



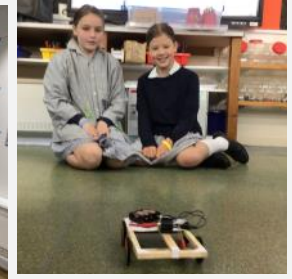
Dear Parents

Friday 21st May 2021

Both Prep and Prep Prep pupils marked World Bee Day yesterday, which this year has coincided with perfect flower growing conditions of sunshine and showers! In Headmaster's Assembly, I showed children footage of bees hard at work on our woodland walk and explained just how much teamwork and effort goes into one jar of honey, showing how bees can inspire us all. We also enjoyed Ella's lovely voice performance of *Tomorrow* from *Annie*. Mrs Harries focused on how bees help us in Pre Prep assembly and how *we* need to help *them*. Today we shared new Wonder Wall work alongside our usual tokens, birthdays and stars of the week, while earlier in the week Bird Families focused on what makes a good learner. Mrs Wilcox started the week for Prep children with an assembly about Helen Adams Keller and her inspirational story of overcoming the adversity of being blind and deaf to become one of the 20th century's leading humanitarians, as well as co-founder of the ACLU. We then enjoyed a selection of 8W's choices of inspirational people. There is currently a wonderful display inspired by this in the library.



This week I enjoyed a lovely lunch conversation with Reception children who told me with wide-eyed excitement about some of the learning they have been undertaking this week. Alongside butterflies and the "ee" sound, they were very keen to tell me about next week's assemblies in the Read Hall, and we look forward to welcoming their parents in person next week. On Thursday I spent an art lesson with 4J as children created some spectacular clay fish and this morning I took 4V for a lesson studying the inspirational artist Georgia O'Keeffe. We had great fun trying to produce our own work in her style. I also spent a lesson with Year 8 children practising algebraic skills and had conversations in three different foreign languages children learn at Town Close (Mandarin, French and German) with three Year 7 pupils. Elsewhere, I joined Year 6 building and coding the sequences for their autonomous vehicles in DT.



Bella has been visiting Pre Prep children and our Pre Prep entrance area now has an amazing piece of artwork thanks to Claire Robinson, which arose from our lockdown bird project. The finished piece fittingly marks an incredible period in our history. Little Acorns have been learning about seven fruits and eating them all, Year 2 were programming bee bots and performing a Japanese Kamishibai story, Year 3 turned reporters interviewing witnesses to the battle between the Iron Man and Space Bat Angel Dragon and Year 5 created some amazing Indian food inspired by the RS studies about Sikhism.



Children in Years 5-7 have been hard at work revising for next week's school exams, including the Year 6 maths revision lesson pictured. The rain did not stop a number of cricket fixtures from taking place. I heard about some exciting matches and also saw a group of Year 7 girls bowling impressively in the nets during break time. We are very pleased to send details separately about the return of spectators to home fixtures from Monday. Away fixtures will be according to each school's arrangements, which will be communicated alongside team sheets, most of which we expect to be similar to our own.



As well as Year 5-7 exams, next week sees Oak, Chestnut and Lime Tree class assemblies, alongside school fixtures. A reminder that half term starts on Thursday with Friday being a teacher training day.



I wish everyone a very enjoyable weekend.

*Nick Kenington*