



Head's Message

Theme for next week: The Commonwealth

Dear Parents,

Now that the testing season for 11+ and 13+ is over, I would like to reflect on the process and the experience for children, parents and schools. Over the years, I have written many articles on this subject. When it comes to the assessment process in this part of London, I feel that we are in exactly the same situation that we were in ten years ago. It remains unnecessarily stressful for many parents and children. The testing process this year was particularly difficult. There was a lot of uncertainty and schools made changes along the way. In spite of this, our pupils have managed to achieve results very similar to those of previous years.

Our advice has always been that children should not be tutored but many parents still seek out tutors. Does this create unfairness? Secondary schools promise that they make a point of looking out for the tutored child. They claim that they are reluctant to accept them, as their knowledge and understanding is short term. I sincerely hope that this is true. I am aware of many children who were not tutored and who managed to get into a number of high-achieving schools. Due to restrictions caused by the pandemic, many secondary schools opted for online testing (CATs) and, as a result, eliminated the writing section. This is normally a key part of the assessment process but it is also the section which is heavily tutored. I believe that the move to online testing made tutoring less effective this year, and this is something the secondary schools may consider in the future.

We all agree that lockdown has shown us that children can achieve and progress, even in the most trying circumstances. They were required to adopt working practices and use technology which would be more suited to adults working in corporate environments. Looking at the situation positively, I am sure this will prepare them and enable them to function effectively in a range of workplaces in years to come. Maybe, we will have the answer to this in the next ten years. We might have a generation of adults who are capable, resilient and robust and who deal confidently with adversity. They will be adaptable and will have skills, whether cognitive or soft, that will stand them in good stead for whatever circumstances they encounter in the future.

On the flip side of this, the lockdown has also shown us how quickly children can become miserable, disengaged and lonely, particularly when remote learning has been ineffective. Potentially, we have a generation who may have lost out on proper development and might be held back as a result. Do we consider them to be deprived of their childhood? I believe that children born into extreme poverty are robbed of their childhood to a much greater degree than the privileged who have endured remote learning. I am sure the majority of our children will recover quickly in all aspects of their learning and their wellbeing. Most of our children are well cared for and, because of this stable base, getting back on track shouldn't take long, both intellectually and emotionally.

As children have had variable experiences during lockdown, senior schools in the independent sector have had difficulty assessing and selecting children for their schools and I do not envy them. Provisionally, our results at 11+ indicate that 89% of our children managed to obtain places at selective schools.

We look forward to seeing many happy faces when we make a full return to school on Monday.

With best wishes,

Leonard Blom





Although many of us were celebrating Book Week from home this year, pupils and teachers enjoyed dressing up on World Book Day and took advantage of the fantastic resources on the Library Web App to celebrate an excitingly bookish week! Thanks to Miss Cook and Mrs Anthony for all their hard work.



3AG



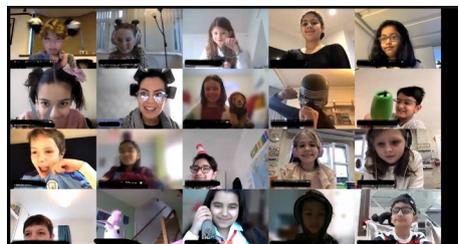
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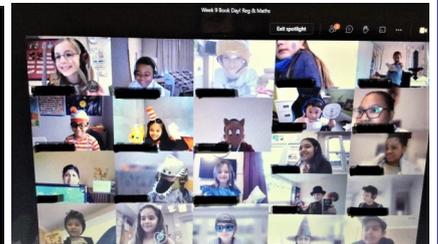
3JA



4HS



4CP



4UM



5AM



5MA



5SY



Year 6



Sam 6MG



Olivia 5SY and Faith 5MA



Alisha 5SY



James 2TH



Lewis 3AG



For Book Week, Ayush in RSL brought in a book that he had made - his own version of The Lion King! With lovely handwriting and beautifully coloured-in pictures, Ayush really impressed his teachers, class mates and Miss



In the area where Nellie (3JA) lives, local residents have been doing a 'Book Week' trail where they recreate a book cover and display it so people can spot it on their daily walk. Nellie decided to draw 'The Three Little Pigs' and had great fun painting and displaying them.



Oliver in 3AG created a wonderful piece of Book Week artwork to display in his window at home. Everyone on his street is taking part in designing art, inspired by a book, for people to view on World Book Day. What a wonderful idea!



Thank you and well done to everyone who sent in photos of their second Eco-Challenge. Here are two wonderful examples from Rhea (Ducklings) who drew the Indian flag, and Alba (RKO) who made delicious-looking tortilla de patatas.



For this week's challenge, we are taking a break from electricity. During self-isolation, electricity is vital. It helps us learn, keep in touch with loved-ones and pass the time. But, it's also important to take some time off!

All pupils: take a one hour break from electrical devices for a week. Perhaps you do this already or maybe you will make a special effort to switch off your devices and take part in a new activity.

Once you have completed your challenge, please upload a photo of it here, including your first name and class. <https://padlet.com/mathsstaubyns/y58en4xg61naphah>



Children in Year 3 have been exploring and explaining their thoughts on how, as individuals, we can be the best versions of ourselves in the community. They have reflected on the promises of St. Aubyn's and how to apply these to various scenarios and everyday life. There were many pupils who even gave thought to how they can continue to help others, whilst considering the circumstances of the pandemic, and how to uphold the Golden Rule of treating others as we want to be treated.



This week in Reception, children have been sharing their favourite books with each other. Well done to Aaron from RSL for reading the *Jelly and Bean* book series, just in time for Book Week!



Well done to everyone who took part in the Pentathlon Challenge at home. Here are Isabel in 4CP performing a



superb standing vertical jump, and Inaaya in 1RK throwing her home-made javelin.



Congratulations to Sebastian in 6MG who independently entered himself into the Run to Be Challenge and covered 33km in February. A fantastic achievement!



The St. Aubyn's chess team produced what was probably their greatest ever performance last weekend, coming second in division 1 of the Premier Chess Coaching Online Schools Tournament. Many congratulations to all those who took part.



Year 1 are enjoying the PSHE topic, Healthy Me. This week, they learnt about healthy eating and kept a food diary for a day to investigate what we eat.



Faith and Xanthe in 1CM made healthy oat cookies, which look delicious!



Year 5 are learning about Shackleton's Journey. They have all taken on the role of different members of the Endurance and have started by completing a fact file about their crew member.



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



4CP have been performing pieces of music during their end of day calls. The whole class have loved it! Here you can see Etta playing her cornet. The class has enjoyed performances on the piano, flute, guitar, cornet, viola, violin and saxophone.



Year 2 have been taking a line for a walk during their art lesson! They drew one continuous line on their sheet of paper without lifting their pencil from it. After that, the resulting shapes were shaded in a range of colours and contrasting coloured patterns were drawn over the top of them. Some fantastic creations were produced!