

PLATFORM



from Platt School Governors
October 2005

KCC Grants Permission for New School

On 19th July Kent County Council (KCC) granted planning permission to build a new replacement school on the field opposite the Brickmakers Arms. This was confirmed by Central Government on 22nd August.

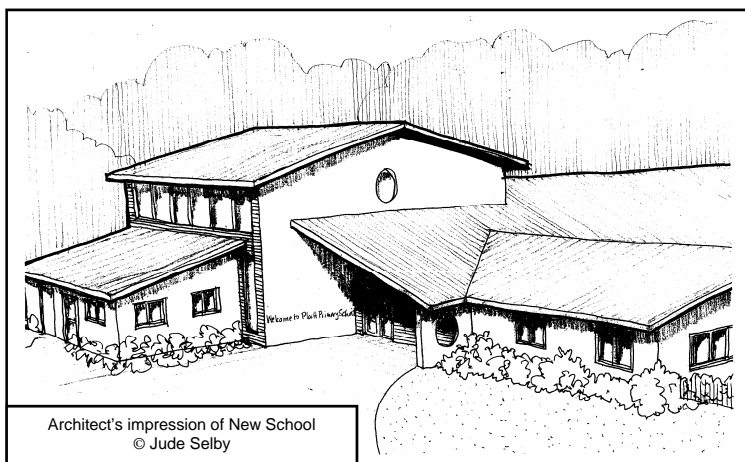
The school started a search in 1992 for a new site. A new school is a real prospect following agreement in principle by Kent County Council to proceed.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council planning committee for this area did not raise any objection to the application.

It was referred to the Government Office of the South East (GOSE) for review on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. That review was concluded on 22nd August and confirmed KCC's decision.

We are now putting the detailed planning application together.

More on page 3



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Clubs 9 Governors 11 Trips 9 Nursery 8

Highlights of the Year

◆ School at cutting edge of Teaching & Learning

Kathy Jenden describes how our dynamic Headteacher and teachers are sharing good practice with other schools (page 5)

◆ Nursery passes care inspection with flying colours

Ofsted awards Nursery highest grade for standards of care (page 8)

◆ 11+ results well above average

60% of year 6 pass 11+ (page 6)

◆ Excellent SATs results

Year 6 pupils rated at the level for 14 year-olds (page 6)

◆ Children love new Trim Trail – thanks to the PTA

Clare Dewhirst reports on PTA activities on pages 3 and 4.

◆ Silver status for eco-school

See articles on page 12.

◆ Sports partnership with Wrotham School

brings rewards. More sport on page 9.

OUR SCHOOL

Platt C.E. (Aided) Primary School

Our Vision is...

To enable all our children to achieve their full potential in a Christian environment.

Our Mission is...

By working in partnership with parents, the Church and the community, we will:

- ◆ Provide high quality teaching
- ◆ Stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- ◆ Value and celebrate achievement and excellence
- ◆ Promote educational, spiritual, social, emotional, aesthetic and personal development
- ◆ Encourage mutual respect and appreciation both within the school and outside in our diverse community

...for the benefit of each child

What it means to be a Church School

Being a Church school means that children "experience" Christianity both in daily collective worship in school and through services in Platt church during the term. We warmly welcome parents and friends to join us at these church services and for refreshments in the Garden Room afterwards.

In all other areas of education, we ensure that children experience a subject and learn through that experience.

Religion is no different and we hope that they begin to develop their spiritual life through these opportunities.

Year 6 children recently attended the Church Schools Festival at Rochester Cathedral and enjoyed meeting children from other schools in the Diocese, and singing and dancing in the Cathedral.

What the children say about school

Our school is an eco-school and we recycle things and we look after this planet and area. We are also thinking of relocating our school because our school is very small. I like the people in this school like the teachers, and all the children are caring and very good friends. And even though we are a small school we make it bright, colourful and beautiful. And we always get special events.

Bethany Dewhurst

I like being in year 3 because my teacher is a good teacher, also because she is kind too and helps us.

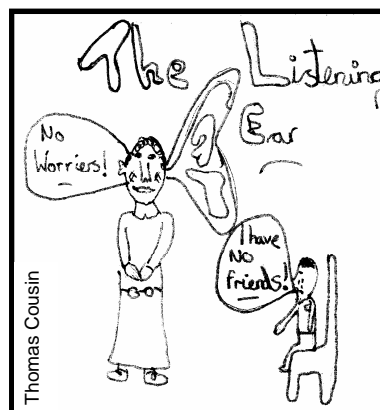
I like her because she makes everything interesting and when we do something good she lets us have a treat.

