



# SPRING GROVE SCHOOL

WYE : KENT

SG Messenger



Friday, 27th May 10/11 No. 30

[www.springgroveschool.co.uk](http://www.springgroveschool.co.uk)

## *Small Schools are Successful*

“**Not just a face in the crowd**” is the eye-catching headline to the article in today’s Telegraph that tells the story of the continuing success of the country’s smaller prep schools. “In a school such as ours,” says the headmaster of a northern prep school, “everybody is somebody.” He goes on to say that in his school there are children who play in A teams or star in musical and dramatic events that would simply not get near such experiences in a larger school.

The pastoral care is generally better in a smaller prep school as the intimate family nature allows the children to develop confidence and to become articulate young adults.

The argument that those children who are moving on to a bigger secondary school or a high-flying independent establishment is addressed. One headmaster, whose pupils regularly go on to Winchester, Harrow and Wellington, amongst others, insists that size has little impact on the quality of education. Rigour remains very much a part of a small prep school’s delivery. Crucially, in a happy environment children are more likely to make the necessary progress toward their next destination so long as that destination is a realistic choice.

Leadership opportunities, too, are intrinsic to the education in a small prep school and it is not just the prefect responsibilities or sports / house captains’ posts but also the class VIP roles, the school councils or match reporting tasks that nurture such qualities in the pupils.

All this is music to this headmaster’s ears. It is encouraging to know that Spring Grove is not the only small prep school. We have a school where everybody gets a go, where the staff go the extra mile to bring the best out in the children by providing a rigorous curriculum tailored to the individual’s need, where the children are happy and develop into articulate, positive, hard-working young adults. A glance at the successes of this year’s Prep 6 show this small prep school is achieving its targets.



*Children are allowed to explore their environment. We are not afraid to get dirty as we learn and play!*

*Continued on next page...*

Continued from page 1

Do we lose out because of the lack of facilities compared to larger schools? Our facilities for music, for drama and indoor sport do not compare with a large prep school's state of the art buildings. However, small prep schools allow children to walk before they run, to offer an environment where children learn to do simple things well and yet, as it happens, sometimes show that they can compete with anybody as our girls so brilliantly demonstrated in the National Cross-Country Championships.

One of the headmasters featured in the article offered this: "If you want a school where every member of staff really knows all the children, where there is a real family atmosphere, where they won't be lost in a crowd, then parents will choose a small school."

The future is bright for the girls and boys who have enjoyed all that SG has to offer, a small school that really is a great place to grow.

\*There are some very exciting events coming up in the second half of term. Please check the calendar for these.

\*My thanks (in advance) to both Mme Rafferty and Mr Dankert who will be leading Prep 5 and Prep 6 to France and Wales respectively during the first week after half term.

Have a great holiday break!

*W. B. Jones*



### Informal Concert

This week's informal concert offering did not disappoint. Some children had been doing tests, others had played in a school match, all had been working hard in class and yet our young performers all managed to put on fine performances at the end of another busy school day.

Please make sure you can come to our final summer concert on Wednesday, 22nd June.



*We are proud of our high-achieving athletes but particularly pleased because **everyone** has an opportunity to play and a chance to be selected for a team.*

All parents should receive this weekend an important letter (via email) regarding school fees for the academic year 2011—2012. If you have not received yours by Monday, 30th May then please contact the school office.

LAMDA - The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) is an organisation that offers certificated exams and graded training in speech and drama. From next term, I have appointed Jean-Marc Perret, a fully trained, CRB-enhanced professional actor who will come in to school and offer lessons in public speaking. Details will be sent home after half term. He is coming to Spring Grove on Monday, 13th June and will perform to the children in their morning assembly. Look out for his flyer!

### UNIFORM CHANGES

New Uniform required for

#### Year 2 going into Year 3

- ◆ Kilt
- ◆ Zipped track suit
- ◆ Navy Polo shirt
- ◆ Rugby Shirt
- ◆ Football Boots

#### Year 3 going into Prep 4

- ◆ Navy Tie
- ◆ Navy Jumper or Cardigan



## HOLD THE DATE!

- Event in the Tent
- Summer Ball
- 2nd Hand Uniform Sale
- Camp Night
- Simmonds Uniform Sale

- 23rd June
- 25th June
- 1st July
- 2nd July
- 5th July



There are 5 Oscars to be awarded during the evening... Individual or Company sponsors are being sought.. Any amount from £15

**Outstanding Debut Award** (sponsored by Hamiltons International Ltd)

**Best Artist Award** (vacant), **Comedy Costume Award** (vacant), **Leading Thespian Award** (vacant), **Best Duo Award** (vacant)

Can you help?

### House To Let

If any parent has a house to let then please contact the school office. The requirement is for a 3-4 bedroomed house in or around the surrounding villages.

