

15 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Junior School Weekly Highlights**

Our first full week of remote learning is complete, and what a week it has been! We seem to have certainly settled into a steady routine this week and we have been absolutely delighted with the response and support we have received from parents. Mr Murphy is writing to you this week with some remote learning updates, but in general, we have noted that both parents and pupils have much preferred the new remote learning timetable and the greater emphasis upon live lessons. I had a very productive first meeting this week with the Junior School Head Boy and Head Girl, who shared with me what was working well (PE morning workouts, Teams assignments and increased specialist lessons were particular highlights), as well as what we can refine going forward. While it is clearly not the same seeing pupils remotely, their resilience, smiles and 'can do' attitude have made a challenging situation much easier.

It has also been such a pleasure to see how much our Junior School community loves the early morning fitness sessions our PE team have designed, and we would like to thank the 80-90 Junior School children who are attending each day and making these sessions so fun. We have heard excellent things about Miss Morris' 'Gangnam Style' routine – something we are certain is not being replicated in other Junior School settings and is a little insight as to what daily life is like in the Morris household!

### **Nursery and Reception**

The Nursery children have continued to relish every moment spent in our Woodland Classroom and they certainly would not let the wet weather get in their way. If there is a muddy puddle available for splashes, that is where you will find them! In their continued mission to create St Dunstan's version of 'Grand Designs,' this week, Nursery pupils have brightened the area up by painting our logs and walls different colours. Meanwhile, in Reception Ms Isaac and Ms Rose received a special delivery from Antarctica and the children have been busy guessing what could be inside the box. They have also been making numbers out of objects they have at home, including train tracks, hairbrushes, Lego and stamps. In Reception, we embrace any opportunity to dress up and what better reason than learning the 'ar' sound in phonics – remote pirates aplenty to ensure our new sound would not be forgotten in a hurry.

### **Years 1 and 2**

It has been rhyme time in Year 1 this week! Inspired by the story 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson, the children have written incredible rhyming poems based on animals or nonsense characters. We have had some very funny poems about horses who eat buns, lions who eat children and a scary, hairy fairy! In IPC, we have not let the current restrictions stop us from going on an epic school trip to explore famous buildings from around the world. Year 1 grabbed their sun hats, sunglasses and backpacks and set off on virtual tours of the Taj

Mahal, the Burj Khalifa and the old buildings of Hoi An to compare the structures for our 'Buildings' topic...not that the teachers are missing holidays abroad at all! In Year 2 IPC, the children made fantastic lanterns to light the way for Florence Nightingale in their 'People of the Past' topic. Their poetry work continued this week, and we were treated to hilarious poems about family members and fantastic recitals based on Michael Rosen's 'Going Through Old Photos'.

### **Years 3 and 4**

We may not be allowed to travel very far at the moment, but Year 3 have let their imaginations travel across the globe. Pupils prepared thoroughly by packing a virtual bag for our expedition – making sure they only took essential items as not to incur additional luggage charges! We are pleased to announce they arrived safely in the Amazon rainforest, where the climate is hot and humid. They have also made 3D rainforests out of shoeboxes and any material they had to hand. It has also been the week for jokes, riddles and Form Time dancing. Who would have predicted that remote learning would be so much fun? Year 4 have immersed themselves in Ancient Egypt this week, creating some beautiful illustrations of gods and goddesses in their art lesson. In IPC, pupils learnt that there were over 2,000 gods and goddesses that the Ancient Egyptians worshipped! Everyone chose one in particular to research independently and created their own fact files.

### **Years 5 and 6**

Year 5 have been learning all about how living things are classified. The pupils were tasked with presenting information about this in a creative way. There were wonderful posters, PowerPoint presentations and some videos complete with fancy dress, including rabbit outfits, wigs and a full suit and tie. We also had a great laugh doing some 'brain breaks' in our live IPC lessons, by exploring how different animals move. Seeing 65 pupils and teachers flapping and flipping, wading and waddling and slithering and scampering to music was incredibly entertaining. In Year 6, our pupils have made the boats that they researched and designed last week. They have really used their imaginations to build some unique boats! There have been some wonderful videos and photos of the boats being tested out in baths, sinks and puddles! Why not make the most of the rain? Year 6 have also been imagining that they are film directors. designing some excellent storyboards of a scene from our new text 'Eye of the Wolf.'

I hope you have enjoyed hearing about all the fantastic activities that our Junior School pupils have experienced this week. You can also keep up to date through our Social Media channels where there are regular posts illustrating the highlights of this period of remote learning.

Whole College Twitter

<https://twitter.com/StDunstansColl>

Junior School Twitter

<https://twitter.com/StDunsJunior>

Whole College Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/stdunstanscollege/>

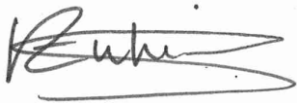
Whole College Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/StDunstansColl/>

Whole College YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIbORmNcCa8VTrQzI3OIIw>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Whitwood', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Miss L Whitwood

**Head of Junior School**