Alexander Luisi

The Listening Ear

In our school we have got a listening ear, this is where we go if we have a worry. We have to fill in a little card and put it in a special box then Mrs Neal will come to you and she will arrange a time to see her.

Mrs Neal said, 'It is a good Idea because it gives children some special time'. She said she gets about 4-10 people a week, but they all have sensible worries.



What is special about our school?

- The Christian ethos
- We understand the individual needs of children and do our best to meet them
- Pupils' attitudes to work and behaviour are very good
- We produce independent thinkers. This is helped by the use of the TASC wheel (see more on page 5).
- It is a village school and interacts with the community. Last year we had visitors from various local organisations, e.g. the W.I., to see our school
- Large numbers of pupils participate in music (see more on page 8)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

New School September 2007!

Part of the Governors' strategic role in the life of the school (they do not get involved in the day-to-day management of the school) is the annual school improvement cycle. Early in the spring term, the priorities for the forthcoming year's School Improvement Plan (SIP) are agreed, based on input from the Headteacher, governors, teachers, parents and all in the school community. This year's priorities are as follows:

- ◆ Achievement for all – including ensuring all children make good progress, and full implementation of the Teaching for Learning policy
- ◆ Developing the inspirational curriculum – including creative planning, the TASC wheel, development of new

skills by staff and children, and self-evaluation

- ◆ The learning community – including achieving Green Flag status, improving school dinners, parent workshops, and links with the wider community
- ◆ Relocation of the school!

Governors play an important role in the monitoring process and in evaluating progress towards targets in the SIP. They do this through their work as Special Interest Governors, in committees and through visiting the school to increase their knowledge of what's going on. The Headteacher reports termly to the Governors on developments and progress in all areas of school life.

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of *Plattform*, the Governors' newsheet which has replaced the traditional Annual Report. We hope you like the new format and would welcome your views and any suggestions or improvements!

As you look through *Plattform*, it is clear how much we owe to the commitment and professionalism of our hardworking staff. Our grateful thanks go to them for all that they do.

As Chairman of Governors, I would also like to thank all the school Governors for their support and enthusiasm over the past year – the success of

the school is in no small part due to them too.

Finally, special thanks to our Governor, Lucilla Mackay, who has put an enormous amount of work into compiling *Plattform* – we are very grateful, Lucilla.

Kathy Jenden, Chairman of Governors

What is the PTA?

All parents who have children in the school are automatically members of Platt School's Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA has been set up as a charitable organisation and has social events and raises money (see p 4).

The management of the

Continued from page 1

KCC's endorsement is the beginning – together we can make this happen!

The financing of the school is in three parts:

1. from developing the existing school site owned by the Diocese
2. from developing the existing playing field site owned by KCC
3. from the affordable homes on the Glebe Land

We need your support for all three parts of the project when they come before the appropriate planning authorities. We also urge your support for the proposed new Memorial Hall

To raise funds for those 'little extras' that will make the new school truly first class, we held our first fundraising event (see 'Musical Concert' page 8).

Thank you for your support so far – and in the future.

Ian Martin, Chairman of the Relocation Committee

fundraising activities and events is the responsibility of the PTA Committee. The committee is staffed by volunteers, ideally with at least one representative from each class.

Membership of the committee and of the key posts (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) is open to all parents and is decided once a year at the PTA AGM.

If you would like to help, call Clare Dewhirst on 01732 887269.

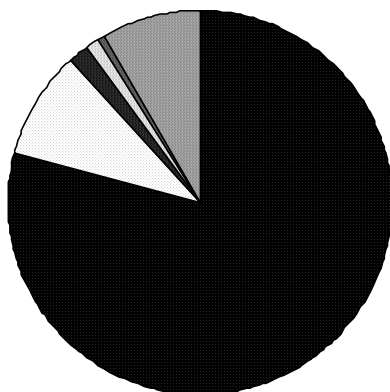
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY...

Where does the money come from? And how do we spend it?

Platt School is funded by the Government; the amount we receive, via Kent County Council, is determined using a complicated formula. The biggest single element in the calculation is the number of pupils. The more pupils you have the more money a school gets...which makes sense but can make it difficult to budget from one year to the next and to plan ahead. The Government is working on this difficulty and hopefully this will improve.

Each pupil contributes about £1,800, though this varies with the age of the child. Platt received a total of £445,000 in the year to March 2005. The vast majority of this is spent on teachers' salaries (see pie chart below).

