



### Head's Message

Theme for next week: What does Easter mean?

Dear Parents,

"Lost learning" is another one of those phrases which has become synonymous with the pandemic. Heads are now challenging this negative terminology and there is a call for a more positive dialogue with children. It cannot be a good thing for our children to hear constant and repeated references to the reduced number of days they have physically spent in their classrooms.

We should all have ambitions and hopes for our young children and as adults, we are often encouraged to act as positive role models in front of them. They benefit from hearing us talk positively about navigating any challenges we may face. I am confident that this generation of children, rather than becoming a "lost generation," may yet benefit in ways we have not yet thought of or discovered. They will be the next entrepreneurs and innovators within our society.

In this newsletter, I have included a link to a podcast which gives guidance and advice on how children should spend the Easter break. Please take the time to listen to this; it offers constructive support and encouragement.

Lost Learning, Episode 21 <https://attainparents.com/freshthinking>

This is the 21st episode of the podcast *Fresh Thinking*. It was launched back in September and is the first current affairs programme for the independent sector.

On Tuesday, the Children's Commission launched a once in a generation review of the future of childhood. In the 1940s, a pioneering report laid the foundation for the post-war social security system. The current Childhood Commission aims to identify barriers preventing children from reaching their full potential, as well as proposing policy and services solutions and developing targets by which improvements can be monitored.

The Commission not only focuses on the problems highlighted by Covid, but also on policy shortfalls that have held back many children for decades. It will be the most extensive consultation ever held with children in England. They will be asked how the pandemic changed their lives for better or worse, their aspirations and barriers to reaching them, how things are at home, how their local communities and environment could be improved and how they feel about the future challenges.

The Commission hopes to complete this consultation before Easter and report the outcomes by summer. The pandemic has exposed the extent of the social fault lines which affect the wellbeing and prospects of many young children in our communities.

The response to the Second World War trauma was to create a blueprint for a social service system and a National Health Service that improved lives. The intention is to do the same again, this time placing the needs of children at its centre. The Commission senses that this particular set of circumstances might not come occur again for decades. We must make the most of this opportunity to embed significant and lasting changes to our society.

Sincerely,  
Leonard Blom

Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal and new life.

*-Janine di Giovanni-*



In art, year 4 have been creating the outline of a Rangoli pattern. Next week, they will add colour using pointillism. We look forward to seeing the finished products!



Pupils in the Year 2 nature after-school activity have been lucky enough to take part in some wonderful wildlife conservation this week. Miss Chambers, who rescued a couple of newts at risk of being trampled on or run over in the school campus, took one to the after-school activity for the children to learn about. They also visited the pond area to look at a typical newt habitat. They talked about the ducks and geese being predators of the newts and agreed that a better home could be found for them. Fortunately, Mrs Law was able to help and has now given the two newts (one male and one female) a new, safer home in her garden pond, where they will hopefully flourish and live happily ever after!



Muddy Stiletto's Best Schools Guide are offering our parents and pupils exclusive early access to their curated 'Easter Holiday What's On Guide'. To access the Easter preview, please click on this link and use the password given below.

<https://essex.muddystiletto.co.uk/kids/activities/things-to-do-with-the-kids-in-essex-this-easter/>

**Password: MUDDYEASTER21**



In music, Year 6 continue with their body percussion module. It has been wonderful to see such creativity in the classroom and it has certainly challenged their co-ordination and rhythmic skills!



Year 2 have been learning about friction in their science lessons this week. They conducted an experiment using a toy car and ramps with a range of different surfaces attached to them. Their aim was to discover which of these surfaces caused the most friction for the toy car. The children did a fantastic job!



Year 5 have been busy learning the choreography for their dances in their upcoming production. This week, they learnt the steps to 'Sherlock Saves The Day'.



Well done, everyone! As a community we have now travelled over 6940 miles! We are now less than a 1000 miles away from Beijing! We have only 2500 miles to go to reach Tokyo. Please keep sending your mileage to Mr Bayntun.



Year 6 have enjoyed being able to once again take part in their Literature Circles.



This week, 5SY enjoyed in-depth discussions on how to protect their coast line from erosion, whilst placating the local residents and business owners.

Hama Beads after-school activity is very popular on a



Monday afternoon. Pupils thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to work together and be creative.



Many congratulations to these pupils who received a Headmaster's Commendation this week.



Year 2 are learning to tell the time and what better way to do this than playing a game of 'telling the time dominoes'! The children thoroughly enjoyed being able to use the kind of resources that involve working together in small groups.



In DT, Year 5 are eagerly continuing with the construction of their dragon puppets. Here, they have attached the pulley mechanism to create the grabber mouth of their dragon.

For their charity event this term, the Middle School Council elected to support Red Nose Day. For a £3 donation, the whole school community was invited to wear something red for the day. Thank you for all your donations and support.

