



Dear Parents

Friday 5th March 2021

We really look forward to reuniting all pupils at School on Monday. Thank you to Year 7&8 parents who have brought children in for testing today. As per my letter last week, arrangements will be very similar to those in place last term, with segregation into bubbles, distancing and hygiene the main themes. I appreciate many of us have been missing social interaction but do need to implore all parents to refrain from congregating at drop-off and collection times and to arrive and depart promptly. We hope that the site will not be closed to parents for too much longer. Please can Prep parents also facilitate staggered collection by arriving at 3.45pm on games days (unless you have other Prep children not doing games) and 4.00-4.25pm on other days. It is vital that parents with children not doing games do not block the Newmarket Road car park for those whose children are. Later pick-up and older children leaving independently are also encouraged.



This week both Mr Woods and Mrs Harries talked about coming back together in assemblies to Prep and Pre Prep children respectively. Mrs Harries also celebrated the UN World Wildlife Day, with the focus this year on trees and forests. The awe and beauty of our natural world was the theme of Headmaster's Assembly today, as we enjoyed William Wordsworth's *I Wondered Lonely as Cloud*. We also enjoyed a beautiful performance of Sakom's *Study Number 24* by Tessa on the cello, while Florence played *Tomorrow* from *Annie* joyfully on the flute. The theme of Bird Family meetings this week was adopting a growth mindset when faced with challenge.



Yesterday saw World Book Day, which we are going to celebrate at Town Close next Thursday, by inviting all children to come to school in book character costumes assembled from what we already have at home. Mrs Chitty has sent a separate letter to Prep parents and Mrs Guymer, our Reading TA read a fascinating extract from the *Town Close Changing Faces* book, which we shared on [social media](#). She has also been organising post-it note book reviews in the library, which continues to be a haven for children both in lessons and, for older children, at lunchtime, to immerse themselves in reading.



Nursery children have had a definite transport theme this week and I did enjoy chatting to one child about his mother's motorbike! I also saw older Little Acorns using iPads to learn about letter and number formation. Reception children were studying the number 9 this week, including with home-made playdough, while Year 1 were developing their understanding up to 50. I joined a Year 5 maths set for their lesson on interpreting timetables and a Year 7 group studying area, perimeter and ways to use this information to find missing dimensions. I saw Year 2 finishing work on significant people and creating Picasso style masks, while Year 1 were creating garden scenes in the style of Monet. 3R's [paper ball project film](#) spread uplifting positivity, while Year 7 enjoyed a James Bond themed music lesson and Tinkercad design in DT. We have seen some impressive RS projects in Year 5, an outstanding piece of reflective writing by a Year 8 pupil in English, some fine Battle of Hastings work from Year 6 and wonderful *salle de classe* posters by Year 4 in French.



We were delighted to hear the news this week that Mr Wilson, currently Headmaster of Lockers Park in Herfordshire, will become Town Close's new Head from September and look forward to welcoming him for various visits to the School between now and then. The PTA is also looking ahead to next year and reaching out to everyone who might like to get involved in activities or contribute to a future committee. There is a leaflet in the bulletin, with details of how to get in touch with PTA secretary, Jo Jo Grieves, and my thanks to everyone keen to take part in this valuable aspect of school life.



I wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

