



21 March 2019

Dear Parents

When you look at the photographs and read the accounts of some of the wonderful events that our children have taken part in recently, I know that the richness of our children's educational experience will shine through with great clarity.

Year 6 Aquamarines – Hooke Court

There was a buzz of excitement as we gathered at the station. Each one of us eagerly anticipating becoming a WWI soldier for the next three days. The journey flew by in the blink of an eye, and suddenly we were immersed in the Dorset countryside.

Having successfully bridged the moat on Monday afternoon, we were formally enlisted as soldiers and given a silver shilling as a reward. Tuesday, well what can we say ... Mud, mud and a little more mud! Our time in the trenches really brought to life just what the war was like for the soldiers and how awful it must have been. Going over the top was probably one of our most memorable yet slightly harrowing experiences of the trip. Placing a poppy in remembrance of those wonderful men that fought for our freedom was certainly all the more poignant having just been in a trench.

Hooke Court will certainly be a trip that we will remember for a lifetime!

Hooke Court



Year 4 Emeralds – The Mill

Last week the Year 4 Emeralds set off on their adventure to 'The Mill' with high spirits and excitement building. Fortunately, the rain stayed at bay for most of the day and we were able to immerse ourselves in the outdoor activities planned. Teams raced across the countryside, using clues and hints to help them, and were seen trudging through mud to ensure they reached their goal. We then spent the afternoon balancing on tightropes, dodging puddles in go-karts and learning new circus tricks, some of which required great focus!

That evening, the children tucked into a delicious home-cooked meal where second helpings were welcomed after all the hard work from their day of exploring. Nonetheless, there was still room for a toasted marshmallow as we gathered around the campfire, enjoyed a few songs and gave a time of thanks.

The next morning we were onto even more activities which many children had never experienced before. We learned that making rafts involves tying a variety of knots, and lots of patience! All the children and rafts floated successfully as pupils worked in a team to row their way across the lake. A flurry of kayaks were seen zigzagging their way around each other as the children tackled the art of steering. It was a joy to see their faces light up as they embarked on the new, and slightly daunting, watersports.

What was wonderful to see throughout the whole trip was the incredible level of teamwork and comradery that took place. Alongside laughter and fun, pupils were helping each other through tricky challenges and supporting each other when morale needed boosting. Well done to all our Year Four pupils for making this year's Mill Trip a truly great experience.



The Mill





Year 4 Emeralds – St Patrick’s Day

Year Four were thrilled to have our own resident Northern Irish national, Mrs Keenan, visit them on Monday. Cloaked in green, Mrs Keenan was keen to share her extensive knowledge of the life of St Patrick, the patron saint of her homeland Ireland, with us. We thoroughly enjoyed our visual tour around the Emerald Isle and heard much about the history of the land. In fact, as you can see - we learnt so much! Thank you Mrs Keenan.



'He got kidnapped by pirates!' - Oskar
 'How did he escape back to England?' - Connor
 'It is not about the leprechauns, it's about Christ' - Emma
 'The three leaves of the shamrock are the Holy Trinity' -Thomas
 'I wonder how he actually got the snakes out of Ireland?' - Francis
 'They have an Irish dance for St Patrick's day' - Frankie



'I learnt that the Americans celebrate it too!' - William
 'The people in Chicago dye their river green' - Jessica

Prom Praise



Rumour has it that on Tuesday afternoon, the school was unusually quiet. This was because a large majority of Upper School pupils had abandoned their classrooms and journeyed to the Royal Albert Hall to participate in Prom Praise. It was an extraordinary opportunity to perform at the world-famous concert hall and spirits were high as we made our way through London. Our first glimpse of its curved walls only cranked up the excitement levels, but nothing could quite prepare us for what awaited us inside. In every direction, children (all four and a half thousand of them!) from 64 schools across the South East of England were buzzing with anticipation, and the atmosphere was electric!

After an afternoon of rehearsal, we were ready. The orchestra had tuned their instruments and silence fell over the performers and audience alike. As the music started and we stood up to sing, the noise of our voices rose and mingled with the thousands of others, creating a wall of sound that washed around the Hall. It was a delight to watch our Dolphin children be a part of something so momentous. The whole evening was a triumphant celebration of the story of Exodus and God's love for us, told through a medley of songs, dance, drama and a Mexican wave of paper. A feast for the eyes and delight for the ears, it was a truly exhilarating and spectacular experience to be clapping, dancing and singing together praising God!



