

You can probably guess – it's cleaning up when one of you is sick! Luckily it doesn't happen that often.

What is your favourite part of the job?

Probably directing the traffic because I enjoy chatting to the parents.

What is your oldest and funniest memory?

Someone brought in a remote controlled trumping device and dared me to put it in the Head's office. I put it in Mr McFall's drawer and spent the day outside his door setting it off. We were all having a good laugh!

Who was the naughtiest pupil you can remember and why?

I don't remember his name, but there was a very naughty boy years ago, who the Head sent to me for punishment duties. I was getting him to litter pick and sweep up, but after a couple of weeks the Head realised the boy was spending most of his time with me – he preferred litter picking to being in class! How times have changed!

What keeps you working at the school?

Great parents, good staff and brilliant kids!





Friends of LGJS



It has been another busy and successful year for the Friends, with new members joining the committee to support us in our ethos of fundraising for the school whilst hosting fun events. Our informal regular meetings have alternated between daytime and evenings this year to enable more parents to attend and we really do welcome new faces!

The Christmas Fayre, Quiz and Curry Night, Sports Day BBQ's and a glass fusion workshop remain as popular as ever with funds raised helping to pay towards the Year 6 Leavers Party, Year 5 First Aid Training and Discos for all of the children. Our funds remain healthy and we have been delighted to support the school with funding towards new production lighting, the aerial photograph to commemorate the 25th Anniversary and new playground equipment.

Behind the scenes we work hard to maintain the Second Hand Uniform shop, support the school at some of their events and organise for school productions to be filmed.

The highlight of the Friends calendar of events this year was the

Silver Ball, held at The Grand Hotel in April. Over 170 parents and teachers gathered in the spectacular Kings Hall to enjoy an evening together to celebrate the School's 25th Anniversary. The festivities included the element of surprise with Singing Waiters and plenty of other entertainment. The event was enjoyed by all although there were a few sore heads the next morning! We were very pleased to support The Bridge Homeless Charity in Leicester this year by donating half of the proceeds from the raffle and the collections taken at the school discos.

Thank you to all who have contributed in any way to enable us all to enjoy such wonderful events. We say goodbye at the end of this term to a longstanding Friends member, Amit Gosai. He has been instrumental to the committee for many years and will be missed!

We look forward to continuing with our regular events next year and introducing one or two new ones! Thank you to all for your support.

Jessica Horton and Minal Sherwin





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