



Dear Parents

Friday 23rd April 2021

Today marks the 405th anniversary of Shakespeare's death as well as the 457th anniversary of his birth. To mark the occasion, Headmaster's Assembly introduced children to the many words we use today that originate from Shakespeare's work, while Mrs Chitty shared some of her favourite plays (*Macbeth* being her number one). We discussed other words we love and linked this to Mr Woods' assembly earlier in the week when we talked about the power of words and the importance of choosing kind and supportive language in conversation and when communicating online. In addition, Year 8 cast members for *Joseph* shared a preview of the show by performing *A Pharaoh Story*, while Priya gave a delightful performance of *Drunken Sailor* on her flute.



The highlight of the week in Pre Prep was the visit of karate instructor Jake Pointer who enthused the children brilliantly with an interactive workshop that combined physical skills with respect. We have been thoroughly enjoying our Japan topic, with Little Acorns immersing themselves in the Japanese style garden and Reception engaging in their *Jet to Japan* topic, which included the story *Sakura's Blossom* and some wonderful cherry blossom pictures. Year 1 were working on their Japanese carp kites and locating Japan on the map, whilst Year 2 were learning about life in Tokyo compared to the UK. Bird family meetings discussed needs and wants, while this morning's celebration assembly included brilliant new Wonder Wall work, stars of the week and Bird Family token totals.



This morning we celebrated the arrival of the Satips General Knowledge Competition results. Many thousands of children from across the country competed in this contest and so we were thrilled to discover that Belek came 3rd, Henry 23rd and Solomon 46th in the country! In the senior competition, Edward was 5th, Sophie 16th and Charlotte 32nd. Many congratulations to these children!



Elsewhere, Little Acorns have been busy collecting mini-beasts and cooking in their mud kitchen, I saw Reception working hard on their swimming, Year 1 were creating arrays in maths using stones and counters outside, while Year 2 enjoyed stories, wave painting and learning to tie laces! Year 8 pupils have been making frames for their mechanical camera toys and I saw another group thoroughly enjoying their reading lesson in our beautiful library. Year 7 used stop motion animations to show how headlands form, while outside my window, Year 4 were working on their hurdling technique in PE. We are looking forward to our first cricket fixtures next Wednesday and it was good to see Years 5&6 practising hard. Year 3, meanwhile, had a fabulous Rock Circus day, studying rocks and soils as seen in this [short film](#), and have also been drawing French shop windows and creating textured still life oil pastel paintings in art.



Tomorrow we are looking forward to Year 6's ASA trip to the Hautbois House, while on Sunday our Year 8 F24 racing team travel to the Bedford Autodrome for their first race of the season. I gather that serious preparation has gone into maximising the battery life of our electric racing car. This week we enjoyed a wonderful assembly by 3R about the Antarctic, which we shared on [YouTube](#), and next week we look forward to seeing assemblies by Cherry Class' on Monday, Rowan on Tuesday, 3H on Wednesday and Silver Birch on Thursday. Alas, live parent audiences are still not possible so all of these will be filmed and released on YouTube as quickly as possible!



I wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

Nick Jennings

With best wishes