

Partnership Newsletter

No. 4 Winter 2010



High Weald Hero Actions *Find Out About *Explore *Take Care of *Be Proud of *Enjoy

Welcome to the High Weald Hero Partnership Newsletter. Apologies that it has been a while since the last one – there have been lots of changes! Rebekah Bibby, who many of you know, is on maternity leave and Laura Sweeting has joined the High Weald AONB Unit as Education Officer. Laura was a full time primary school teacher before taking on this role and is now leading the High Weald Heroes scheme. For any High Weald Hero queries get in touch with Karen Maier at the Kent High Weald Partnership or Laura Sweeting at the High Weald AONB Unit – contact details at the end of this newsletter.

We would also like to welcome...

- Rusthall St Pauls CE Primary School
- Claremont CEP School
- St Barnabas CEP School, Tunbridge Wells
- Broadwater Down Primary School
- St James CE Junior School
- Southborough CEP School
- St Peters CEP School, Tunbridge Wells,
- Meadows School and
- Tenterden Junior School to the partnership.



Laura (above) & Karen (below)



Walking Wellies

88 children, 13 adults and a dog spent a clear November day exploring the delights of Tenterden for their Welly Walk. Setting off from Tenterden Junior school, the children worked hard to write and record instructions, take photographs, map-read and be 'eagle-eyed'- keeping a look out for interesting features or hazards across 3.5 miles of glorious countryside. The Welly Walk took place following participation in a workshop a few weeks before. Here the children had examined maps to spot interesting features in their local environment and planned potential routes.



The children quickly got the hang of stiles, enjoyed walking down some medieval droving routes and had fun finding leaves in the ancient woodland. It was a good opportunity to identify key features of the High Weald landscape and learn more about the area's rich history. The children were definitely High Weald Heroes and are very enthusiastic about creating the Welly Walk for their school. They are planning to do lots of classroom based work as a follow on from the day and are looking forward to receiving their set of Welly Walk leaflets soon.

From the Schoolyard to the Farmyard...

An exciting new venture is bringing five urban High Weald Hero schools into the farmyard! The Kent High Weald Partnership has been setting up new links between farms in the High Weald and primary schools in Tunbridge Wells. The idea is to create an ongoing relationship, which will help to explain what a vital role farms play in our countryside and how food is grown and produced locally.

Oakley school has been twinned with Hazel Street Farm, Horsmonden
St Peter's CEP has been twinned with Pippins Farm, Pembury
St Barnabas CEP has been twinned with Park Farm, Hawkhurst
Broadwater Down primary school has been twinned with Little Scotney Farm, Lamberhurst
Meadows school has been twinned with Woodside Farm in Benenden.



For more information on farming and related features of the High Weald landscape contact us.

The project was made possible with funding from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the Sustainable Development Fund via the High Weald AONB Unit.

SCHOOLS NEEDED FOR FREE DRAMA WORKSHOPS!

An exciting, FREE, drama programme is currently being put together to teach Key Stage 1 and 2 children about the High Weald.

From March 2010, 16 interactive workshops and assemblies will be run by Bigfoot Arts Education.

Schools will receive a fun whole school assembly plus themed workshops on Romans, Tudors or the environmental story of the High Weald. Lesson plans and follow up activities will also be available. The workshops are linked to National Curriculum objectives for literacy, geography and history and are FREE for the 1st 16 High Weald Hero schools to sign up!



Contact Laura for more information and to take advantage of this fantastic offer!

Do you love where you live?

Love Where We Live

This project was carried out at seven primary schools in the Tunbridge Wells borough, 4 of them were High Weald Hero schools including Cranbrook CEP, Broadwater Down Primary, Goudhurst & Kilndown CEP and Rusthall St. Paul's CEP.

The project, which was funded by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) aimed to remind children why it is good to respect where you live and look after the environment.

An assembly took the whole school on a whistle stop tour of the history of Tunbridge Wells starting with the discovery of the first iron-rich spring on The Common by Lord Dudley North 400 years ago. Children acted out parts of the story by dressing up as important characters who shaped Tunbridge Wells, such as Richard Beau Nash who entertained the masses, Decimus Burton who designed many of the buildings that still exist today and the many royals who came to visit. The lively account of Tunbridge Wells was followed by a classroom-based interactive workshop related to the theme.

Children thought about what happened to their rubbish, how we could stop litter and recycle more. The school then took part in a litter pick in and around their school to lead by example. As a celebration of the project children then created pieces of artwork to illustrate what they loved about where they lived. It was displayed in the Camden Centre and judged by a panel including the Mayor and Mayoress.



It was agreed that all the schools that took part made a fantastic effort. The overall winner however was Cranbrook C of E Primary school, who won a camera nest box.

Well done everyone and keep loving where you live!

Children from Cranbrook Primary litter picking (above) and related artwork created (right)



Following the success of a similar project last year, 6 High Weald Hero schools will have the chance to be involved in the **High Weald Energy Story project.**

The main elements of the project include a practical hands-on day out at Bedgebury Pinetum for a year 5 or 6 class in March 2010, training for teachers to carry out a workshop complete with lesson plans, a loanable energy kit and training on how to incorporate it into lessons. There will also be a factsheet about Climate Change, assistance and interest free loans available for renewable energy installations from Kent County Council's energy team.

You can watch a short DVD about the Energy Day at Bedgebury last year on www.khwp.org.uk. If you are local to Tunbridge Wells and would like to borrow the sustainable energy kit for your class, please contact The Skinners' School on 01892 520732. Or contact us if you would like to participate in future energy days.

Log on

Have you been on the Learning Zone at www.highweald.org recently? We've been working hard to update school's details and upload your map sets and Welly Walks. All resources are free to download.



Let us know what High Weald Hero actions you've been up to so we can keep your page up to date.

Why not check out what other schools have been doing too? Maybe you could share ideas. In particular:

- Sandhurst Primary School
- Pembury Primary School
- Hawkhurst CE Primary School and
- Brenchley & Matfield CE Primary School

have great Welly Walks that are the latest to be added to the site.

High Weald Heroes

High Weald Heroes is a partnership of primary schools that have demonstrated their commitment to the local landscape by undertaking the High Weald Hero actions - Find Out About- Explore- Take Care of - Be Proud of - Enjoy.

The partnership is supported by the High Weald AONB Unit and Kent High Weald Partnership who offer a free, landscape-focused support package of introductory assemblies, staff training, educational materials, themed classroom workshops and interactive plays, outdoor learning and networking opportunities.

For more information contact:

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News needed - If you have any news or stories you would like to be included in the next newsletter or to appear on our website please let us know

