



Dear Parents

Friday 18th September 2020



This morning we warmly congratulated the new Heads of School, House Captains and Prefects, announced today, alongside the Head of Senior Wind Band, Head of Senior Choir, Leader of Senior Orchestra and sports captains. Every Year 8 pupil undertakes leadership duties and many have been undertaking them very responsibly in the first three weeks. We will announce a second list of Prefect appointments later in the term to reflect this and thank all our senior children for the work they do to aid the smooth running of the School.

Food was the theme of Pre Prep assembly, with Mrs Harries encouraging younger children to be brave in their choices using the Charlie and Lola story *I will not ever, never, eat a tomato* by Lauren Child. Bird Families, meanwhile, explored the important ingredients of friendship. Headmaster's Assembly also had a food theme as we talked about the rules of lunch and the importance of table manners, alongside all manners. Children were reminded how important it is to avoid wasting food whenever possible (25-40% of all food produced in the world is wasted) and how this is a concrete step we can all take to help our environment. Edie gave an accomplished performance of *Green Onions* on the guitar, and we congratulated our highest sticker scorers and first winning house (Upton). Mr Coulthart led Monday's Prep assembly about teamwork, using geese as an example.



Year 1 have been using gingerbread men to inspire writing, mathematical and topic work and a highlight was cooking plant-based gingerbread men this morning, which looked and smelt magnificent. In Maple, I saw two of the children temporarily joining lessons via Zoom and also joined Year 1 and Reception during their yoga in the Pre Prep hall.



Reception were practising their letter formation in class by enthusiastically writing on tables covered in shaving foam. I learnt that to draw a 'd' you need to go around the dinosaur's bottom, which caused lots of laughter. Year 2 were busy writing riddles and I joined one class working impressively on doubling and another tackling a comprehension exercise.



Former Town Close pupil Simon Back visited on Wednesday. He very generously donated funds to re-thatch the pavilion and re-decorate it this summer and we expressed our gratitude by showing him the finished product, including a lovely new plaque, and serving him cream tea while watching boys from Years 6-8 honing their cricket skills as we continue our delayed season. The weather has been perfect once



again, especially for the water play Little Acorns were enjoying with zeal on Tuesday. There was a lovely picture shared of wet clothing hung out to dry, reflecting how thoroughly some immersed themselves into this activity! I saw these younger pupils again on Wednesday as they crept up to my window silently and then shouted a loud hello to attract my attention, egged on by Mrs Hampsheir!



A trip to the DT lab saw Year 6 embarking on their ball-bearing mazes, while Year 7 were starting the design phase of their clocks. Mrs Chitty's Year 7 English group shared some impressive pieces of descriptive writing and Year 3 were experimenting with their light boxes in science,



showing great concentration. It was lovely to see the finished Matilda poster, made from hundreds of book covers to celebrate Rahl Dahl day, proudly displayed on the doorway to the library. Other proud pupils will be this week's Wonder Wall award winners. One Reception pupil was proudly pictured next to her family portrait. I am sure her parents will recognise themselves immediately!



Next week sees Year 3 & 4 parent meetings with form teachers via Zoom (we will email Zoom details in advance) and we also now hope to release our Year 7 Common Entrance evening film early next week. Apologies that the virtual version has taken longer to complete than the usual live event.

I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes