



### Head's Message

Theme for next week : Friendliness

Dear Parents,

Slowly but surely, the country seems to be opening up due to the reduced infection levels and hospital occupancy due to the effectiveness of the lockdown and the vaccination process. Unfortunately, in some regions of Europe and India, the infection rates are rising, and the latter especially doesn't have the situation under control. I heard from someone relatively high up the NHS that the government has given them instructions to be on COVID alert at all times so that hospitals can switch to Covid procedures in the event of another wave. It is due to the mutating of the different variants where the virus adapts to survive. My understanding is that it seeks to change and adapt as the host becomes immune to variants of the virus.

The management of St Aubyn's has remained stable over the past years, with Miss Singleton's appointment, as Deputy Head (Academic) in 2018 being the most recent. I have been most fortunate to work with committed team players who have contributed to the success of their departments and the School. I am proud to announce that Mrs Twomey has been appointed Head of New Hall Prep. A well-deserved appointment, Mrs Twomey has been the mainstay behind the success in the Senior School and her years of experience placed her in good stead when she applied for the head position. More will be said about Mrs Twomey's lengthy contribution to St Aubyn's later in the year, but on behalf of the community, I wish her every success in her new role. Her departure leaves a vacancy, and Mrs Porter, with her years of experience and understanding of the 11+ system, will be the new Head of Seniors from September. You all know her well; she has an excellent reputation and will fill the void left by Mrs Twomey. The Middle School will be headed up by Mrs Bernie Wells, who you all know very well. She comes with a wealth of experience, having enjoyed 12 years as a deputy and two years as a Head. We congratulate her on her well-deserved promotion. You will also notice in the future that the School will be advertising for a new Bursar. Mrs Foakes is retiring at the end of the year after 22 years at the School. Like Mrs Twomey, more will be said about Mrs Foakes and her contribution to St Aubyn's. The Governors are currently seeking a suitable candidate to fill the post in January 2022.

We have also recently said goodbye to Mrs Fiona Yeo, who tirelessly managed the Before School and After School Care for 25 years. We would like to thank her whole-heartedly for her hard work throughout this time. We welcome, in her place, Mrs Samantha Johnston and wish her every success in her new role at St. Aubyn's.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim friends a happy Ramadan, and we pray for their strength and spiritual fulfilment during this time of fasting and prayers.

Have a super long weekend.

Sincerely,

Leonard Blom

One thing everybody wants and needs in the world is friendliness.

*William E. Holler*



It has been wonderful to see the return of fencing this week as a before-school activity. Aneesa and Madeleine in 4UM enjoyed duelling, and the Fencer of the Week was Holden, also in 4UM.



With the assistance of Mr Lawson, Year 7 took part in a team building event last Thursday. They discovered that giving directions blindfolded is

no easy task!



The Year 2 Nature after-school activity celebrated Earth Day last week. The children had to think of three things that they could commit to do in order help keep our planet healthy. They talked about all the other planets in our solar system and agreed that they wouldn't be able to live on any other planet. They used the slogan 'There's no planet B' to help remind them all that we must look after our precious planet as there is no back up!



Many congratulations to all of Year 5 for their wonderful virtual performance of 'Sherlock and Cinders'. A lot of hard work and effort from the children and Mrs McDowell went into the production.



Year 3 enjoyed cricket on the school field this week. Here they are warming up with a few handling skills.



Year 4 are shadowing the Kate Greenaway Award for Illustration in their library lessons this term. This week, they took a shallow dive into the books and the judging criteria by playing the book judge dice game. They then investigated each book in depth and assessed which one should ultimately win!



Year 2 have been exploring the area around our school pond as part of their habitats topic in science. They used their class iPads to photograph what they discovered and sorted their findings under the following categories: living, dead and never alive. They were pleased to discover that the area is full of life! The children then considered how these living things are suited to the pond habitat.



In Year 4 Science this week, pupils learned about classifying animals. They created their own biscuit sorting classification keys to help them learn!



5AM enjoyed acting out a scene from their class novel during an English lesson this week. They were able to use facial expressions and body language to show the character's emotion.



Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have relied heavily on our wonderful team of cleaners, with two of them, Tracy and Mauricio, employed all day across the school. We have been so impressed with their cheerfulness and commitment to the School. Their efforts and those of all our cleaners have been very much appreciated.



Last Friday, Senior School enjoyed a virtual visit with award-winning, neurodivergent author, Elle McNicoll. The children had the opportunity to ask many questions about her books, the publishing process and neurodiversity. As well as giving us a great insight into what it's like to be an author, she has also hopefully inspired some future writers!



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



Thursday morning assembly with Mrs Porter focused on the theme 'contentment'. 3NL listened with care and they enjoyed the dancing at the end!



Despite the cold conditions and light rain, Year 7 and 8 took part in their first 'hardball' cricket session in preparation for their summer cricket fixtures. Well done to all the boys for their positive attitudes.