



Dear Parents

Friday 26th February 2021

I hope your children had a restful half term holiday and have enjoyed resuming lessons this week. On Monday, we received confirmation that schools will re-open to all pupils on March 8th and we really look forward to welcoming our remote learners back to School in person. Updated guidance stipulates similar precautions to the second half of last term, with the only significant changes affecting Year 7&8 pupils, particularly with respect to mass testing. There is a summary for all parents in this week's letters, as well as an additional letter relating to children in Years 7&8 and the specific arrangements for them.

Children from Reception upwards enjoyed special assemblies this week about the exciting Royal Society funded scientific research project we will be embarking on throughout the remainder of this year, researching the question: "How is crop productivity influenced by Nitrogen Dioxide pollution from cars and natural climate variables in and around our school?" Mr Chapman, Mrs Laing and Mrs Alexandre have been masterminding this alongside STEM partners Dr Teresa Penfield (John Innes Centre) and Dr Leo Alexandre (Norwich Medical School, UEA). The initiative will be launched next week on social media, explaining how to follow the this project's journey and how to get involved from home.

Mrs Harries led Pre Prep assembly updating children about our sponsored guide dog puppy and its coat designs, while both Pre Prep and Prep assemblies featured our usual celebration of children's achievements. Mr Walker announced the Prep ox design winners to celebrate the Lunar New Year, while Pre Prep ox colouring competition winners are featured in the bulletin. Mrs Sims announced the story starter competition winners with [Sophie in 5A](#) being awarded first prize by the Year 8 judges. We also celebrated the achievement of an impressive number of Year 8 pupils offered scholarships or awards by their prospective senior schools, with results from some schools still to arrive. Many congratulations to all those named in assembly. Sophie in 8L performed Villado's *El Choclo* confidently on the violin in today's Headmaster's assembly on the subject of Lent, which included the poem *Abstinence* read beautifully by Edward and Perdie.

On Wednesday, we welcomed the three shortlisted candidates to replace me as Head from next academic year. Children enjoyed meeting them and attending their assemblies, while the School Council interviewed them skilfully. All have impressive credentials and seemed thoroughly to enjoy their visits, undertaken according to current guidance as well as including a Covid-19 test at the start. We look forward to hearing from the Chair of Governors when the appointment is finalised.

This week we have also seen impressive photos of ice decorations and raft making undertaken over half term as well as a number of beautiful images captured for the Prep photography competition, such as this blue tit on a bench. Mrs Rymarz's tutor group were thinking of things and people they are thankful for, while Year 8 pupils were painting with coffee, tomato sauce and brown sauce in art, resources available in most homes! Year 7 German pupils were making their own *Faschingsmasken* as they studied *Karneval* in Germany and Year 5 pupils were busy collaborating to draw islands based on *Kensuke's Kingdom*. Year 7&8 Zoom games was led by Mr Woods from the front lawn, while 3SP were developing their coding skills in computing.

In Pre Prep, we saw Little Acorns making the most of the beautiful early spring weather, playing happily in the garden and telling me all about the pirates they were chasing! They also enjoyed playing on the woodland walk, cosmic yoga and music with Ms Skinner. Reception were writing ditties and practising their tricky words, while Year 1 were busy with Monet style brush strokes in art and undertaking raisin maths. I saw Year 1 children writing impressive re-tells of the story *Jack in the Beanstalk* while Year 2 were enjoying a beautiful nature walk amongst the spring crocuses currently carpeting our grounds in colour.

Next week, we have a normal week's timetable, with World Book Day celebrations now taking place on March 11th, with a separate letter explaining all.

I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

