

# HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 3, 24TH JANUARY, 2025



Dear Parents

Another busy week draws to a close and whilst it still very much feels like 'The Frozen North' with the wind gusting in, at least it is beginning to feel a bit brighter at the start and end of the school day. 'The Frozen North' was the theme of the Pre Prep Assembly on Monday morning with the age groups congregating together in their coats, hats and scarves to share their work and set their challenges for the week ahead. They packed an expedition bag, taught each other a range of facts about different arctic animals, admired their Class collages, that form an impressive backdrop in the Pre Prep Hall, before enjoying a Northern Lights display! Next week the children will have a visit from Christal Seas Scuba to look forward to.

One of my highlights of the week was having the chance to read one of my favourite stories to each of the three Reception classes, 'The Way Home for Wolf'. This story focuses on a young wolf who is determined to do it all on his own, but who ends up appreciating just how important friendship can be when he loses his way. I see this desire to be independent as a feature that is a real strength in so many of our pupils both young and old, but I equally see them truly valuing those around them who are there to support them on their own journeys; friends, family and teachers. We have continued to focus in my Headmaster's Assemblies on Fridays on the idea of getting in the right gear and finding our own way using the Town Close Way as something to guide us. We focused today on the importance of respecting ourselves and others; looking at what respect means to them and also the etymology of the word respect coming from the idea of looking back. Whilst this might not be how we typically interpret the idea of respect, I asked the pupils to consider that by being respectful in what they say and do on a daily basis they will be able to look back on their journey with a real sense of pride at having been the best version of themselves. The pupils were also pleased to hear that they also had lots of nice new playground equipment to play with at breaktimes and I hope that they treat this equipment with respect so that the school community as a whole can enjoy it in the weeks and months ahead.

My other highlights of the week included hopping on the bike to ride to the Astro to watch some fantastic hockey from our Colts teams (including a tremendous goal for Town Close the very minute that I arrived!), who along with our Senior hockey and Senior netball teams represented the school superbly this week. I look forward to hopefully catching some of our U9 teams in action this afternoon. Speaking of U9s, I have also enjoyed popping my head into the odd rehearsal this week as our Year 4 pupils get ready for their production of Cinderella and Rickerfella. They are clearly putting in a huge amount of effort and I am sure that those who come to see it will be in for a real treat.

Finally, it was great see so many visitors join us for our first session in 2025 of our Mini Explorers programme with lots of happy children joining us for a fun session in our Nursery. They circulated throughout the areas enjoying a range of activities: sculpting, painting, water play, the sand pit, the play area, construction and the outdoor kitchen to name a few. To finish, they enjoyed some delicious refreshments including some homemade breakfast muffins & our incredible Town Close shortbread! I look forward to seeing these families next week for Tumble Time in the Sports Hall.

I hope that you have a great weekend.

Mr Nick Tiley-Nunn

