



Dear Parents

Friday 20th November 2020

Following my email last Sunday, we have had a handful of staff and a group of children teaching and learning from isolation this week. We are grateful to everyone for their stoicism in adapting to this significant disruption and have enjoyed seeing these members of our community online this week. Many of you have been kind enough to send your good wishes to Mrs Joliffe, who consented to us sharing her name and updates. She describes headache, fatigue, change of taste and aches and pains, but is feeling a little stronger and is thankful that her symptoms seem relatively mild. She appreciates all the good wishes that have come her way. Naturally, we hope there will not be any further cases (all other tests this week have come back negative) and will continue to follow guidance to minimise the risk of transmission. It is worth noting that we would not normally be able to share the name of the person involved but will always notify those who have been in close contact.



This morning's Prep assembly was about emotions and strategies to cope with some of life's pressures. We also enjoyed Solomon's performance of *Carolyn's Air* on the violin and Suvir's playing *Gigue* by J S Bach on the piano. Earlier in the week, 3R shared their [assembly](#) about light, combining what they have learnt in science with their RS work on Diwali. We also enjoyed Mrs Harman's assembly about stars, aided by some fine Year 6 actors introducing us to the Advent season ahead. Bird Family meetings followed themes from the anti-bullying alliance's awareness week, while in Pre Prep assembly, Mrs Harries talked to the children about the Town Close Way and awarded the new Top Birds their badges and certificates. It was lovely to see some of these children and to read their promise cards with them. This week also saw the first of our soloist's concerts with Year 6 pupils playing with great enthusiasm to an audience of fellow musicians and viewers at home! The film will be released next week so that we can include footage from those pupils not able to be physically present on Tuesday.



This week a number of Prep PE classes have started their cross-country modules around our beautiful woodland course, and I also saw a group of Year 6 swimmers working hard on their kicking. Our hardy Year 8 children have still been enjoying alfresco dining well into November, one of the privileges they earn through the duties they undertake to help run the School. We have seen Year 3 pupils working hard on their photo frames in DT, a forthcoming Christmas present perhaps, while their drama lessons continued in the Read Hall with Mrs Beasley teaching her classes remotely. Year 8 pupils have been tackling French orals in advance of Year 5-8 exams, which take place next week. Year 7 pupils were working on computer-aided design in DT and finishing their magnificent clocks, while 5H did an impressive piece of work designing figurines Fritz might have made from their studies of Philip Pullman's *Clockwork*. Tutors enjoyed meeting Year 7 parents via Zoom for feedback about children's progress so far this term and I hope that this was useful. Next week we will be sending the second set of Attitude to Learning grades home for all Prep children.



Preparations for Pre Prep Christmas performances have been gathering pace and it was lovely to hear Year 2 children singing their songs in the Pre Prep entrance area after their lesson. Pre Prep was full of different coloured socks on Monday, with some splendid examples on display as a starting point for thinking about difference in anti-bullying week. Miss Goddard led an array of energetic Reception dance classes, while another Reception group were enjoying a delightful story in our cosy library. Year 1 were working on shadow patterns, light sources and Rangoli puppets, while our Little Acorns were busy dressing up and playing outside. We are seeing some warm friendships developing in this group. I also popped into see them for lunch on Thursday whilst they enjoyed a warming roast dinner, perfect for the frosty mornings we have just started to see.



I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes

