



Dear Parents

Friday 16th April 2021

It has been a pleasure to see the return of all our pupils for the summer term and to welcome those children new to Town Close. Though the heat of summer still feels a little way off, it has been great to see our grounds coming alive with new growth and lots of activity. We have a beautiful new area of woodland walk, kindly funded by the PTA (news of their AGM on May 7<sup>th</sup> is overleaf), as well as a new garden area by the library and refurbished adventure playground. The front lawn is now open for Prep play, the cricket nets are up and running and a fabulous new Japanese themed garden has been created in the outdoor classroom as Pre Prep children study Japan prior to this summer's Olympic Games.



Pre Prep assembly celebrated this theme further with children learning about *Hanami*, a street festival celebrating the spring arrival of beautiful cherry blossom, which we have recreated in our own garden with pink bows. Children also learnt about three obstacle courses designed for our sponsored guide dog, Marley, one of which was trialled on a pupil's own dog over the holidays. Bella is happy to be back and has seen a number of pupils in Talk and Share this week, helped out with some Lexia sessions, enjoyed listening to some English lessons and relaxed on a bean bag in the library one afternoon. You might see her greeting pupils in the Pre Prep some mornings too.



Our first Headmaster's Assembly of the term for Prep Pupils started with a wonderful performance of Sam Wedgewood's *Shark Soup* played joyously by Alexander Huang on the piano. We looked back to April Fool's day, sharing stories from children and the wider world, including McDonald's 2019 milkshake in sauce pots hoax and Volkswagen's recent story that backfired when it was released early. The underlying message was to enjoy fun, laughter and jokes with friends whilst learning to judge what is appropriate and when things go too far.



The cricket season has started and we are delighted now to be able to resume fixtures played under National Governing Body guidance, though sadly not yet with parent spectators until at least May 17<sup>th</sup>. School trips are resuming, with residential trips within the UK also allowed from May 17<sup>th</sup> onwards. The PTA shop has re-opened for appointments and can also be visited by coming to the windows on the Prep playground. Aside from these changes, the Covid risk assessment measures from last term continue mostly unchanged and we are thankful to everyone for following them and to those undertaking testing at home.



Mr Wilson, our new Head, joined me to tour the School with his family yesterday and had the chance to speak to many of the children. This week, I have seen lots of the Little Acorns, including playing in the garden, on bikes and trikes, playing number games inside and singing in music. Year 2 children showed me the extensive write-ups of holiday news they have been undertaking and told me about their outdoor habitat studies in science. 4J showed me extremely impressive writing that they were re-drafting in the computer room and I also enjoyed seeing 4W as they went to technology to start work on their Jack-in-the-boxes and 4V who were chatting to me about their brilliant production last term, *Star Warts*, which is now on [YouTube!](#) Year 1 children were finding out about Japan, while Reception were practising their *ur* words when I visited, as well as telling me about their maths work. I saw Year 8 working impressively in DT, constructing the wooden bases for the moving toys they are creating, While Year 7 have been busy creating angles posters in maths. Year 6 were undertaking paired book reviews and agreeing the ingredients for writing a good one, while Year 5 have been absorbed with Scratch coding work in computing.



Next week we look forward to 3R's assembly (to be shared via YouTube) and the Year 3 Rock Circus day, while the following weekend sees Year 6's visit to Hautbois and our first F24 race of season at Bedford.



I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

*Nick Kerrington*

