

28 February 2019

Dear Parents

This week we have basked in exceptional February sunshine and been thrilled afresh by the feast for the senses of buds and blossom and birdsong. This springtime vibe and colour have been similarly reflected in exciting experiences and initiatives at school, which you can read about below.

Also worthy of mention are the plants with no flowers or foliage yet visible – those that are putting much energy into growing strong root systems and sturdy branches. Mirroring these are the slower growing character qualities nurtured quietly and without fanfare every day in the classroom, and emerging in increasingly thoughtful relationships and responses.

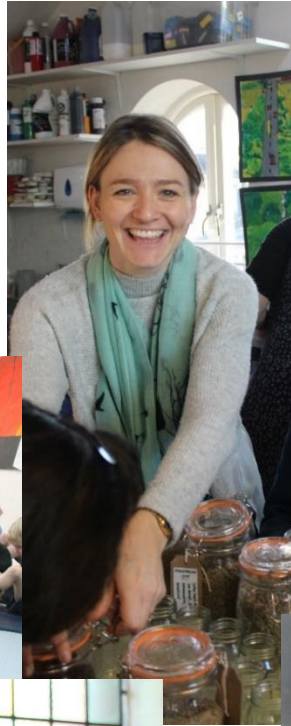
We celebrate it all.

## Theme Day

This year we explored our annual theme, *The Seasons*, by looking at ways to 'love our planet'. The pupils took part in an array of activities which helped them understand some of the issues at play in our world and how various cultures positively protect and embrace their environment. The day began with a celebration of creation involving a herbalist and a guest band. Then it unfolded further with pupils taking part in various workshops including Aborigine dance, Inuit games, tea tasting and tonic making, an interactive Rainforest theatre workshop, and a hands-on recycled paper bag activity.

Here are some reflections from Dolphin Pupils:

- *"I liked making a paper bag. Also I liked making my own logos for recycling and learnt lots about the environment."*
- *"The drama of how devastating deforestation is was absolutely incredible!"*
- *"I really enjoyed the jungle themed workshop because all of the characters were hilarious."*
- *"I loved making our own tonics because we got to choose the herbs we liked to make a remedy for my cold and coughs."*
- *"A day filled with learning, dancing and acting."*
- *"I enjoyed making the recycled paper bags because we made it from scratch, they were surprisingly strong and we got to decorate them too!"*
- *"I enjoyed learning about the way we treat our world and what we can do to help."*
- *"I absolutely loved making my bag. I am going to carry my water bottle in it!"*
- *"I learnt so much about deforestation."*
- *"The actors in the rain forest debate were really professional."*
- *"Theme Day is awesome!! "*







## Year 6 Aquamarines – Dolphin vs Thames Inter-School Debate



### ***This house believes that Veganism is the only moral dietary choice.***

This was the subject for debate at Dolphin this morning as our Year 6 children proposed the motion against the Year 7 pupils of Thames.

The debate followed Monday's workshop, led by Ms Taylor from Thames Christian School. The children were taught about the structure of debate and the components needed to persuade effectively. They explored what makes public speaking successful and began to structure their arguments and research facts to form a speech.

Three passionate and well prepared speeches were delivered by Liberty, Zac and Giulia. With help from their fellow classmates (a special mention to Darcey, Dougal, Isaac and Sofia), they had researched the reasons for veganism and managed to persuade others that it is the only moral dietary choice.

Thames were equally persuasive and presented well sourced and compelling evidence to oppose the motion. With their challenging floor questions, Thames was a tough opponent. However, when all was adjudicated, Dolphin won the debate, based on their impressive delivery and excellent public speaking skills. Well done, one and all!

*'We learnt that you could argue, but for a good reason.'*

*'I learnt that using anecdotes really engages your audience.'*

*'I enjoyed thinking of ways to counter my opponent.'*

*'I have learnt how to debate and enjoyed researching and creating facts for speeches.'*



### **Reception Diamonds – Captain Sleep**

This week we had a special visitor in Reception to help us begin our new topic on Superheroes. Captain Sleep joined us to talk about what it takes to be a superhero. He showed us his amazing superhero costume, including the silent walking stripy shoes and sparkling shorts. Then Captain Sleep used his superpower gadget (a tune box stuck to his wrist) to play music and we watched as Mr Woodcraft fell asleep! We are looking forward to finding out more about superheroes and what things we can do to be real life superheroes in Reception!





### Year 1 Pearls – Vauxhall City Farm

On Tuesday Year 1 made the most of the warm and sunny weather at Vauxhall City Farm. The children took part in a workshop in which they met a variety of animals and discussed how to classify them. Among other things we fed the goats, and enjoyed watching the enormous and rather comical looking turkey change colour. It was a very happy morning!

These are some of the children's comments:

*We had such a lovely sunny day on the farm.*

*I liked it when we got to touch the rabbit.*

*We saw birds in an aviary.*

*I liked it when the sheep licked our hands because it was ticklish!*

*I stroked a Polish chicken. They have very funny heads.*





### **World Book Day - Thursday 7 March**

Next Thursday we will be celebrating World Book Day as a school. The children are invited to dress up as a favourite book character and to bring along the book associated with their chosen character.

Throughout the morning there will be various activities for the children to celebrate literature and the importance of reading.

### **WhatsApp**

There have recently been several playground conversations about the use of WhatsApp amongst pupils. Although its use is out of school, we thought it might be useful to share the recent changes to WhatsApp's minimum age of use. As of May 2018, WhatsApp's minimum age of use is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, or a country that has adopted the GDPR, as the UK has. It was previously 13. If you have any further questions about this, or any other aspect of e-safety or e-guidance, please join us for an evening with Karl Hopwood (an independent e-safety expert) on Wednesday 20 March from 19.00-20.30.

### **Staff**

Mrs Saunders is unfortunately not in school at present as she has a hairline fracture of the ankle, but hopes to be back with us for the last two weeks of term. We send her every good wish for a speedy recovery. To help us in the office, at this time, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Shockley.

### **Sports Report**

#### **Tuesday 26 February Y3/Y4 Girls' Football v Honeywell**

Three Dolphin teams played in this fixture. We had one very comfortable win, one narrow loss and one draw. Special mention to Lourdes for scoring three goals, and to Willow who scored twice. A great effort, girls!

### **Class Assembly**

Y1 Pearls will lead a Friday Assembly on 15 March.

### **Tomorrow**

In Assembly, Year 6 children will become School Captains, and all parents are welcome.

It is the turn of Reception and 1EM to visit classrooms. Parent Prayers will take place as usual at 08.50 in the Music Room.

With best wishes

*N. S. Baldwin*

**Mrs N S Baldwin**  
**Principal**

### Forthcoming events

Date	Event	Time	Venue
Friday 1 March	Parent Prayers	08:50	Music Room
Friday 1 March	Assembly	11:15	Church
Friday 1 March	Y5/Y6 Boys' Rugby v Emanuel	14:30	Emanuel
Friday 1 March	Y5/Y6 Girls' Football v Honeywell	13:30	Wandsworth Common
Tuesday 5 March	Y3/Y4 Boys' Rugby v Broomwood Hall	14:00	Wandsworth Common
Tuesday 5 March	Parent – Teacher Interviews	16.30 onwards	School
Wednesday 6 March	Y5/Y6 Girls' Hockey v Finton House	14.00	Tooting Hard Courts
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day (Dressing up included)	During the day	School
Thursday 7 March	Parent-Teacher Interviews	16:30 onwards	School
Friday 8 March	Y5/Y6 Boys' Rugby v Roche	13.45	Wandsworth Common
Mon 11 - Wed 13 March	Hooke Court (Year 6)		Residential Trip
Thurs 14 - 15 March	The Mill (Year 4)		Residential Trip
Friday 15 March	Class Assembly – Year 1	11:15	Church
Tuesday 19 March	Prom Praise (Y3 – Y6)	13.00 – 20.20	Royal Albert Hall
Wednesday 20 March	'Online Safety' Talk	19:00 – 20:30	School
Wednesday 27 March	Art Exhibition open to parents (Reception - Year 2)	14:45 – 15:30	Hall
Thursday 28 March	Art Exhibition open to parents (Year 3 – Year 6)	13:40 – 14:20	Hall
Thursday 28 March	Dolphin Concert	14.20 – 15.20	Church
Friday 29 March	End of term	12:30	School
<b>Easter Holiday Monday 1 April – Tuesday 23 April 2019</b>			