

27th November 2020

Dear Parents

It has felt very strange in school this week, as we have not had Year 11, Year 8, Year 1 and Reception with us for much of the week. Year 8 returned on Thursday and we have been very pleased to have them back in school. Most pleasing – as I told the pupils in their Reading yesterday – have been the lovely reports from their teaching staff about how hard they have worked during their period of self-isolation and how brilliant their input during Teams lessons has been. Year 11 have also been working online – I have had two lessons now with my English class and have been re-learning the remote teaching skills that I had refined in the summer. Our wonderful Reception and Year 1 staff have been working with their bubbles from home as the staff too are having to self-isolate – they have sent me reports on how things are going via email. The first below is from Mrs Crosby this morning:

Morning!

All the Reception and Y1 staff want to say a big thank you to all the children who have worked so hard in our Zoom sessions and then at home completing some amazing tasks. We have lots of fantastic work on Tapestry which has made us all very proud and at times a bit tearful! Thank you to all the grown ups for your support as it has made this tricky time so much more enjoyable.



The next to send hers was Ms Spence: *The children have worked so hard this week and the videos of their acting and reading have blown my socks off! I am so proud of them all. I have heard some amazing reading, read in true story-teller voices! (with prosody).*



The pictures are just a few examples of the children's terrible wild things and their excellent use of adjectives. Sasha Murphy, Gracie Tifase and Fallon Gibson. Ms Spence has also

been telling me all about the super nativity performances the children have done, and asked me to especially mention Craig and Mya Stuart's, which were wonderful!

And – last but by no means least – Mrs Brown... *Just to say how proud we are of the children working so hard during their isolation. We have seen so much creativity and hard work! We have had everything from home Nativity shows, creating our own Wild Things, celebrating Diwali, building London landmarks and even a mini Great Fire of London! Here are some pictures from children in my group.*



Miss Barrass has also been in touch to congratulate one pupil in particular: *Could I please say a huge well done to Marie Wilson in Fortuna for her nativity performance? It was amazing and ticked all the boxes including humour! Absolutely brilliant!*

In school we have been just as busy. Year 6 have appointed the Junior School House Captains. Pupils who wanted to put themselves forward for the role had to create either a poster or video which could be shown to the other bubbles as we are not able to hold whole school assemblies at the moment. All children then voted – and the final appointments are as follows (report from Miss Blundy):

In year 6 we have been busy creating videos to show to the rest of the Junior School for them to vote for their new house captains. Mr Turnbull and Miss Blundy are very proud of all of those that submitted wonderful videos. The votes have now been counted and scores are in.

We would like to announce the House Captains and vice captains for 2020/21-

Kent: Vice Captains- Nancy Hedley and Harry Goldsbrough. House Captain- Martha Taylor.

Swale: Vice Captain- Darcie Thompson. House Captain- Freya Shepherd-Pegman.

Tees: Vice Captain- Grace Robinson-Tregear. House Captain- Grace Matthews

Skerne: Vice captain: Liam Dutton. House Captain- Briony Heljula

Well done to everyone who put themselves forward – and congratulations to the House Captains and Vice Captains themselves who hopefully will make sure that we have some good House competitions in Junior School during next House Week.

Some of you will remember that the PHPA held a Halloween competition during the half term holiday. They have sent me the following report and resultst:

PHPA Halloween competition results (Reception - Year 6)

Thank you to all the children that entered into the Halloween competition

The PHPA and Mrs. Dawson (who very kindly offered to judge the competition) enjoyed seeing all the entries. There were some very spooky ones too! All the entries were fantastic and Mrs. Dawson found it difficult to judge who she thought should win. We are very pleased to announce the winners of the competition are as follows:-

Reception & Year 1

*1st place Jake Holliday
2nd place Nell Hyland
3rd place. Hannah Shepherd Pegman*

Year 2 & 3

*1st place. Thea Hyland
2nd place. Eddie Butcher
3rd place. Vinnie Earl*

Year 4 & 5

*1st place. Oscar Earl
2nd place. (joint award) Frederick Hartley and Issac Hartley*

Year 6

*1st place. Emie King
2nd place. Briony Heljula
3rd place. Caitlin Moffatt*

All the winners will be sent their prizes via email (to their parents email address that the school holds on the system).

*Prizes are 1st place £10.00 Amazon voucher
2nd place £7.50 Amazon voucher
3rd place £5.00 Amazon voucher*

Thank you to all who entered this competition. We look forward to announcing the results of the Bonfire competition very soon.

Mrs Jones and Interact have asked me to thank everyone that has so far brought in donations for the Feeding Families project and to remind you that next Friday 4th December is the final deadline for any more donations from the list of items that has been sent home. Interact will then be delivering all that we have collected to Feeding Families the following week.

Mrs Roberts would like to congratulate her vocabulary stars in what is quickly becoming a standing item in the newsletter! This week's MFL Vocab Heroes are...

Y11

Beth
Genevieve

Y10 German

Seth
Jessica
Jennie

Y9 French
Annabelle
Faith
Jason

Y8 German
Evelina
Courtney
Kai

Y7 French
Leah
Karys
Emre

Well done to you all!

Thank you to all Year 2 parents who were able to join us on Zoom last night for the KS1 Parent Information Event. The slides have been emailed to all Year 2 parents today so please do get in touch with class teachers if you have any questions.

I was on lunch duty today in the Dining Hall and the Christmas decorations had gone up which put us all in good spirits. My Reading for Senior School pupils this week has been about how hope helps us to persevere even in dark times – and Christmas offers us some of that hope and a light in the darkness. The next few weeks will see our countdown to Christmas in school – without all of our normal events perhaps but still none the less special for that.

I hope that you and your families have a restful weekend

Best wishes

Kate Reid