It has been a policy at Platt Primary School to spend a significant, and relatively high, proportion on teachers. We believe that the focus of the school should be Teaching and Learning and we need the right staff in order to do that effectively.



Good prudent financial management is underpinned by the principles of best value.

- ◆ **challenge** whether we need that good or service and whether it is the right one
- ◆ **compare** our performance with other schools to see where improvements could be made
- ◆ **consult** appropriate groups and individuals to help in decision making
- ◆ **compete** for all appropriate funding opportunities

The finances are managed by the Headteacher within a strategic overview established by the governors and Headteacher.

Anne Wagstaff, Chairman of the Finance Committee

School Fund

Voluntary contributions from parents provide funds to spend on those extra activities that considerably enrich the children's curriculum. In the past year, "Dr Sarah" from Pro Education gave a fun, practical demonstration on "Magical Science"; "Recyclatory Laboratory" gave a theatre presentation; for active week PALS led children in games, world skipping, etc. and Terry Mills visited with his animals. Money is also spent to enable trips to take place, e.g. to the museums, art galleries, etc.

■ teacher costs	79%
□ support staff	9%
■ admin. & premises staff	2%
□ buildings maint.	1%
■ water, rates, energy	1%
■ learning resources	8%

PTA Money

What events do we organise?

During the year, our largest fundraising events are the Christmas Fair and the Summer Fete. We also organise non-fundraising events for the children, including end of term parties. Every year we ask the children to design a label for Platt School's very own Christmas pudding

Money from the LEA can only be used within given guidelines but money raised by the PTA is not subject to these guidelines and so the parents and teachers can choose together how to spend it on the facilities and extras that we feel are important.

How much do we raise and can this make a difference?

In the 2004/2005 school year, we raised just over £6,000, which we feel is a great sum for such a small school and really demonstrates what we can do when everyone gets involved!

This money has purchased new classroom equipment, art materials, new PE and music equipment, items to help us turn the school into an award winning Eco School and, most noticeably, this summer we paid for the new trim trail and shelter in the school playground.

The PTA supports the Governors, who are actively trying to relocate the school to secure its future and ensure that the community of Platt can continue to have a good school for its children. Whilst we wait for the plans to go through, we try to make the most of the building and the space that we have for the benefit of the children at the school right now.

Clare Dewhirst, PTA Chairman

CURRICULUM

What are our children doing all day?

The children get involved in a wide range of activities that are as much a part of the "curriculum" as the legal requirements of the National Curriculum itself. These are underpinned by the Christian ethos of our school (see page 2). There's more about **how** the children learn and the teachers teach below!

Our teachers – a creative bunch!

We are very fortunate at Platt to have a very experienced and dynamic teaching staff! The children really benefit from their creative talents in the classroom, where enthusiasm for learning is encouraged and where there is a clear focus on personal wellbeing and development too.

Last autumn the staff finalised the **Teaching for Learning policy**, an exciting and innovative document which is central to teaching and learning at Platt and which is being held up as a model for other schools. It aims to enhance children's learning and progress by supporting the teachers in their use of a whole range of teaching strategies and key techniques, including individual learning styles and problem-solving techniques.

You may have seen the TASC wheel in some of the Key Stage 2



classrooms. Ask your child or your child's teacher how it works!

Sharing good practice ... in the Cluster

A new cross-curricular planning

regime has been developed in Key Stage 2 which is also being shared with other schools.

The school's work was further enhanced by Mrs Cain's Chairmanship of the Malling Cluster (26 primary schools and 5 secondary schools) until December 2004. This sharing of good practice in the Cluster is growing all the time, financially supported through the Primary Strategy Learning Network Project. We at Platt very much benefit from the Cluster's action plans, which are all relevant to our School Improvement Plan priorities (see page 3), giving practical help in areas such as staff training, numeracy and literacy, SEN, ICT, Early Years, and the use of interactive whiteboards.

The whiteboards appeared in the classrooms over the summer holidays and the children are very excited about them! Matched funding was obtained from the Cluster to help keep us up to date with technological developments in the classroom.

... and more widely

Last term, Mrs Cain worked with two other schools in Kent as part of the School Improvement Team. She is now a School Improvement Partner to three schools helping to focus on raising standards. Mrs Netti has also supported the Cluster by demonstrating quality lessons for Year 6 teachers – congratulations to them both for being such excellent ambassadors for Platt School!

