



Dear Parents

Friday 11th June 2021

This week has seen Year 4 children enjoying the first residential trip that has been possible since the start of the pandemic. I spoke to Mr Avenal last night who told me how much the children were enjoying the experience and what a delight they have been. I hope that everyone has also enjoyed the updates via Twitter on @townclosetrips. Miss Stewart-Pond is excited to be leading the Year 8 residential trip to the Lake District from Sunday and we hope that our eldest children really enjoy this week of adventure following the Common Entrance exams they have sat this week. We have been impressed by the work so many have put into preparing and with the excellent attitude they have displayed this week. I hope their results will be the best they could achieve when they receive their grades next Friday.



This morning also saw another milestone, with the first Headmaster's Assembly for Prep children bringing the entire Prep Department together in person. We gathered outside in the playground and enjoyed a lovely performance by Hugo of *The Egyptian Level* on the piano. Perdie, Toby and Matilda led an assembly about encouragement, thinking about how we might feel competing at a sports day and considering how encouraging we are to ourselves as well as others. This year's Prep and Pre Prep sports days are all going ahead and are now in the online calendar, with spectators warmly invited. Exact arrangements will be shared before each. We congratulated our usual commendation and points winners and also our Colts boys' cricketers who qualified for a regional competition. I went to Main Field on Wednesday and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the Colts A and C boys' teams playing so enthusiastically. It was also great to see the parents who kindly came and supported.



Pre Prep children have continued to embrace their Japanese topic and, instead of the usual assemblies, enjoyed Japanese fan dancing with our visiting instructor Lorraine Theobald. Maybe some of your children have already shown you what they learnt. This morning I saw Year 1 conducting an outdoor maths challenge, inspired by Pokemon characters, and it has been great to join Pre Prep classes during break time playing so happily in our grounds. Year 2 were also outside for their Andy Goldsworthy inspired art activity and Reception enjoyed their topic on capacity, complete with containers and water in the outdoor classroom. I have also seen some impressive writing in Reception and Year 2 about holiday news. 3SP, who are outside on the front lawn waiting to deliver the beautiful letters they have written to Cherry class about life in Year 3 as I write, also sent me some lovely photos of their chocolate tasting earlier in the week. We have seen Year 5 children busy producing monologues in drama, Year 6 pupils learning how to format timetables in computing and Year 7 working industriously on their fairground rides in DT.



Our new PTA committee met in person outside this morning and the PTA shop has been doing a roaring trade as ever, with it now open for drop-in shopping on Wednesday mornings as per the usual times. Not only is it excellent value, but re-using clothing also makes a valuable environmental contribution. We appreciate all the work the PTA is doing and hope that the new Year Group Representatives have proved a valuable point of contact for everyone seeking to become involved more. A group of Year 8 children visited Waterstones this morning to help choose new books for the library, enabled by a generous donation from the previous PTA committee, and our new 3D printer, also kindly donated, has now been ordered, which is very exciting as we look ahead to next year's learning.



Next week we look forward to welcoming 4V parents for their class assembly on Wednesday morning, we have many more fixtures (including Junior House Cricket, which parents are welcome to attend) and the Year 7 cast members for the forthcoming Senior Production *Joseph* will be rehearsing hard as the show approaches.



I wish everyone a very enjoyable weekend.

*Nick Jennings*

