



Theme for next week : Celebrating Differences

Head's Message

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe it is half term already - I feel like I have only just welcomed everyone back to the new academic year. It was with great excitement that we welcomed all our children back after the summer break. There were only a few changes to our routines, including the staggered start and end to the day. It was our intention when planning this return, to get the balance between risk and reward just right. We wanted children to experience lessons and activities as close as possible to those which they were familiar with before schools locked down. Of course, we have had to make changes and one of the things that I miss most are the sports fixtures. As the current rate of infection continues to rise, I do not see this changing. I know that some schools are trying to arrange fixtures, but they are increasing the risk to children and teachers who will then not be able to attend school. However, I remain optimistic that we will be able to devise a plan which will enable the children to compete again soon.

I think that some parents have found it difficult to follow the rules around self-isolating. If your child is asked to self-isolate, that means they should be at home and should not be mixing in public. They should not be visiting shops or going to the doctor or dentists. If parents are unwell and are awaiting the results of tests, children should not be sent to school until test results have been received. If you, as a parent, test positive, there is a good chance that your child is positive. If you are unsure, please phone the office.

As regards 11+, I know some parents are anxious because of the uncertainty around testing procedures. Please try to manage your own anxiety as this can impact on your child. Remember that the emotional and social development of your child is just as essential as their academic development. Schools will find a way to proceed and it will all work out in the end.

Enjoy a super half term break and stay safe. I look forward to seeing very smart and neat children turn up in their winter uniforms.

Sincerely,

Leonard Blom

It's not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognise, accept and celebrate those differences.

-Audre Lorde-

This week, as a culmination to the work seen in PE lessons, pupils from Years 4 to 8 took part in their House Cricket competition. Each house took turns bowling and batting over ten overs and needed to score the highest number of runs to qualify for the final play-off match. There were fantastic performances from all the pupils



Year 6 Girls winning team - Grove



Year 5 Boys winning team - Hayton

involved with a number of boundaries and wickets taken in each match. Well done to all involved for their passion and performances and congratulations to the winning houses.



Years 7 and 8 House Cricket



Year 4 Girls winning team -York



In drama, Year 2 have continued to explore the story of Hansel and Gretel through performance. This week, they each created a still image of the moment when the witch is pushed into the fire. The children

represented the characters and objects and were able to demonstrate clear facial expressions in performance.



Congratulations to the new Year 5 House and Vice-House Captains:

Olivia and Miles (Grove)
Suleman and Betty (Hayton)
Hallie and Alisha (School)
Jasmia and Isabelle (York)



We wish them all a very successful year in their new roles.



In art, Year 8 are drawing natural forms from direct observation using the formal elements: line, tone, texture, pattern, form and shape.



It's nearly half term, so pupils are taking part in some book-themed activities down in Pre Prep. Miss Cook and Mrs Anthony have been reading 'Ghoul Scouts: Welcome to Camp Croak' by Taylor Dolan to Years 1 and 2 and hosting a draw-along of hilarious character, Sweet Boo!

This week, 2TH learned about the life of Rosa Parks as part of Black History Month. They discussed the 1955 incident on the bus where Rosa refused to move to the back of the bus. The children came to the conclusion that Rosa was right to refuse to give up her seat and wrote their own reasons for 'staying on the bus'.



Pupils in the sewing after-school activity have been working hard this week to

embroider some

bookmarks using running stitch, back stitch and cross stitch.



The children in Year 1 have been working very hard this week. They have completed their jungles and made flowers, waterfalls, trees and jungle animals.

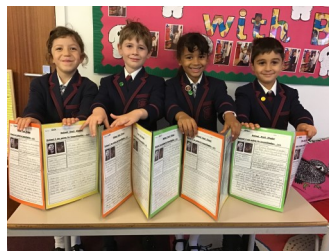
They have also been learning about the layers of the rainforest. They enjoyed labelling the rainforest and identifying where the rainforest animals live.



Year 4 have been busy collecting recycling materials for the last few weeks to make their desk tidies. After the initial design process, they are now beginning the construction stage of their desk tidy, ensuring it is functional and attractive.



The children in Year 2 have been reading 'Man on the Moon' a book by Simon Bartram. They have imagined themselves being an astronaut, what they could see, feel and experience in space. They are creating space helmets and a view from inside Bob's spacesuit visor using a variety of painting techniques and media.



Year 2 made a zig-zag book to display their wonderful fact files about owls. Information sheets, videos and websites were used to gather information. They organised the information into paragraphs with headings and used lots of 'wow words' including 'nocturnal', 'camouflage' and 'prey'.