Mrs Colley is just finishing her project on Gifted and Talented children at Platt and Mrs Mann is embarking on a project researching the topic of 'Gender and P.E.'

We must also mention Mr Everest, head of PE at Wrotham School, who has helped considerably to broaden the sports curriculum at Platt with, for example, indoor athletics. This has come about through the Sports Partnership, a national scheme linking local primary schools with their nearest secondary school, and we are very pleased to be a part of it.

Kathy Jenden, Chairman of the Curriculum Committee

Shape, space and measure week!

Nearly every year the school does a shape, space and measure week and during this we went on a shape walk, this was when we went out to look for shapes.

First we walked down to the woods trying to spot lots of different shapes after that we went along Platt Common to get back to school.

Sophie Hallett



Science Week Report

In April 2005 the whole school went science mad! For a week of science.

We did all sorts of things like... making mini rockets out of bottles (not glass ones) and we saw Derrick the Diver. Some days we did experiments and other days we did more fun science. We had a scientist called Doctor Sarah who showed us how to make different things. We all enjoyed our mad week of science.

Joe Stott

PROGRESS AND RESULTS

The children and staff can rightly be proud of their results over the last year (in e.g. SATs, NfER tests and the 11+) which continue to be among the highest nationally (see tables below).

A high number of our Year 6 pupils achieved a Level 5 in their maths, English and science SATs – Level 5 is the average expected at age 13/14! (see table below).

In January, 60% of our Year 6

pupils passed the 11+ (63% in 2004) – this is an extremely high percentage.

Many different ways of tracking pupil progress are used at Platt (monitored closely by the Progress Governor, Jude Selby) to ensure that all children are achieving their full potential.

Mrs Cain, with the class teachers, is introducing a new system that informs parents more accurately about their child's progress on a termly

basis. Parents will be able to get more details about this at parent-teacher consultations in November.

The tables below show the percentage of children at Platt Primary school who have achieved the expected national levels through tasks and tests.

Nationally, about 75% of Year 6 children are expected to achieve level 4 and 80% of Year 2 children to achieve level 2.

Year 6 Results

Percentage of Year 6 pupils at Level 4					Percentage of Year 6 pupils at Level 5				
	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005		2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Maths	72	76	79	90	Maths	17	59	62	70
English	72	76	93	80	English	28	47	55	50
Science	89	88	93	100	Science	28	65	62	60

Year 2 results

Percentage of Year 2 pupils at Level 2					Percentage of Year 2 pupils at Level 3				
	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005		2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Reading	88	82	100	91	Reading	58	59	31	45
Writing	96	82	100	86	Writing	8	29	19	14
Maths	100	94	100	100	Maths	63	35	38	36

Stage	Class	Year Group	Expected National Level
Foundation	A	Reception	
Key Stage 1	B	Year 1	
	C	Year 2	Level 2
Key Stage 2	D	Year 3	
	E	Year 4	Level 3
	F	Year 5	
	F	Year 6	Level 4
Key Stage 3	Secondary School	Year 9	Level 5/6

Where did our Leavers go?

Our Year 6 children left to go to eight different secondary schools. The schools that they have transferred to are:

- Bennett Memorial Diocesan School
- The Judd School
- Maidstone Grammar School
- Maidstone Grammar School for Girls
- Mascalls School
- St. Simon Stock Catholic School
- Tonbridge Grammar School
- Wrotham Secondary School

EVENTS – ITS ALL HAPPENING

Revd John Dray Leaving

In January Father John left his job at the church. Platt School made some farewell gifts for him. They presented him with cards signed by the entire class. Years 5 and 6 made up a poem for him and performed it in church as a rap. He really enjoyed listening to this – especially the bit about making models from newspapers that kept going wrong! The person who stepped in to take our services for a while was the vicar from Borough Green who is now a Canon.

Rowan Field

Year 5 and 6 Play – A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Every year years 5 and 6 do an end of year play. This year we did A Midsummer Night’s dream with a twist. It went really well and everyone really enjoyed it. I think it was one of the best plays we have ever done. It was really funny watching our friends get married and fall in love.

Morgan Wills

Year 5/6 residential trip

Every year years 5 and 6 go on a residential trip. This year at the end of September we went to Carroty Wood which is an activity centre in Tonbridge.

We did many activities including: low ropes, climbing, orienteering, swimming, football hockey and BMXing.

During our low ropes course James Holley had a funny accident. A log had been placed over a muddy swamp and as James attempted to crawl over it he tipped upside down and was hanging like a monkey. Eventually he did fall in the

swamp. Later all the people who were muddy got hosed down outside our accommodation.

