



Dear Parents

Friday 9th October 2020

This week saw the first class assembly of the year, with 3SP enthusiastically sharing the work they have been doing to celebrate National Poetry Day. We were sorry parents could not attend as usual, with the children instead performing in front of fellow Year 3 children and the cameras to produce this [film](#), which we hope 3SP parents enjoyed. We look forward to 3H's assembly next Wednesday. Mr Walker led Monday's Prep assembly where we appreciated teachers for National Teacher Day and shared stories of those who have made a difference to us. Meanwhile this morning's Headmaster's Assembly was about the [Earthshot](#) prizes, announced this week, and what we can all do to make environmental change happen. We also enjoyed Thea Barbu's beautiful performance of *Shepherd's Hey* on the clarinet and Struthi Santosh's accomplished recital of *Arioso* on her cello.



Pre Prep Bird Families were talking about the importance of smiling this week and what a huge difference such a simple sign can make. Meanwhile assembly was about developing a growth mind-set, where we remember to add "yet" whenever we think we cannot do something. Children enjoyed the Peter H Reynolds story *The Dot* where a girl believes she cannot draw but her teacher has other ideas! Little Acorns, meanwhile, focused on vegetables, enjoying Vivian French's *Oliver's Vegetables*, making carrot



footprints and cooking vegetable soup. Many of these younger children also enjoyed showing me the number 5, which they have been learning about, with their fingers.



All our children have had a busy week of work and play. In a rare moment of sunshine, I spent time with Year 7&8 on the front lawn and woodland walk as they played traditional running and chasing games. Our Year 6 children were reading poetry impressively, while Year 7 children told me about some of the ballads they have been writing in response to sadness or tragedy. In DT, Year 4 pupils were having a fabulous time designing and building their balloon powered cars, while Year 3 created some beautiful cave drawings inspired by those at Lascaux. Many classes celebrated National Library Week with Mrs Guymer in various ways, including some of our younger children estimating the number of books we currently stock.



Year 5 ASA members last Friday made some great dens just before storm Alex arrived and Year 5 have also been star-gazing this week. I



joined a Year 2 class developing comprehension skills and was most impressed by some of their reading aloud. Another class, meanwhile, was finding alternatives to avoid saying, "said". I joined Reception while they consolidated their sounds and saw a lovely show and tell talk about one of our children's Wendy house. It was great to see these children enjoying snack time too! Year 2 embarked on flour and butter making,



while Year 1 went on a sensory walk with Bella, who remains as busy and important as ever. They were also excited by their literacy work, with Beegu the alien as inspiration!



This week our Prep pupils took home their attitude to learning grades alongside definitions for what the expected standard at Town Close represents. Meanwhile, we enjoyed meeting Pre Prep parents via Zoom and hope that these were useful. Next week, we look forward to welcoming Year 6 parents for the Zoom meetings with children's tutors, who will relay feedback from all the children's subject teachers in the 15-minute appointments and I look forward to welcoming Year 6 parents to the open Zoom meeting with me before or after their appointment.



I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

With my best wishes

*Nick Kerrington*