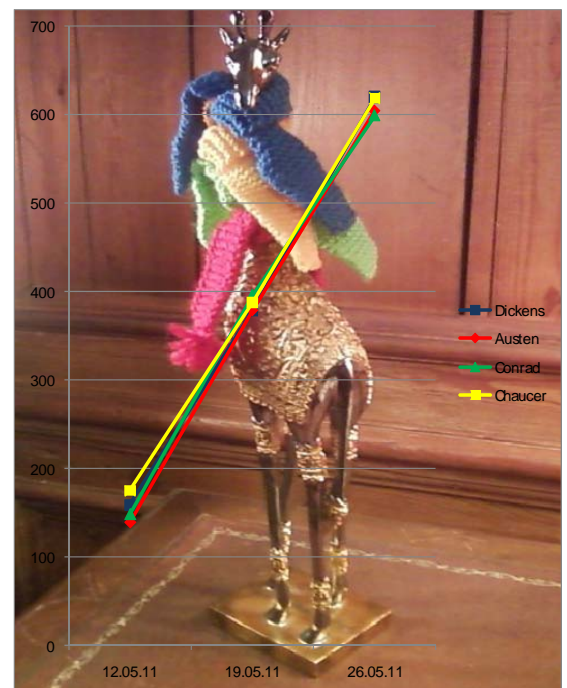
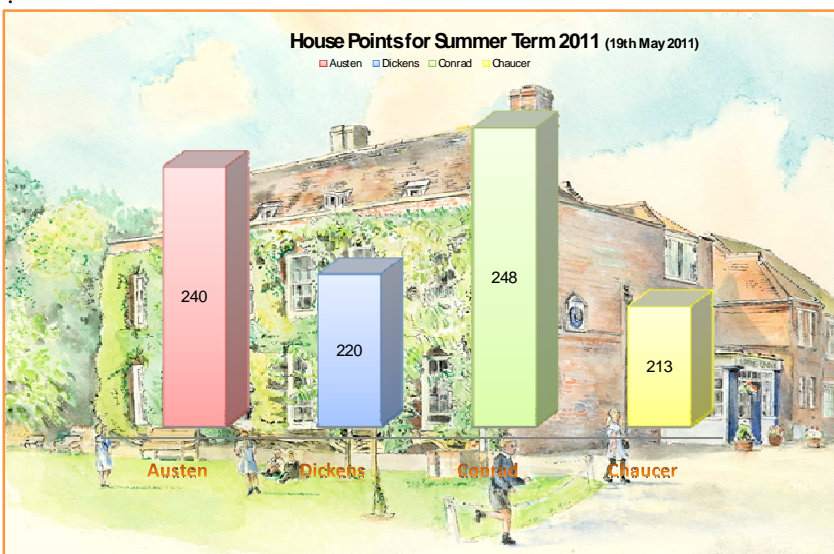
### Notices

#### House T-Shirts

If you require a House Colour t-shirt in readiness for Sports Day could you please inform Margaret in the school office. Thank you

# House News

What the Dickens! At long last, Dickens House have topped the Stars table for the week for the very first time. Whoops of delight and uproarious cheers—the children were quite loud too—greeted the stupendous news. Over the course of the term, the competition is very, very close with just 21 points separating the 4 houses. Dickens (620 points) are 1 point ahead of Chaucer (619); further back, Conrad have 605, Austen have 599. There is a long way to go yet!



*Well done to Dickens!*

## Congratulations to:

### Tennis Players of the Week:

Freddy Fisher

### Headmasters Stars

Paddy Fisher

Marie-Louise Bird

**Gymnastics Certificates:** Lily-Grace Chandler, Millie Rimmer

## Lost Property

Alex Harden - 2 royal blue jumpers, 1 pair of football boots

Daisy Lord - A complete swimming kit, red bag, towel, swimsuit, goggles and flip-flops.

Harry Linch - One shin pad, Royal Blue Fleece, Track Suit Bottoms

Austin Moran - 2 navy blue PE tops

Jade Curtis - Football Socks

Sasha Newman - Navy blue PE top, royal blue fleece.

Emilie Knights-Toomer - 2 navy polo shirts

Emily Stretton - Navy skort, navy polo shirt

Edward Norton - Zipped Tracksuit Top

Please check your cars and at home for any of these named items. If you found have any of these items, please inform Margaret in the school office.

## Diary

Monday 6th - Friday 10th June

Monday 6th      Prep 6 Leave for Wales

Tuesday 7th

Wednesday 8th    U9 Girls Kwik Cricket v St Faiths (A)

Thursday 9th

Friday 10th      Prep 4W Assembly  
Prep 6 Return from Wales

## MENU

Monday 6th - Friday 10th June

Monday 6th      Cheese\Tuna , Salad and  
Cous-Cous  
Apple Sponge and Custard

Tuesday 7th      Chicken Pasta Bake  
Fresh Fruit

Wednesday 8th    Chilli-con-Carne & Rice  
Arctic Roll

Thursday 9th      Gala Pie, Salad and Jacket Potato  
Iced Cake

Friday 10th      Fish, Chips and Peas  
Choc Ices

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
☆ **Happy Birthday ...** ☆  
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
☆ **Maddison Exell,** ☆  
☆ **Isabelle Hobday and** ☆  
☆ **Daisy Hills** ☆  
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Don't forget! Active Cricket is returning for two days of cricket next Thursday and Friday, 2nd and 3rd June.

The club is ideal for children aged 5—12. It is also open to non-Spring Grove children.

(Therefore children can bring along a friend).

Visit <http://www.activecricketcoaching.co.uk/spring-grove-school-the-one-day-international-experience>

# The Event in the Tent 2011

## Thursday 23 June 2011 3:00PM – 8:00PM

This event has been very successful over the last three years. This time the day will begin earlier at 3 pm so it is easier for children and parents to take part at pick up time. We will then go on to 8 pm to allow those who work and other members of the public to come, see and buy from the exhibitors. We are also adding more features

### **NEW - Pupils' enterprise day challenge and awards**

- ◆ With the help of Bizlinx and business mentors each house will make, market and sell a product on the day. The houses efforts will be judged by a panel of stand holders and prizes awarded in various categories. An overall cup will be sponsored and awarded by Bizlinx.
- ◆ If you would like to be involved in the mentoring please contact the school office.

### **NEW- Kent Search and Rescue Dog challenge**

- ◆ The Kent Search And Rescue Dog Unit trains air scenting search dog units to a high standard of readiness to be called upon by the Police, RAF, Search & Rescue Units, other Emergency Services and Local Councils in Kent. Both children and adults will be able to challenge the dogs to find them.

### **NEW - Gourmet Burgers and Ice Cream Van**

- ◆ You won't go hungry with our burgers and ice creams in addition to canapés and bar. For the children the swimming pool will remain open and manned by life guards.

### **Ford Fiesta Championship driver Zena Cooper and her racing car**

- ◆ One of only three women drivers in the Championship will be there with her car in its new livery. Sit in the driving seat get a feel for the thrill of the track and have your photo taken.

Make a pledge and donation to Demelza  
at the event to win a passenger ride at Brands Hatch.

Information on marketing opportunities and sponsorship as well as tickets for Brands Hatch hospitality events will be available from Zena.

## **CALL TO ACTION**

This is your opportunity to **showcase** and **sell** the goods and expertise of your business. Take a stand and let people know what your business is about and meet new people. Other parents and public will be invited. You will also be emailed invitations to send out to your customers and contacts entry is free.

### **With all these attractions don't miss out**

If you would like to exhibit places cost £45 payable to Spring Grove PTA (No VAT). Half of all profits will go to **Spring Grove School PTA** and half to **Demelza Hospice Care for Children**. For a booking form e-mail [office@springgroveschool.co.uk](mailto:office@springgroveschool.co.uk)



# Spring Grove School presents The Event in The Tent

Thursday 23 June 2011 3:00PM – 8:00PM

## Local Products, Services and Drinks Reception

Attractions include

**NEW - Pupils' enterprise day challenge and awards**

**NEW- Kent Search and Rescue Dog challenge**

**NEW - Gourmet Burgers and Ice Cream Van**

**Ford Fiesta Championship driver Zena Cooper and her racing car**

This event gives your business a great opportunity to showcase and sell their goods and expertise. Take a stand and let people know what your business is about, meet new people and have a drink and canapés in beautiful and sociable surroundings. Parents of Spring Grove Pupils and local people will be invited. You will also be emailed invitations to send out to your customers and contacts.

**FREE ENTRY FOR ALL VISITORS**

**ACT NOW**

If you would like to exhibit places cost £45 payable to Spring Grove PTA (No VAT). Half of all profits will go to **Spring Grove School PTA** and half to **Demelza Hospice Care for Children**. A raffle on the night will also be in support of both these causes. If you would like to give a prize (outright or an offer) please let us know.

Places are limited so book now and we will confirm your place by e-mail.

<b>Business Name:</b>	
<b>Name(s) of Exhibitor:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Post Code:</b>	<b>Mobile Number:</b>
<b>Tel. No:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Fax No.</b>	<b>Web Site:</b>
<b>Raffle Prize offer:</b>	
<b>Brief Description of your business to be shown in the programme</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

Approx 6 foot areas will be allocated to each exhibitor. Do you require a table and chair (**YES/NO.**)

There may be limited access to electricity and the internet access – please enquire further.

To book a place send this form to **The Office, Spring Grove School, Harville Road, Wye, TN25 5EZ**. Please mark envelopes "The Event in the Tent", and make cheques payable to Spring Grove PTA or pay electronically to Nat West Bank sort code 60-04-27 Spring Grove School PTA a/c number 90857739

Further details are available from **Kirsten Moon on 01233 714055**



Sponsored by



Demelza  
Hospice Care for Children

Supporting