Overall it was a very enjoyable trip and I hope I can go again some other time!

Abigail Delderfield

BMS Summer Team visit to the Baptist Union of Uganda

I was one member of a team of ten from several Kent Baptist churches who travelled to Uganda to work with the Baptist Union of Uganda in July 2004. Our visit began at the HQ in Kampala. They told us how the Christian Church, which had suffered under Idi Amin’s reign, was now flourishing.

The team’s main focus was to work with two churches in southern Uganda.

Our first week was based in the village of Kalengero. The villagers had very little, living in small homes dependent on their smallholdings. Our time there was spent working with the pastors, youth, children and women. We gave training for pastors, leaders and Sunday School teachers. We also spent time visiting homes and seeing and hearing of the worries of possible famine due to the lack of rains.

After a week the team moved on into the town of Wakiso.

During the week the team was involved in many activities. I was able to visit three primary and two secondary schools, where I was invited to speak at the school assembly.

The trip gave a real insight to the Ugandan educational system, and how education is still not entirely free. It was a very humbling experience.

Janice Webb, Reception Teacher

Safety in Action

Every year the year 6’s go to safety in action. Here they learn all about dangers in the homes and the streets. Whoever wins gets a cup. And...guess what? This year we won!!!!

Thomas Welham

Active Week

On Monday the 13th to Friday the 18th of June it was active week. That week in the playground there were hundreds of balls and skipping ropes out in the playground. On Friday it was the world record attempt of the most people skipping at one time and we broke the world record!!!!

Sophie Hallett

Gifts for Local People

Children brought gifts of food to school that were used to help decorate the church for Harvest Festival. Year 6 then distributed these gifts to elderly people in the parish, who much appreciated them and liked the contact with the children.

Su Doku

Can you do our ‘EDUCATION’ Su Doku? Normal rules apply, in that every row, every column and

U				T	N	E
		C		E	I	U
T	D			N		A
A	O	D		U		
	E		O		A	I
				T	A	C
	A		N			D
		U	D	C	E	
D		N	T			I

NURSERY NEWS

Two Top-Graded Ofsted Inspections

The nursery had an inspection to look at the care of children and received the top grade, which adds to the educational inspection just over a year ago, when the assessment was also the top grade of 'very good'.

Staff

Jan Carroll, assisted by Claudia Chave, has continued to lead and guide staff excellently, and provide stimulating activities for the children.

We said a sad goodbye to Sharon Cottrell at the end of the summer term. She has moved to a full-time job where her many skills will be much

appreciated.

Sally Cooper has been promoted to trainee deputy supervisor and Jill Leech has come to take her place as part-time nursery assistant. Both Sally and Jill will be taking training to further increase their child care knowledge and skills.

Finances and Activities

The nursery finances are healthy and the staff have used money to buy interesting equipment to enrich the children's curriculum. They have also had equipment from vouchers redeemed at Tesco and Sainsbury's.

Parents

Parental support has been strong and this has enabled trips to be made to locations outside the nursery, e.g. to a farm and to the pantomime. Fundraising events have also been well organised by the parent representative, Caroline Pierce, and she has had good support.

Book your place for September 2006 now!

The nursery is almost full for this academic year and so we are advising parents to **book a place** for September 2006 in good time.

Lucilla Mackay, Chair, Nursery Management Committee

MUSIC...

... far and wide

Music at Platt continues to flourish with children learning a wide variety of instruments, playing regularly in church services and assemblies, attending recorder club, singing in the choir and participating in the orchestra. Both individual and collective achievements have been most impressive for children of primary age. These were on display when parents and friends crowded into the hall to enjoy superb performances during our Summer Concert.

Some of the children have commented on a few of the musical highlights of 2005.

Sue Gallant, Music Tutor



A Recorder Festival Report

On Friday 18th March 2005, Platt CE Primary School took part in an annual recorder festival held at Mote Hall In Maidstone. They started rehearsing straight after they received the invitation. They even prepared a solo item but only the best recorder players performed in it as there weren't many parts and the piece sounded better when played with fewer people. The festival was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

Sam Hutton

Church Fair

On a sunny day in July, lots of musicians gathered in front of Platt church to entertain those waiting to go into the Fair. Flutes, recorders, violins, clarinets, cellos and even a French horn could be heard wafting through the air.

The Summer Concert

On the 26th May at 7.00pm, we did a music concert in our school hall. The orchestra played 'Mystery Mansion' and other pieces and the choir sang 'Oliver'. There were dozens of solos that were all fantastic and the recorder group played really well. It was a really good evening and all of the audience enjoyed it!