Year 3 Rubies – Zoolab Visit

On Monday, the Year 3 Rubies had a group of unusual visitors to the classroom - creatures of all different shapes and sizes, some of which we could touch, and others that we preferred not to! Our Geography topic of Rainforests came in very useful, while our growing knowledge on invertebrates from Science helped us to understand more about the animals that we met. Among our interesting guests was a dangerous scorpion who glowed blue under an ultraviolet light, and a giant snail who was older than us! We were able to stroke a cockroach (though this did not appeal to everyone!) and heard that they have the amazing ability to come back to life after being frozen and can survive without their head for up to a week!



the relief of almost all in the room, we did not have to pick it up ourselves! After an encounter with a very we met a beautiful snake stroked his scaly skin, we by how smooth and cool it fingers. A few brave class were even able to thrilling afternoon where stuffed to bursting with about the exciting critters



relaxed gecko, and, as we gently were astonished felt under our members of the hold him. It was a our heads were fascinating facts of the rainforest.

Online Safety Evening Rescheduled

Fortunately, we have been able to reschedule our much anticipated online safety evening with Karl Hopwood for **Monday 3 June at 19.00-20.30**. In this day and age, many of our lives are intricately intertwined with technology and the internet - much of which is wonderful, but at times, may feel scary and unknown.

Karl Hopwood, an online safety expert, is gifted at guiding and clarifying how best to navigate these modern wonders. Please be sure to set aside time in your diary to attend. Please note that it is the first day back after the Summer Half-Term break. Information about how to sign up will be sent out after Easter.

Marketing Photographs

We will have a professional Photographer joining us next week on Tuesday 26 March. He will be taking photographs of the children and school in various different contexts throughout the day. Could we remind you to ensure that your children arrive at school looking smart in their winter uniform and come to school with their (clean) PE kit.

After-school Clubs

Please note that there will be **no after-school clubs** next week.

Clubs –Summer Term

A copy of the Summer Term Club list, including instructions for booking places, is attached to the covering email with this newsletter. Please note that the bookings will open on **Friday 22 March at 13:00**.

Lower School Dismissal Thursday 28 March

Due to the Upper School Dolphin Concert, dismissal arrangements for Lower School will be as follows:

Reception	-	in front of the School Office
Year 1	-	from the Gate
Year 2	-	from the Northcote Door

We would kindly request that children do not bring in their bikes or scooters on Thursday 28 March due to the Dolphin Concert.

Rounders at Dolphin School

As you may be aware, the profile of Rounders has dwindled in recent years and so it is with sadness that from the Summer term, Rounders fixtures at Dolphin School will no longer be played. This is because most independent schools have replaced Rounders with Girls' Cricket so it is no longer possible to arrange Rounders fixtures.

Rounders is a great game which we know the girls love playing in the Summer Term so we have been reluctant to remove Rounders games from the curriculum but the team game focus for both girls and boys will now be cricket. On a positive note, professional women's cricket now enjoys great exposure both in Secondary Schools and, indeed, globally, so next term our girls will be involved in cricket fixtures

A Rounders Club will still be offered in the Summer Term and we will play Rounders occasionally during lessons in the Summer Term. Additionally, any girls wishing to join the after school Cricket Club will be welcome to do so.

Sports Report

Tuesday 19 March - Y3/Y4 Boys' Rugby v Oliver House

Due to the Proms Praise event we only had two teams playing. We finished with one win and one loss. Special mention to Connor and Oscar for their strong play and to the few remaining girls who also joined in.

Assembly on Friday 29 March

On the last day of term, Assembly will start later than usual at 11:40.

Tomorrow

It is the turn of parents of children in Reception and Y2CB to visit classrooms from 08.30-08.50. Parent Prayers will take place as usual at 08.50 in the Music Room.

Our Friday assembly, to which all parents are always warmly invited, will take place at 11:15. Our Dance and Capoeira Clubs will be performing at the beginning of assembly tomorrow.

With best wishes

N. S. Baldwin

Mrs N S Baldwin
Principal

Forthcoming events

Date	Event	Time	Venue
Friday 22 March	Y5/Y6 Boys' Football v Honeywell School	13.30 – 15.30	Wandsworth Common
Tuesday 26 March	Y3/Y4 Boys' Rugby v Roche School	13.30 – 15.30	Wandsworth Park SW15 1PR
Tuesday 26 March	Y3/Y4 Girls' Football v Eaton Square School	14.00 – 15.30	Battersea Park Astro
Wednesday 27 March	Art Exhibition open to parents (Reception - Year 2) Entry through Staff Door	14:45 – 15:30	Hall
Thursday 28 March	Art Exhibition open to parents (Year 3 – Year 6) Entry through Staff Door	13:40 – 14:20	Hall
Thursday 28 March	Dolphin Concert – Upper School Northcote Door will open at 14.10 for parents	14.20 – 15.20	Church
Friday 29 March	Art Exhibition open to all parents Entry through Staff Door	08.30 – 09.15	Hall
Friday 29 March	End of term	12:30	School

Easter Holiday Monday 1 April – Tuesday 23 April 2019