



Dear Parents

Friday 25th June 2021

We were disappointed to postpone today's Prep sports day, due to the uncertain weather forecast and risk of wet and slippery conditions. In difficult circumstances, we decided to provide certainty the evening before and hope that the rescheduled day on Wednesday (with fingers crossed that the forecast remains good) is both dry and enjoyable for the children. Our sincere apologies to all who had made arrangements for today.



This week, the woodland walk has been transformed into a Jurassic wilderness ready for the Pre Prep dinosaur day. Reception made clay dinosaur models while Nursery made some very creative "recyclesaurus". I joined a Year 1 class to explore the trail. We thought we saw a nest of eggs, a triceratops, a baby brachiosaurus, a stegosaurus, a T-rex, an allosaurus and a pteranodon (with my thanks to the children for these names!). We have also had some palaeontologist style sandpit digs and lots of very young visitors sharing the woodland dinosaur experience. A group of Year 7 children led an outdoor maths lesson for some Year 1 children involving dinosaur footprints and measuring them accurately. We appear to have some budding teachers in our midst!



Pre Prep assembly, led by Mrs Lawry this week, was about using outdoor equipment responsibly and in Bird Families we discussed managing feelings. This morning's celebration assembly, led by Mrs Laing, saw the unveiling of our latest Wonder Wall pieces of work, which we are very proud of! They will be published next week. Mr Smith led Monday's Prep assembly about seizing the moment, a theme that was picked up in Headmaster's Assembly today, with Sammy, Max and Luca reading the poem *A Time For Everything* beautifully to the audience. 4J led Wednesday's assembly to parents and other Year 4 classes about their wonderful trip to Horstead and everything they learnt. Year 5 visit there during the last week of term, while Year 8 pupils have told me lots about their adventure in the Lake District last week.



Elsewhere this week, we have seen amazing success on the cricket pitch with more fixtures taking place and the boys' Colts A cricket team very excitingly qualifying for the national pairs cricket competition having progressed through the local tournament at Langley and then the regional tournament at Chigwell. Congratulations to the team, who will now travel to Oakham on 8th July for the national finals. Pre Prep children have been practising for their sports days, both the races and the dances. We hope you will enjoy. A few of our Year 3 girls, meanwhile, had their first ever school cricket fixture, playing against Langley Prep.



A highlight of the week has been the fantastic Early Years Art Exhibition in the Green Room, which looks amazing! I visited with Little Acorns and Reception and hope parents have enjoyed it as much. Elsewhere, Year 2 have enjoyed some joyous singing lessons in music this week. Nursery were developing their scissor skills based on the theme "sharing is caring" while Year 6 were busy programming their Crumble controllers to drive their robotic vehicles. Year 4's pneumatic jack-in-the-boxes are also nearing completion and looking superb. I joined a Year 7 maths set exploring rules on how equations with two variables and one constant behave with an interesting extension example of an equation where the line never crosses any axis. The Royal Society research project is proceeding, with Prep children measuring light levels at each station. The Year 8 string group has been busy rehearsing for their performance that will take place at Prep Prize Giving. There is a separate letter on the Portal outlining the arrangements for the day, including prize-winner and Year 8 parents being invited and a ballot for other parent places, as we are sadly only able to invite a partial audience. The two ceremonies are also being filmed for all to enjoy.



Next week, we look forward to the senior production, Pre Prep sports days, the Year 2 and Year 4 transition meetings, House cricket, the Year 8 French trip meeting, the rescheduled Prep Sports Day and moving up day on Thursday. There is also the intermediate house swimming gala. We regret that we cannot accommodate spectators for this.

I wish all of you an enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes

Nick Scrimgeour