Sarah Johnson

Musical Evening – over £1,000 made

The huge sum made at a 'Musical Extravaganza' concert in front of a packed audience in Platt church was for the Governors' Relocation Fighting Fund. Thanks to all who supported the event, to the performers and, in particular, to Christine and Edwin Davis for organising the musical programme.



CLUBS

There are many clubs running throughout the year: orchestra, football, chess, netball, choir, recorders, cricket, homework, reading, rounders, football, French, creative writing and Early Explorers (Science).

What the participants say

Football: Football is a club when you can find your football talent or improve your skills in football!

In **Choir**, you can practise your singing skills and how to hit high notes!

Homework club may sound like prison but believe me it's not, it's just a place where you do homework with the help of Mrs Woodcock.

Creative Writing Club is the time and place to be creative writers and make magazines like *Platt Gossip*.

Crispin Field & RJ Barnes

French Fun at Lunchtime

At French we do lots of fun games and learn lots of new and fun words.

Our teacher is called Fiona and she is very nice. Most of all it's fun!

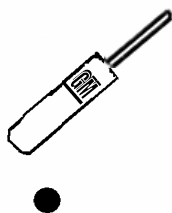
Class E rep

Cricket Club

Mrs Riseborough is teaching everyone how to play Kwik Cricket.

We play with incrediballs (rubber balls) and play on a twelve yard pitch.

Dominic Lucas & Oliver Simons



SPORT

Rounders Poem

The whole school was in terror shock,
When beckoned to the hall;
And Mrs Cain announced to us,
For 1 term, no football!

If you were now to step outside,
Into the kids playground;
You'd see the goal nets hanging low,
And footballs scattered around.

Next day, Miss Webb set up for us,
A rounders club and said;
"Kicking balls is cruel and mean!
Let's whack them all instead!"

A few weeks later Platt Primary School,
Made a rounders team;
But, alas, they lost their match,
Against the Borough Greens!

Sam Hutton

Sports Day 05

On Friday the 1st of July Platt school had sports day.

There were four teams: Temple, Ramsay, Fisher and Cranmer. The winning team this year was Temple. Everyone cheered and screamed. Mahdi Siddique came first in all his races – that's amazing!! He is very fast at running. A fun and enjoyable afternoon was had by all – children and parents alike. The rain even stayed away this year!

Victoria Chapman

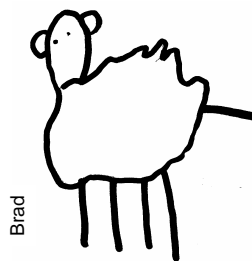
TRIPS

Reception's Spring Walk at the Farm

On Thursday the 12th of May 2005 reception at Platt went on an afternoon trip to Landway Farm. They all really enjoyed themselves.

This is what Brad said: "I liked going to the farm because they have really nice animals. My favourite bit was when we fed the animals with food and I really want to go back there again!"

Ellie Sales



Natural History Museum Trip

We went to the Natural History Museum to learn about dinosaurs. We were looking for dinosaurs because it was our topic. We all liked the trip because we got to know a lot about dinosaurs and how they lived. I liked it because I got to know all about the names. There were different colour dinosaurs and different colour animals.

Laura Morton

Shakespeare Workshop

On March 21st Years 5 and 6 went to Sevenoaks Library for a Shakespeare workshop where they made masks of characters faces (see illustration left) in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Molly Dewhurst

Molly Dewhurst



HAVE A SAY!

STAFF & HELPERS

Children

School Council

The School Council has met each term to discuss matters that the children have raised at their Class Council. Issues brought forward have included:

- Redecoration of the toilets
- Provision of cycle racks
- Playground equipment
- School uniform

The School Councillors elect a Secretary and Chairman, who take care of minutes and keeping order! Miss Webb collates the items for the agenda. If it is appropriate, the School Councillors are given the responsibility of taking action on some issues. For example, asking Mr Brown to repaint playground lines. They have also passed on some issues to the Eco Committee.

Election Fever

In the summer term, a closely fought contest took place between three parties: All Sports, led by Edward Jenden, Green Storm, led by Tom Wagstaff, Creative Party, led by Lucy Cremin and E.F.S. (Enjoyment, Fun and Safety) led by Ellie Sales. It was a tough campaign with imaginative policies clearly explained and resulted in a win, *by just one vote*, for the Creative Party.

