



# Nook Lane News

'WINNING WITH MODESTY, LOSING WITH DIGNITY'

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## Don become house champions!

During the summer term, Olympic fever hit Nook Lane Junior School and spread rapidly. The opening ceremony sparked the beginning of our amazing whole school theme with Lesley Ward (mother of Reiss Askey who has represented Great Britain as a diver at past Olympic games) lighting the Olympic cauldron and inspiring the children to aim for success.



The Nook Lane dancers poised to begin their moving performance.



Lesley Ward ready to cut the ribbon.

Each year group was set a challenge to develop key skills in aspects of learning that would improve targeted areas. The year 3 children beavered away to a tight deadline in order to produce a Nook Lane sports sweatband. This task developed crucial maths skills as the weeks passed.

Year 4 investigated the physical characteristics that make an outstanding athlete focusing on maths and scientific investigation skills. Year 5 pawed through reams of literature to find out about the Olympics 2012 in a goal to deepen other children's knowledge and develop their own reading skills. And finally, the year 6 children pursued their challenge to establish who they felt should be named the greatest Olympian of all time. This challenge aimed to further improve their excellent writing skills.

As the cauldron burned, so did the children's de-

sire to succeed. Would it be Sheaf, Loxley, Rivelin or Don named as the champion house 2012? The Nook Lane Core values held the key to possible success with children being awarded Olympic medals for excellence in these crucial areas of learning. Medals began to accumulate thick and fast as children posted them into their house boxes to be counted by the Y5 and Y6 officials.

It was Don who took an early lead in weeks one to three, peaking on the leader board above the other houses. However, during week four the gap was closed and the distance between first and second place had narrowed dramatically. Loxley languished in last place with Rivelin third and Sheaf second. The competition was in full flow and each house was still in with a chance of winning the coveted House Trophy.

Then it arrived, the day of anticipation; the day of



**Who will win?  
Children racing  
with pride during  
the mini Olympics.**

reckoning. Nook Lane Sport's Day. Jumping, throwing, sprinting and shooting, the young athletes competed. The bespoke Nook Lane sweatbands, designed, produced and sold by the year three children in their goal to develop key maths skills, were a sell out and worn with pride by both teachers and children. As the home made scones (courtesy of Mrs Linacre) and the Tiffin (produced by Mr Thornton and the Year 5 children) began to disappear, so did the time left to complete each sporting activity. Suddenly, it ended with everyone awaiting the finale.

Parents moved to the race track, children sat in anticipation and the teachers took positions



on the start and finish lines.

A series of sprints had the crowd aghast and brimming with excitement. Then, the concluding relays brought down the curtain on what had been a wonderful and memorable event. Loxley were crowned champions of the day which threw the overall house score-

board into turmoil. An unimaginable shift had taken place propelling Loxley into first place. With a week to go, everyone was seeking core value medals. Manners were impeccable, listening was outstanding, co-operation was at an all time high as every child gave everything to earn a medal for their house.

A tense atmosphere enveloped the hall as the children assembled for the closing ceremony. Each year group had performed a short assembly to the school sharing their learning and now was the moment of truth. The closing ceremony began with speeches given by the winners of this years 'Can I Have A Word' Competition. The speeches received resounding applause and got the closing ceremony off to a fabulous start.

The ribbons had been tied to the cup but what colour would they be? Red, green, yellow or blue. As Mr Chadbourne stood in front of the cauldron with the covered trophy, each child crossed their fingers and hoped they would be part of the winning team. And then it was revealed - a flash of red. It was Don who were crowned House Champions 2012.

As the result sunk in children lived up to the school sports motto 'To win with modesty and lose with dignity', as the winning team were given three cheers by all the competitors.

Congratulations to Don, but more importantly all of the children at Nook lane for their enthusiasm, hard work and determination throughout this memorable whole school theme. Next up, lets go back in time together as the children will be embarking on a whole



**Future athletes in the making? Who could they be?**

school history theme. Who will be announced House Champions for Autumn 1?