



Dear Parents

Friday 12th March 2021

It has been such a pleasure to see our children reunited this week. We had an extended morning break on Monday to help children renew friendships and it has been lovely to teach whole classes in person again. I have visited many groups of engaged learners and saw Year 5&6 children playing happily in the woods. Year 2 came back together on the playground and enjoyed their welcome back posters posted in windows, while Mr Woods left inspirational cards on Prep pupils' and teachers' desks. Our particular thanks to Year 7&8 pupils who have taken three tests and, like staff, are now transferring to a home-testing regime.

We postponed our celebration of World Book Day by a week so that everyone could be together and were delighted to receive a personal message from author and comedian [David Walliams](#). The children arrived in a fantastic array of book character costumes yesterday. Thank you for everyone's resourcefulness in creating impressive outfits. Each Pre Prep class and Prep year group shared their characters together and Prep winners gathered on the front lawn in their bubbles so that we could picture them all together.

Mrs Harries' assembly on Wednesday combined World Book Day and Mothering Sunday, as she read children the story *My Mummy*. We talked about appreciation of our mothers, while Bird Families discussed the difference between pride and boasting.

This morning we celebrated many achievements in Pre Prep and congratulated numerous Headmaster's Commendation winners in Prep. Mrs Sims led an inspiring Prep assembly on International Women's Day on Monday, addressing important themes connected with equality, while on Thursday Mrs Chitty, Mrs Guymer and Mrs Sims played Professor Umbridge, Miss Trunchball and Matilda addressing the School from my study via Zoom! This morning's Headmaster's assembly saw Harriet, Tierra, Amy and Lola teaching us about Jacqueline Wilson's life and work, bringing together all the themes of the week, and we explored how books help us to process and regulate our own feelings. We also enjoyed an uplifting performance of *Blues in the Attic*, by Ananti Shah on the piano.

This week, we have seen Nursery making perfume and arranging flowers, as well as enjoying a spring walk in the woods. Reception were busy recognising days of the week, making spectacular Hungry Caterpillar posters, and also enjoyed an energetic dance class. Year 1 were writing about mini-beasts and completing a monkey maths trail, while Year 2 were learning about Alexander Graham Bell and designing shoes. I saw Year 3 in their maths lessons covering time and time lines, while Year 4 were all together in the theatre enthusiastically rehearsing their production, *Star Wars*, which will be filmed in the last week of term. We saw wonderful ice-breaking warm-up games in a Year 5 drama lesson, while Year 6 girls were working impressively on their netball skills despite the unfavourable weather. Year 7 pupils were undertaking a forensic science activity, separating a suspected poison from a solution, and Year 8 were covering discrimination in their PSHE class. I also saw a group completing the World Book Day scavenger hunt, one of numerous exciting events happening in the library. We also had post-it reviews, a special International Women's Day display, recommended reads and independent reading sessions.

Next week sees our virtual Year 3 parents' evening and A2L grades for Prep Pupils. On Friday, we are going to be giving the children a chance to participate in Comic Relief. There will be a special Headmaster's Assembly for Prep children, while Ben Langley will be doing a doorstep show for Pre Prep children. All children may bring in a red nose if they have bought one and everyone from Reception upwards may substitute one item of their uniform for something red for a £1 donation to Comic Relief if they wish. This might be socks, skirt, tie, shoes or anything else but the rest of their uniform should be as usual.

I wish you all an enjoyable weekend

