

29 January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Junior Weekly Update – 29 January 2021

As we reach the end of our fourth week of remote learning, it has been a pleasure to see how positively our Junior School families have responded to our new timetable. Thank you to all parents who completed our remote learning survey; the feedback has proven invaluable and the early indicators reflect an extremely high level of satisfaction with the new routine and schedule. As always, we are driven by an ambition to deliver the best possible remote teaching and learning product that we can facilitate to maintain our ambitious academic provision, whilst also being determined that both developing positive mental health strategies and the wellbeing of our pupils lie at the heart of our offering.

Nursery and Reception

Our Nursery pupils have developed a great interest in the wonderful world of worms. They have been searching for worms, talking at great length about worms and this fed into activities and tasks relating to the story 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson. In Reception, a weekly highlight continues to be 'dough disco,' where our pupils use playdough to develop their fine motor skills to some catchy tunes. This week's theme was 'Pirate Dough Disco'. Pupils have continued to explore the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers, making story maps and 'Lost' posters in search of their penguin, and also creating some amazing wax art.

Years 1 and 2

In Year 1 this week, the teachers were sent CCTV footage (times have moved on since I last read this story) of Goldilocks breaking in to the 'Three Bears' house! The children were horrified and created wonderfully detailed 'Wanted' posters, which helped catch her once and for all. Goldilocks, who is well versed in our Behaviour Management Procedures Policy, sent us an apology video and requested that the children help her write a letter to the Three Bears to apologise; we were so impressed with the letters written and kindness shown. In IPC, Year 1 have been learning all about homes around the world. The children learned why certain homes, such as stilt houses, igloos and adobe houses, are better suited to particular locations. They then had to help Kirstie and Phil find houses in the perfect 'Location, Location, Location' and created excellent 'For Sale' posters explaining why that house was perfect for the area. They even had a go at constructing their own homes and we were treated to mansions with pools, castles, rainbow tipis and igloos made from real ice! Let's just hope they manage to push the sales through promptly before stamp duty returns. In IPC, Year 2 have been finding out about three significant women by going fossil hunting with Mary Anning (we found some unusual creatures from hundreds of years ago), making rockets inspired by NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson and looking into stories with author Malorie Blackman. In their English lessons, Year 2 pupils have been learning to recite the traditional tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' by heart, using actions and hand gestures to help them remember the story. Next week, they will be using this structure to adapt and innovate their own versions of the story! In maths, we used a range of strategies to solve

subtraction calculations; it was tricky at times, but the children persevered and now they are more confident with number lines, partitioning and inverse operations.

Years 3 and 4

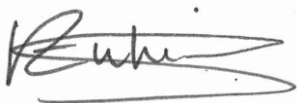
Year 3 had some visitors this week... a little girl in a red cape... a grandmother who had had a rather trying day... and a very scary wolf! The traditional tale of 'Little Red Riding Hood' was brought alive by the children with storytelling, drama, hot-seating and puppet making. The children demonstrated their impressive skills with puppet shows, story boards and videos. Amidst all the excitement, we also enjoyed 'Wind-down Wednesday'; a day full of calm activities, deep breathing, fresh air and mindfulness. This week in Year 4 the pupils have been exploring how tension is used by authors to make stories interesting, and plotted a tension chart for their focus book, 'The Iron Man'. In IPC, the pupils have been learning about creation stories from a variety of religions, culminating in them making their own story of how the Earth and universe came into being.

Years 5 and 6

Year 5 have been studying 'time' in maths this week! Pupils devised fun weekend activity timetables, mindful of sticking to their schedules! The Year 5 IPC topic for this half term is 'Existing, Endangered, Extinct' and as part of this topic we have been learning about the classification of living things. After studying the platypus, which stumped taxonomists for many years as it displays features of a mammal, a reptile and a bird, pupils were tasked with designing and making their own 'Curious Creatures' and we had some wonderful results. From an EleFish to a Girroctopus we had some brilliantly creative designs and descriptions. Year 6 have continued reading 'Eye of the Wolf' in English. This week pupils put themselves in the shoes of the wolf, by producing some vivid setting descriptions drawing on all the senses. In IPC pupils have been categorising the use of rivers; did you know that rivers can be used for leisure, industry and conservation, not to mention other uses including burials and baptisms?

As the weeks roll on, we are growing ever-conscious of screen time, wellbeing and pupils being unable to socialise with their friends. Teachers in all year groups are monitoring closely how the pupils in their class are coping and continue to be there for our Junior School families, so please do not hesitate to contact them should your child require any additional support. Mrs Carmichael-Line is working closely with the pastoral team to see how we can incorporate some optional non-academic additions to the timetable for those pupils who could benefit from some activities designed to support them with their wellbeing. More information will follow on this over the upcoming weeks, but plans are underway to launch some interesting ideas and initiatives to help our pupils and families unwind and relax at the end of busy working days.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Whitwood
Head of Junior School