

September 2015

We will share more news of our school activities next time but wanted to focus this month on our very exciting day at school at the start of term, when we introduced the "Be the best you can be!" programme. Working with the 21st Century Legacy team, we believe that it will provide our pupils with new and different approaches to achieving their potential.

We were thrilled that Gail Emms MBE, British Olympic silver medallist in Badminton (2004) recently joined children, teachers, parents and governors to launch the programme. She shared her inspirational journey with us and described what it took for her to achieve her goals. Gail told us: "Have pride in yourself and your performance. Give everything and you will have no regrets. If you do give everything I know you will go on to achieve fantastic things." The programme is going to be led by teachers, and as part of our preparation, we have been working with one of our supporters, Dr David Hemery, CBE, the former Olympic athlete and Vice Chairman of the British Olympic Association, who founded the programme, which as part of the 2012 London Olympic legacy ambition, is now delivered nationwide. We know that as a local resident in the valley, David will be keeping a close eye on the implementation of this initiative that is so close to him!

The programme itself has already shown that it helps to:

- inspire young people's dreams and aspirations to reach their potential
- generate self-confidence & self-esteem
- Enable young people to take responsibility for their own development
- provides learning in the life skill of coaching to plan for success

We have chosen the 'Be the Best you Can Be' programme because although based on a sporting theme, it enables our pupils to explore the routes to their own goals and dreams, no matter what they might be. Furthermore, it complements our curriculum and is consistent with our school aim: *'To offer all our children a challenging, inspiring and balanced curriculum, seeking the highest standards of personal development, embracing Christian understanding of everyone's needs and differences and to nurture personal responsibility for high standards of learning, behaviour and respect for others.'*

The children will now be making their own Dream Folders in which to keep all the activities and exercises completed in their different lessons. We hope that as the children become enthused with the programme, parents will be able to share the journey and get involved. Find out more about the programme at www.21stcenturylegacy.com/ - it's inspiring!

Finally, I would like to say how shocked and deeply saddened we were as a school community to learn of the very tragic death of John and Judith Woodget at the end of last term. Judith was a Governor at the school for eight years and also a friend to many of us. Being active in the Lockeridge community, Judith enabled the school to play its full part in village life, and her skilled work to create and maintain our lovely Spiritual Garden was so appreciated - we will miss her sense of fun and enthusiasm and seeing her walking to the school with her wheelbarrow and gardening tools! Looking to the future, we plan to develop this garden in line with discussions we'd had with Judith about ideas to make even better use of the space for the children. Judith's smile and cheerfulness and "can do" attitude made such a positive impact to our school. We really miss her and will create a tribute to her in the garden.



Karen Venner, Headteacher