



Dear Parents

Friday 16th October 2020

As we end our seventh week of the autumn term, it seems hard to believe that half term is upon us. We have really appreciated having all pupils back at school studying the full curriculum and thank everyone for supporting the adaptations we have made to allow this to happen successfully and in accordance with current guidance. The Year 8 children sent staff a lovely card to share their appreciation for supporting the whole school community through these difficult times. The seven weeks seem to have taken us rapidly from summer to winter and we do need to be prepared for colder weeks ahead. With windows open for ventilation, please can all children wear vests under their uniform and have pullovers and Town Close winter coats in school after half term so that, when needed, we all stay warm in lessons. Town Close hats and gloves are also available and children continue to need jogging bottoms, fleeces and outdoor trainers for break times.



Pre Prep pupils focused on respecting and caring for our school in Mrs Harries' assembly this week while in Bird Families, children talked about the importance of respecting personal space and learning to read body language. Our Top Birds had their final week in their posts and it was lovely to see one of them earning a Town Close Way award. Prep pupils had a very interesting assembly from Mr Smith on Monday, following up the environmental themes covered last week, while 3H led an impressive [assembly](#) about instructions, which we filmed once again and shared with 3H parents. Headmaster's assembly featured Joseph playing *The Egyptian Level* confidently on the piano and was about laughter. Three Year 4 pupils shared jokes, we saw a lovely clip of a baby laughing and talked about the many benefits of laughter, providing we direct it carefully. Prep pupils were also told about the new arrangements for birthday celebrations, details of which are in the bulletin.



This week, we saw Year 1 showing off their 3D shapes and solar system booklets, Year 2 writing impressively about the Little Red Hen and then making bread, Year 7 enjoying studying Mandarin with Mrs Bowyer, Year 3 completing impressive extended writing and Year 5 playing tennis in PE and enjoying reading in the library. Reception were using bells in their music lessons and drawing pumpkins, Year 3&4 were enjoying play on the woodland walk and Little Acorns were making Halloween themed cupcakes. There was a lovely Halloween display in the library too and we announced George in Year 5 and Sophie in Year 2 as our library competition winners. George's estimate for the number of books was only six out! New hockey kit arrived and I saw Year 7 playing water polo in the swimming pool and Chestnut class developing their skills too.



Across the School, we have been recording various poetry performances and our usual evening will be replaced by the release of this film after half term. Work is also well underway for our Nativity plays, the Year 4 Play and the Senior Play, all of which will be released on YouTube when the time comes, and we also plan to record a full Prep Carol Service and broadcast it as live on the final day of term.



We enjoyed meeting Year 6 parents via Zoom this week and look forward to the Year 5 virtual parents' meeting after half term on November 5<sup>th</sup>. A reminder that we also have our Rainbow Day in aid of our School Charity Break on November 6<sup>th</sup> to bring some sparkle and colour, with the usual PTA Fireworks party not being possible that evening. We will also enjoy a firework party themed lunch.



I wish all our children a very enjoyable half term break.

With best wishes

*Nick Skington*