

26 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Junior School Weekly Highlights – Friday 26 February 2021

What wonderful news we received this week that we can return to school on 8 March 2021! I met with the Head Boy and Head Girl this week and their excitement and positivity was absolutely infectious, I have to say. Please do read my letter in the Bulletin this week outlining our return to school arrangements, but I hope that you will be reassured to know there are not many changes from our last period in school earlier on this academic year. We very much look forward to seeing the smiling faces of our Junior School pupils as they settle back into school life; nothing beats the sound of the laughter and the general 'buzz' from their in-class engagement when I walk along the school corridors to see the learning in action.

Nursery and Reception

This week Nursery noticed a magpie building a nest in the Woodland Classroom, and the children have become interested in birds. Pupils have made a class book about birds they know and are looking forward to answering some of our questions next week. For anyone who is despairing about the state of their lockdown locks, the Nursery children have a solution, 'The St Dunstan's Outdoor Salon'. They used crates and materials in the Woodland Classroom to set up their hairdressing salon, discussed how they want their hair to be styled and what time their appointments are going to be. Get your booking in soon to avoid disappointment! In Reception, the aliens have landed! A cryptic message was left in the Reception classroom that they needed to decode. The children set to work writing to NASA with descriptions of what the aliens looked like and asked for advice on what to do. NASA replied with the one solution that was sure to send the aliens back to their planet...alien dancing! On Thursday, the children, teachers and some parents participated in the popular event, 'Alien's Come Dancing'. The combination of fabulous tunes and some enthusiastic dance moves sent those aliens back to their home planet!

Years 1 and 2

In English, Year 1 pupils were excited to launch their new class book, 'Man on the Moon' by Simon Bartram, with a trip in to space! The children transformed into astronauts and took a rocket to the moon, just like Bob does in the story. After exploring, the children wrote brilliant descriptions of the moon and recounted a typical day for Bob based on their experiences. In maths, Year 1 learned all about odds and evens and counting in twos, fives and tens. They met two very hungry monsters named 'Even Steven' and 'Odd Todd', who only like to eat odd or even numbers. Fortunately, the children were able to confidently feed the correct numbers to them. The children were also very active when counting in twos, fives and tens this week with a maths dance disco warm up! They were then able to spot various patterns on a hundred square when counting in groups and they were able to apply their knowledge to some tricky problem solving. In IPC, Year 1 started their new topic *Superhumans*. The children began by learning about parts of the body and the human skeleton. It was amazing to hear all of the facts and vocabulary that the children already knew and there were lots of videos and life-size diagrams that showed

off all of this fantastic knowledge. Year 2 pupils have begun the new half term looking at poetry inspired by the arrival of spring! The children practised sharing and extending their responses to the poems, as well as considering their choice of words to write their own spring time poems. In maths, the children have been measuring length, mass, volume and temperature, familiarising themselves with the units of measure. They have been extending their understanding by comparing measurements and providing written answers to reasoning questions to explain their thinking. Year 2 enjoyed starting their new IPC topic *What is it Made Of?* by creating sculptures using as many different types of materials as possible. They had a range of interesting sculptures, including a robot, a green hand fort and a junkasaurus!

Years 3 and 4

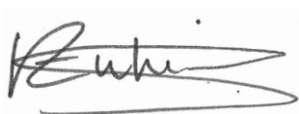
Year 3 have returned to remote learning with exemplary engagement and focus. The children are in the middle of writing their autobiographies and they are looking forward to seeing the finished versions. Year 3 began a new IPC topic *The Nature of Life* and watched a mesmerising video about the life cycle of a butterfly. They also enjoyed a book quiz and a 'Spot the Mistake' Form Time. The teachers are particularly looking forward to the regular 'Teacher Challenge' in the Friday spelling lesson...! Year 4 pupils have launched straight back into their IPC topic, *Turn it Up*, becoming sound designers this week, using different everyday materials to create all sorts of sound effects. They learnt how to use PowerPoint to record their sounds and have tried to identify what sound effects their peers have been making. Continuing with all things sound, they took part in a hearing experiment, listening to a range of frequencies to work out how old their ears are!

Years 5 and 6

This week Year 5 English work has been based on the short Albanian Film 'Oktapodi'. They have been delving into the minds of the characters with role play and internal monologue activities. Who knew Year 5 could encapsulate the thoughts and feelings of an escapee octopus so well! They have continued with the theme of 'getting into character' in their IPC lessons where pupils have been focusing on the miniscule pygmy gecko which has hydrophobic skin. There have been some wonderful contributions to the task to write a diary entry imagining what it would be like to have hydrophobic skin for the day! Year 6 pupils have been continuing their IPC topic *Go With The Flow* by researching and reporting on the Indus River floods in 2010. Pupils have been creative with video and voice recording, using green screens and have produced some excellent news reports! In English, Year 6 have looked in-depth at poetry. They have discussed many poetic features including metaphor, idioms and juxtaposition.

I look forward to writing to you next week following our final week of remote learning and hope that your child enjoys spending the week preparing for the fun that will await them upon their return! Should you have any questions at all or if your child is feeling nervous about the upcoming weeks, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Teacher who will be more than happy to assist.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Whitwood
Head of Junior School