



**Reception Assembly** – We were taken to China this morning by the reception class. They told us about some of the customs and food of this country, including getting the whole school doing Tai Chi. They finished their assembly by telling the story of the Magic Brush, a traditional Chinese tale.



**Seething Observatory** - On Wednesday evening, an enthusiastic group of Year 5 pupils accompanied by equally enthusiastic mums and dads travelled deep into the Norfolk countryside to visit the home of the Norwich Astronomical Society at Seething. For days we had checked the weather, hoping for a clear night so that we would be able to look through one of the large telescopes. In the event, a disappointing layer of cloud parted just enough for us to see the planet Mars. Mr Lincoln, at least, convinced himself that he has managed to catch a glimpse of the polar ice cap on that inhospitable planet. The main part of the visit involved an illustrated talk by one of the Society's extremely knowledgeable and expert members. We were taken through the formation of the



Earth and Moon and ended with an explanation of the phenomenon of sun spots. We learned a whole host of facts and figures, including the intriguing fact that the Moon is moving away from the Earth at the rate of 3.7cm per year. This means that although it is at present in just the right place to cover the Sun during a total eclipse, in a few hundreds of thousands of year's time it will no longer look so big, and there will be no more proper "total eclipses". The children listened intently throughout the talk, following some detailed arguments and asking a lot of very sensible

questions. At the end we all went outside to visit the two large telescope domes and to have a look through the 14" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope which had been focused on Mars. Our thanks to the members of the Norwich Astronomical Society for giving up their time to give us a really interesting evening and to the many parents who provided transport.

**Scholarship News** – Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded scholarships and awards to their next schools:

Jack Baxter – All Rounder – Langley School  
James Basey-Fisher – All Rounder – Langley School  
Leonie Carver – Academic – Langley School  
Millie Dakin-Butler – Music – Langley School  
Marley Flute – Sports – Langley School

A full round up of news of all of the Year 6 children who have gained places at their chosen senior schools will be in the newsletter next week.

**Summer Dresses** – If you have any summer dresses that your daughter has grown out of, the uniform shop would be grateful for any donations.

**Langley Cross-Country** – Twelve children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Langley Prep School Cross Country competition earlier today. Although no podium places were achieved all of the Henstead children acquitted themselves well, with top honours going to William Stoner who finished ninth in the Under 11 Boys competition.

**Quiz Night** – Don't forget to buy your tickets for this event which is next Friday at 6.30pm. Final numbers need to be in by Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Pre-school children can come and are free!

**Instrumental Lessons** - In an effort to improve home/school communication we intend to incorporate feedback, practice notes etc into the Homework Diary/Message Book. Over the next two weeks a stapled-in sheet will appear for those pupils involved. This will become a more permanent feature once we are sure we have a really useful format. We would welcome your comments once you have tried the system for a week or two. In the meantime please remember that you can always come in and speak to your child's music teacher or liaise through Miss Sindall. Thank you.

### **Advance Notice**

#### Gorleston St Andrew's Festival

#### Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup>

Senior Choir – Class begins 10.45am

After School Small Choir - Class begins 11.30am

#### Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup>

Verse Speaking Choir – Class begins 9.30am

Year Three Verse Speakers – Class begins 10.45am

Individual Verse Speaking 8years and under from Year 4 and

12 years and under - Classes between 11.00am and 12.10pm

Individual Verse Speaking 10years and under Years 4 and 5 – Class begins 2.00pm

Prose Reading 12 years and under (some members of Year 6)– Class begins 3.35pm

A letter with full details will be issued next week.

#### Senior School House Cross Country

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March on the school field, starting at 1.45pm.