

26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents

Today we have celebrated 'Denim for Dementia' – a Darlington-wide non uniform day to raise money for the Mayor's chosen Dementia charities. It has been a great cause to support – and one close to a lot of our hearts – but also a real pleasure to have pupils so excited to be in their own clothes and to have something different happening in school. After the term that we have had it has been a joy to end in this way today. At the point of writing we have raised £435.69 – if you haven't already put your contribution onto ParentPay, could I ask you to do so as soon as possible please? Mrs Bartholomew-Millar's Year 10 form decided to come up with a creative response as well as raising money and below is their work- a denim brain:



Mrs Ryan also sent me some pictures of Year 7 and Year 8 proudly wearing their denim!



Raising money for Dementia charities hasn't been the only community work that has gone on today. This afternoon, to support understanding of the life cycle of trees and to raise awareness of the important role that trees play in our environment, Year 5 have planted 50 saplings on the school grounds as part of The Earth Restoration project. The children will continue to care for the trees in the tree nursery until they are big enough to be moved or shared with the local community. Mrs Goodwin has promised me photos after Easter!

We have also had lots of Easter Egg rolling today – thanks to the PHPA! Mrs Mawson and Mrs Elsdon have sent me this report about Year 2's efforts:

Year 2 had lots of fun rolling Easter Eggs as part of the PHPA Easter Egg rolling competition!! Well done to Ebony Barker and Amelia Matthews who rolled their eggs the furthest! We would like to wish you all a lovely Easter.

Mrs Elsdon and Mrs Mawson



The PHPA have also asked me to include the results of their Easter Art competition in this week's newsletter:

Thank you to all who took part there were some fabulous pictures, decorated eggs and bonnets sent in to be judged. Mrs. Dawson who very kindly took the time to judge all the artwork said 'I thought all the children did brilliantly - making it difficult for me to judge!'

Congratulations to the winners:-

Year 7+

1st - Jassie Kaur

Years 4, 5 & 6

1st - Sahana Nirmala

2nd - Annecy Williams

3rd - Florence and Marielle Bonas

Years 2 & 3

1st - Adam Siddique

2nd - Isabella Waterfall-Brown

3<sup>rd</sup> Camilla Leggott

Rec & Years 1

1st - Jake David Holliday

2nd - Eliza Bonas

3rd - Cora Straughan

All prizes were donated by the PHPA and will be passed on to the children. I am sure they will enjoy eating them. Happy Easter we hope you all enjoy your break.



I couldn't include all the pictures but will make sure that they are on the screens in school for the children to see when they return to school after the holiday.

On a very different note, Miss Price's Year 11 Biologists have been undertaking dissection this week:

*Aspiring medics in year 11 have been let loose with scalpels this week and dissected some hearts. It may have been a blood bath but they all stepped up to the challenge and could identify the main structures of the heart and describe the functions. We discussed the components of blood and found some lovely blood clots within the heart chambers! The artists of the group made some lovely heart shapes out of these... Well done year 11 Biologists. You are all fantastic!*



I have ended the day today with our usual end of term Celebration Reading – using Zoom to screen it into form rooms as we are of course not allowed to all be in the Theatre together as we normally would. It isn't quite the same, but we have learned to be creative over the last twelve months! Alongside the usual awards there was one special one, which I wanted to also mention in the newsletter – a community award for Jason H in Year 9. What he has done is best in his own words!

*Last year and the beginning of this year, I decided to do an environmental project as we were learning about climate change. I did this by, writing a letter to Peter Gibson MP; (I wrote about using more renewable energy sources and I have just got his reply today.) litter picking; planting trees and tree maintenance were both part of Darlington Forest Project to increase trees in Darlington.; making a bird feeder; doing a poster to raise awareness of climate change and watching Perfect Planet. I really liked the topic of climate change. I have also been growing fruit and veg in the allotment, which is reducing the energy needed to transport the food. Thank you.*

Well done Jason for such great community work!

And that brings me to the end of this week's newsletter – a high point on which to end. I hope that you all have a lovely Easter and that we finally get the chance to meet up with some of our family and friends outdoors. We have an INSET day on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup> so pupils return on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April. We look forward to welcoming them back and then to having a proper Summer Term in school.

Best wishes



Kate Reid