



Dear Parents

Friday 19th March 2021

This year the School has departed from our usual tradition of only arranging events for the School Council's chosen charity and joined together to celebrate Red Nose Day. This seemed appropriate at a time when need has never been greater and many charity fundraising events have been curtailed by the pandemic. We saw an array of bright red garments substituting elements of children's normal uniform in exchange for donations, and the Dearnaley Building has been filled with jokes.



Headmaster's Assembly for Prep pupils was about the superhero theme of this year's campaign, which Little Acorns embraced today, the power of laughter, with classes sharing jokes via chat, and the serious side of where money goes, with children watching one of the official films. We also enjoyed Eden performing *A Kwela for Caitlin* on the piano, while David blew away the cobwebs with *West Coast Rolling* on the drums. Pre Prep assembly also introduced the themes of Red Nose Day with the story *Kindness is my Superpower*, while Bird Families discussed the rule of law. To mark Red Nose Day in Pre Prep, children enjoyed two doorstep shows by Ben Langley, who made everyone laugh blowing up a PPE glove on his head, eating an apple while juggling machetes, singing an Indian food inspired version of *Nessun Dorma*, performing Tommy Cooper's egg drop trick and finishing with his famous *BGT* misheard lyric routine.



This week we had the results of the House Book Quiz, won by Filby, and there has been a Shakespeare theme in the library with children challenged to match some of his timeless phrases to modern meanings. Little Acorns were reading *Jack in the Beanstalk* and have been busy planting their own beans, while Year 1 were learning how to measure, using beans and feet. We have enjoyed House matches in netball and hockey and, according to current government plans, hope that cricket fixtures against other schools will be possible next term. Year 3&4 were doing netball circuits in their games lessons, while Year 4 were busy rehearsing for next week's performances of *Star Warts*, which will be filmed, edited and released on YouTube over the holidays for you to enjoy with your children.



Mr Coulthart gave a Prep assembly on Monday about the Easter story, involving a quiz, while Year 2 have been looking at the Easter story in lessons and considering the religious significance of hot cross buns. They have also continued designing impressive shoes. Reception have been practising reading skills in 1:1 sessions and exploring symmetry in nature. I saw extremely impressive river models created in Year 5 geography lessons and beautiful stained glass windows in Year 6 RS. Year 7 have built eye-catching clocks in DT, including one hamburger and one chocolate bar clock! We have also seen Bond music in lessons and children enjoying live individual lessons again. The Year 5 soloists' concert last night was a delightful mix of music and will be released in due course on YouTube alongside Year 7's concert next week. A big highlight was Year 8 representing Town Close at the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize virtual awards ceremony, chatting directly to authors. In their science lessons Year 8 have been learning about magnetism.



Finally this week, we have news that Mrs Emma Boyt will be replacing Mrs Rymarz as our Head of Learning Support from September, joining us one day a week from April to cover Mrs Rymarz's role alongside Mrs White. We also congratulate Miss Stewart-Pond who, after three years' fantastic service to Year 3, is broadening her horizons by joining the British School of New York from September. We will miss her greatly but wish her all the best for this new adventure.



I wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

*Nick Jennings*

