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Dear Parent / Carer

Sporting News

As we approach the end of this school year, I am delighted to be able to report on our most successful year of sport ever! We have reached finals at district, county, regional and national level in a number of sports during the summer term. It's fair to say our trophy cabinet is fit to burst!

Football

Once again this year, all of our school football teams have enjoyed a fantastic season, winning five out of the seven district competitions that we entered.

The Year 5 boys' reached the semi-finals of the six-a-side cup and went one better in the District Cup by beating Butlers Court in the final. Our girls' team had another good season, becoming Bucks County Champions in November and qualifying for the SE Regional Finals in Greenwich in March. In April and May, some of our Year 3s and 4s also had their first taste of school football at local district festivals.

The highlight of the season though has undoubtedly been the extraordinary achievements of our Year 6 boys' team. Having progressed through the District, County and Regional rounds of the three national competitions, the start of May saw the squad looking forward to three National Finals in the space of four weeks.

The first of these was the FA Youth Futsal Cup played at England's training facility, St. George's Park, in Burton upon Trent. A superb occasion and a dominant and confident display again Little Bealings School in Suffolk, saw us to victory and the title of FA National Futsal Champions.

Less than 24 hours later, the squad reconvened at St. Andrew's in Birmingham for the biggest of the three finals, the ESFA Danone Nations Cup, featuring the best school teams from across the country. After a tense and tiring day of football, a close final came down to a penalty shoot-out. Our final penalty went in off a post to complete a 4-3 victory and see us officially crowned the Champions of England.

The last National final of the season came in the most spectacular setting, as we represented Wycombe Wanderers in the EFL Kids Cup League One Grand Final, played at Wembley Stadium. An unforgettable weekend of hospitality concluded with a final against Leighswood School (representing Walsall FC). A tough and competitive final saw our dominance rewarded in the second half, courtesy of a long range kick hammered in by our captain.

This concluded a memorable and unprecedented season for our school team. The winning of three national titles has never been completed by any school in England previously and it is a record that everyone involved with the squad this season will always be immensely proud of.

Mr Arnold and I would like to pass on our thanks to parents and carers for your fantastic support in transporting children, attending matches and, not least, washing and returning school football kit! Without your commitment, none of what we achieve is possible and your help is always very much appreciated.

Cross Country

On 17 May we held our annual school Cross Country Competition on East Common in Gerrards Cross. The family races were held in the morning, with children, parents and siblings running together. This event continues to grow in popularity every year and it is lovely to see so many of our children participating in a sporting event with their parents. In the afternoon, all the children in Years 1-6 ran the 1km course through the woods. Once again, we were lucky with the weather and the event was a great success.

Netball

The girls' netball teams have enjoyed a successful season. Both the A team and B teams have played matches against local schools and also participated in an area tournament held at Burnham Grammar School. After an exciting final match, the A team lost to High March and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the county finals.

Cricket

Boys' and Girls' cricket teams from Year 6 participated in a Quik Cricket Competition held at Beaconsfield Cricket Club in June. Both teams played well on a lovely sunny day and the boys won, qualifying to represent Buckinghamshire in the English Cricket Board Southern Counties Tournament at Bristol Grammar School last week. In a thrilling final against a school representing Hampshire, the boys put in an amazing performance to win by only 2 runs! I am very proud to report they are now Regional Champions and we have a replica of 'The Ashes' trophy in our cabinet!

County Finals

This year, we had teams from boys' swimming, girls' football, athletics and hockey representing our school at the county finals that were held in and around Stoke Mandeville on 4th July. We were honoured to be asked to read the athletes' oath at the opening ceremony and one of our Year 6 pupils read it beautifully. All our teams performed well and once again, I can proudly report that we were runners up in the Year 5/6 hockey, 3rd in boys swimming and the athletics and football teams came 6th in their competitions. All amazing achievements at County level.

Curriculum Physical Education Lessons

The children have participated in a summer sports programme of athletics, cricket, rounders and swimming. We have benefited from the support of outside professionals during the summer term. Mrs Lucy Godfrey has taught alongside all Key Stage 2 staff in their Games lessons. As last year, we have participated in a Bucks County Council cricket programme called 'A Chance to Shine'. All pupils in Years 1 enjoyed cricket lessons with a cricket coach in the first half of the summer term. We opened our swimming pool the week before the half term holiday and have employed Miss Lauren Turner a qualified swimming teacher and lifeguard; she has led the teaching of swimming this year. I would like to thank all the parents who have kindly volunteered to help during swimming sessions.

Extra-Curricular PE

During the summer term, we have continued to offer a wide variety of extra-curricular sports for those children with seemingly boundless energy! Current sports on offer are: a lunchtime athletics club run by Mrs Godfrey; an after school athletics club run by myself, Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Sheaf and Mrs Lee; football clubs run by First Soccer; hockey for Years 3-6; gymnastics; rugby, tennis and after school golf run by the Wexham Park Golf Centre.

Finally, we hope you enjoyed our KS1 and KS2 Sports Days. Thank you for your support for all children's sporting activities. In a year of unforgettable sporting successes for some of our most talented sporting children, a larger number have enjoyed sport as an extra-curricular activity or have represented the school in a friendly or competitive event or festival. Next year we will continue to provide as many extra-curricular sporting activities as possible and hope that this enables all children to find at least one sport which they can enjoy now and possibly for many years to come.

I wish you all a restful summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annie Ware". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Annie Ware
PE Subject Leader