



Dear Parents

Friday 4th December 2020

It has really started to feel like Christmas this week, with filming in full swing for the Christmas performances that we will be sharing in the final week. Little Acorns shot a variety of scenes for their film, which included a miniature snow machine by the main house. Little did we know that there would be real snowflakes falling from the sky today! Reception were filming *Rainbow Christmas*, while Year 1 were performing *A Starry Night*, a more traditional take on the Christmas story, and Year 2 took to the stage for *Christmas Around the World*. Prep pupils were shooting some scenes for the traditional Carol Service to be broadcast on the last day of term, while Senior Strings have been hard at work filming for our Christmas Concert. We hope all this will capture the spirit of the season and that children will cherish the memories from doing things differently this year.



Mr Woods' assembly to Prep pupils on Monday encouraged Year 5-8 pupils to write to residents in our local care home, whom we would normally visit, and we hope that as many older children as possible will feel inspired to do this. Headmaster's Assembly this morning looked at when we all need help, told through the animated story of a lighthouse keeper, and how we therefore need to be ready to help others. We also enjoyed Anthony's performance of *Carol of the Drum* on the piano. Pre Prep pupils have been enjoying the first of Mrs Harries' Advent stories, with this weekend's shared in curriculum letters, while Bird Family meetings focused on helping children to keep themselves safe.



Elsewhere this week, Little Acorns have been making Christmas cakes and gingerbread men, while Year 5 have been making excellent progress with their ball bearing mazes in DT. Pre Prep children have been creating Christmas wreaths, which will be on display outside soon, and Christmas trees have gone up around the School. Sport has carried on despite the cold and wet, with Year 8 girls continuing to develop their hockey skills and Year 5-8 children all taking part in the Inter House Cross Country, which are earlier than usual this year. Year 3&4's event today was postponed, however, due to the effect of overnight rain and this morning's snow on the course and will be rescheduled.



Today I enjoyed a snowy morning break with Year 6 and then saw their grid reference work in geography, Mother Teresa studies in RS and Ben Hein inspired self-portraits in art. I noted that the first thing depicted as exploding from inside one boy's head was a rugby ball! Year 2 children have been working very hard on their handwriting and learning about crochets and quavers in music. I visited Year 3 children who told me about their science experiment investigating friction and lubricants by picking up pieces of jelly with chopsticks and then coating the jelly in oil before trying again. Year 4 have started their new topic on Roman gods and have been learning different addition and subtraction methods in maths. I met Year 8 pupils individually to develop interview skills, which form part of some senior school assessments as well as being important throughout later life. It was really enjoyable to hear them expressing themselves so confidently and sharing interesting ideas and experiences.



Next Friday, the day our Christmas Fayre would normally have taken place, we are inviting all children to come into school augmenting their normal uniform with a Christmas jumper, with a suggested donation of £1 to our school charity, Break.



I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.



*Nick Scrimgeour*

