

6th March 2020

Dear Parents

The big event this week has been World Book Day. Always an exciting day in our school calendar, we had a fantastic time yesterday in all parts of the school, celebrating our love of reading and of books. All pupils, Junior and Senior, were asked to come in their pyjamas and to bring a bedtime story – we hoped that in this way we would engage more of the Senior School students in the day and we were proved right! There were a fair few staff in their PJs too!

I happily read 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' to half of Year 11 (most of whom I think enjoyed being read to!) and Mrs Squires did a fantastic Reading about books and the places that they can take you – including the introduction of the school newspaper which we will be producing over the next term and how students can apply to be involved. Not one to sit still – particularly when it comes to books and reading – Mrs Squires also turned the Senior School Library into a Reading Café – complete with hot chocolate and cakes – at break and lunchtime and hid books around the school for pupils to find. And all this on the day that Year 11 undertook their GCSE English Spoken Language presentations! She looked quite exhausted by the end of the day, but told me that it had all been worth it!



In Junior School, Mrs Brown, who is our new English Lead, took on her first World Book Day – and what a success it was! She has sent me the following report:

Yesterday children came to school ready for a bedtime story as part of our World Book Day Celebrations. We have been taking part in the "Share a Million Stories" campaign and have currently shared 4,339 stories in junior school! Well done to all class teachers and children who have shared a great love of reading this week! In the afternoon, the children all gathered in the theatre to watch a wonderful performance by the Junior School Choric Speech Club and to listen to a bedtime story. Children were enthralled by the outstanding performance of the poems, "There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly" and "Willow". The children have also had great fun decorating potatoes to represent their favourite literary characters, inspired by the book Supertato. Thank you to all who took part in a brilliant day!

She has sent me a number of pictures as well of the activities that took place in Juniors during the day:



Of course, World Book Day wasn't the only event on in school this week. Year 4 went off to the Yorkshire Museum on Tuesday – here is Mrs Hood's report on their exciting visit:

On Tuesday Year 4 visited The Yorkshire Museum in York as part of their Convince Me... topic. Mrs Hood and Mr Turnbull have told me that the children behaved impeccably and they demonstrated their curiosity for learning by asking many thoughtful questions throughout the day. During their workshop, the children experienced what life would have been like as a Roman legionary, including marching in formation through the museum grounds with shields and swords. Whilst wearing white gloves, the children were lucky to be able to touch and study Roman artefacts. The trip was an overwhelming success and Y4 are looking forward to building on their new knowledge in the classroom.



In Senior School sport, Mr Wilkinson has had a week of rugby fixtures as he reports below:

Rugby News this week and both the Year 8 and Year 9 boys had Town Tournaments to play. On Monday the Years 8s played Hurworth, Carmel and Wyvern finishing in 3rd place. Aaron Clark scoring a unreal try against Hurworth being the main highlight.

On Tuesday the year 9s played Longfield and Education Village. Kian Charlton scoring the best try of the night against Education Village and other excellent tries from Charlie Cater, Jason Heaney and Jonathan Jiang.

The boys finished 2nd overall so progress to the next round on the 19th March in Redcar! Good luck lads- let's get some training in next week!



As I mentioned last week, Mrs Teasdale works with the LGBTQ+ support group and also with our Anti Bullying Ambassadors. She has sent me some pictures of some of the students who this week completed their training with Youth Focus North East today in Team Work and Listening/Student support. She tells me that they are excited and ready to help and support one another!



This week has been National Careers Week – although at school we have our designated Careers Week later in the Summer Term. However, in Senior School Reading on Tuesday Mr Robson took the opportunity to talk about all of the Careers events and experiences in which our students get to participate. He is very modest about the work that he does as the external evaluation of our careers provision has been glowing! He is developing a Careers Hub in the Library Extension and also issued a competition to design a poster about careers to put in the new Careers Hub. There will be six prizes for the best entries, which should be handed to Mr Robson by the 1st April.

As a final well done this week, Miss Barrass has asked me to congratulate 5B for their excellent efforts and behaviour in gardening in activities this afternoon. They have some brilliant ideas and she is very pleased with you!

I hope the sun continues to shine for us this weekend – and that World Book Day has kindled lots of enthusiasm for reading at home!

Best wishes

Kate Reid