Mahdi Siddique comments:

Our election took place because the general election had taken place and we thought, "Why not do one of our own?"

Parents

Open House

Caroline Cain is available every Tuesday from 2.45pm onwards. She encourages parents to

Members of staff, as at October 2005, are as follows (there are photos outside the school office of all staff):

Headteacher

Caroline Cain

Teaching Staff

Miss J Webb	Reception/Year 1	'Golden Eagles'
Mrs K Mann	Year 2	'Leaping Frogs'
Mrs M Tilstone	Year 3	'Snowy Owls'
Mrs S Colley/ Mrs H Dyer	Year 4	'Diving Dolphins'
Miss J Rawlinson	Year 5	'Dynamite Dragons'
Mrs H Netti	Year 6	'Electric Eels'

Specialists

Mrs J Scott	P.E./Special Educational Needs Teacher
Mrs S Gallant	Music Tutor
Mrs C Ritter	ICT Technician

Teaching Assistants

Mrs L Neal
Mrs S Gallant
Mrs C Ritter
Mrs S Thomas

Office and Support Staff

Mrs B Corral	Office Manager
Mrs D Pearson	Clerical Assistant
Mr B Brown	Caretaker

Volunteer Army!

Many helpers come in to assist with reading, swimming or escorting children to off-site activities, and the school is most grateful to them.

Welcome and farewell

Helen Dyer's help has been invaluable in taking over from Dominique Leech who went on maternity leave in January 2005. We welcomed Miss Denise Friend back as Mrs Pearson, following her marriage in the summer.

We said goodbye to Gabrielle Tucker and to Jill Leech, who has been poached by the Nursery to be an assistant there! More recently, Cathy Woodcock left to begin her maternity leave and had a baby girl early in October. We wish them all well.



come and talk to her about matters that they may be concerned about.

Focus Group

There is a parents' focus group comprising Caroline Cain, a parent governor and Clare Dewhirst, (representing school, governors and PTA) which

meets to liaise over school events and issues.

Parent Consultations

Afternoon and evening opportunities occur each term for parents to discuss their children's work with the teachers. In addition, staff are available every day after school.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Hellos and goodbyes!

We were very sorry to lose Anne Wagstaff from the Governing Body in September 2005, though she will continue as an Associate Member, working on the relocation of the school.

Anne started as a parent volunteer in Class A in 1998 and was soon recruited on to the Governing Body where she has taken on many roles, including Early Years Governor and Treasurer, setting up the 200 Club. We would like to thank Anne very much for her hard work and commitment as a Governor, her service on many committees and in particular her inspirational Chairmanship from 2002 to 2004. Thank you, Anne!

We will also be bidding a sad farewell to Ian Martin, who is moving out of the area soon. Ian's enthusiastic and challenging approach to the work of the Governing Body on

various committees will be greatly missed, but it will be his considerable talents on the relocation project that will be a hard act to follow. Without his expertise and sheer determination on this, we would not have got the new school permission in July. Our heartfelt thanks go to him (and Sue!) and our sincere good wishes for their new life in Norfolk.

This year, we have welcomed Sarah Allewell, Rachel Edwards and Barbara Harris as new Governors and are grateful for all the work they have already done! Helen Netti also took over from Cathy Woodcock as Teacher Governor – we send our thanks and good wishes to Cathy as she starts her maternity leave.

In December 2004, we also said goodbye to Revd John Dray. We are grateful to Lucilla Mackay for maintaining the close links between the school and the Church during the

interregnum, and look forward to working with the new Priest-in-charge at St. Mary's church, Revd Liz Walker, from November.

Recognition and celebration!

The services of two of our Governors have been recognised by the LEA this year. In autumn 2004, Jude Selby received a special award for "service and dedication to education in Kent" for her work on the detailed building changes in the school.

In June 2005, Lucilla Mackay was commended by the Diocese and presented with a certificate from the LEA for 20 years' service as a Governor, which included several years as Chairman! We are very proud of them both and grateful for all the work they have done and continue to do for the school.

Contacts

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Governors

The Clerk to the Governors is Mrs Bridgett Jeffrey, who can be contacted through the school office.

A list of all the Governors and committees and the minutes of the most recent Full Governing Body meeting can be found on the Governors' notice board by the school office.

