

News from Stower Provost Primary School

Summer has arrived at school! The children are really enjoying taking part in a full range of athletics events, becoming proficient in baton-changing in the relay, and throwing cricket balls, rounders balls and Vortex 'Howlers' with increasing strength and accuracy. It was a privilege to accompany many of our older children as they took part in the Gillingham Family Athletics Event at the Yeovil Athletics Arena, where they had the opportunity not only to compete against children from other local schools, but also to feel what it's like to run on a real running track without having to dodge mole hills! The children did our school proud, and achieved particular success with the Year 6 Girls' 150m and 600m, the Year 4 Boys' 60 metres and the Year 4 Relay, no mean achievement for our small school. The Year 6 girls are now looking forward to competing at County level at the end of June.

School at this time of the year is also dominated by swimming, with the children taking every opportunity to use the school pool; knowing that it sometimes reaches over 30°C, it's no wonder they're so keen. I have enjoyed showing quite a number of prospective parents around the school recently, and they have all been impressed with the pool; some, as Old Provostians themselves, have shared spine-chilling tales of what it was like 'back in the day' before the pool was heated...

With the end of term approaching, inter-house races, a swimming gala, Kwik Cricket matches (the children are especially keen after their expert coaching from members of the Stour Provost Cricket Team), rounders and tennis are all highlights of the remaining weeks, while Sports Day is another opportunity for parents to come and see how well their children are doing in school.

Elsewhere, our fabulous new stage area at the front of the school has seen good service already, as the children have been busy practising their lines for the summer musical, *The Wind in the Willows*. It's great to hear Ratty, Mole and Badger arguing with Toad over the wisdom of buying another car, while the sounds of Stoats and Weasels partying at Toad Hall during Toad's enforced absence all show how much the children gain from performing to an audience, as well as becoming familiar with a classic story. The whole school is involved in the production: singing, dancing, acting and narrating, not to mention behind the scenes work, and it all adds to the real buzz of excitement around the school.

At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to our Year 6 children as they move onto Gillingham School, well-prepared for the next stage of their education. As the cycle continues, we have already welcomed our new Reception children into school to meet the teacher and other classmates, for their parents to spend time with the class teacher, and for the children to share lunchtime with the rest of the school.

I am sure that our children, having been working so hard, will be ready for their well-deserved summer holiday. It has been a good term at Stower Provost; we're very proud of the children and grateful to the staff, governors, parents and friends of the school for their continued support, and we look forward to building on our strengths when we start the new school year in September.

James Stanford