Platt School Governors 2004-2005

Chairman	Mrs Kathy Jenden ¹
Vice Chairman	Mrs Jude Selby ²
Headteacher	Mrs Caroline Cain
Foundation Governors (appointed by Diocese, Parochial Church Council or the Bishop)	Mrs Sarah Allewell Mrs Rachel Edwards ³ Mrs Barbara Harris ⁴ Mrs Lucilla Mackay ⁵ Mrs Jude Selby Mrs Anne Wagstaff Mrs Sally Webb ⁶ Revd Liz Walker (ex officio) (from November 2005)
LEA Governor	Mr Ian Martin
Minor Authority Governor	Mr Brian Fissenden
Teacher Governor	Mrs Helen Netti
Teaching Assistant and Support Staff Governor	Mrs Sue Gallant
Parent Governor	Mrs Kathy Jenden

¹ Special interest in Literacy

² Special interest in Progress

³ Special interest in Science

⁴ Special interest in SEN & Gifted and Talented

⁵ Special interest in Mathematics

⁶ Special interest in Early Years

CHARITY EVENTS

ECO & Healthy Living

Tsunami Appeal!!

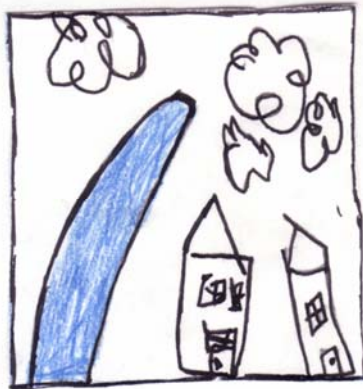
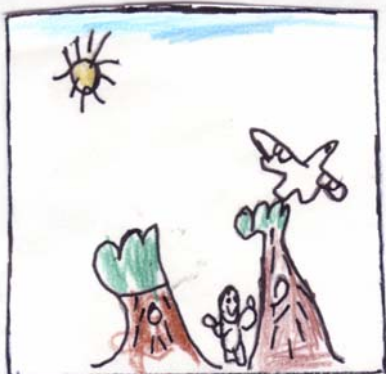
On Boxing Day (26th December 2004) in Asia a terrible disaster occurred, the Tsunami. Our school knew we had to help so a few weeks later in Platt Woods we did a sponsored walk raising almost £4000. Some children told us how they felt about the situation:

The Sponsored walk was a good idea to help:

Oliver Gibson

The Tsunami was a natural disaster we just had to help:

William Jeffrey



Thank you for reading this.
Any comments will be welcomed.

Poppy Appeal

This year, class F went around the school, collecting a donation for the poppy appeal. Every person that gave a donation got a poppy to show that they care.

Siân Cooper

What is Red Nose Day really about?

In March every year we celebrate red nose day and we remember the people who live on the street. But sometimes we forget what we really are raising money for.

This is a poem I wrote:

Red noses are help
People need help
Red noses mean food
People need food
Red noses mean money
People need money
Red noses mean fun
People need fun

Red noses mean laughs
People need laughs
Red noses mean family
People need family
Red noses mean life
People need life.

Ellie Sales

Silver Award for Eco-school

New ventures for this year include reducing wastage and conserving energy.

Ways of doing this include:

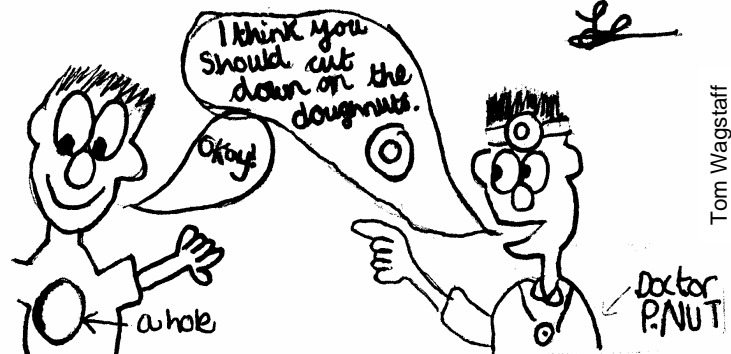
- reusing envelopes in the school
- changing to using recycled paper
- sending the school newsletter by email
- avoiding loss of heat during the winter by closing outside doors
- providing notebooks made from recycling our waste paper. (Please ask if you would like one.)

The final stage to being an Eco-school is to get Green Flag status.

Edward Jenden writes: *Our school is very eco-friendly. Key Stage 1 get fruit or veg. every day and we have the choice to have milk.*

We are going for the Green Flag. We have already got Silver and Bronze and next it's the Green Flag!

Miss Webb and the eco team have put up nesting boxes for nature and have organised Class F to empty the compost bin.



Tom Wagstaff