



THE MOOR PARK CHRONICLE

Crusts & Crumbs

Edition 1: August 2023

www.moorpark.org.uk



FROM MR B'S DESK



Welcome to the new-look Moor Park Chronicle: 'Crusts & Crumbs'. We are excited to introduce what was a magazine as a newspaper. This will be a twice-yearly publication, both in print and online. The Moor Park Chronicle will also include 'The Stag,' our Moor Park alumni magazine which we are resurrecting after a hiatus of some years.

This 'first edition' finds our school in robust health. Moor Park has thrived during these past difficult years where others have failed, thanks to governors who have kept their eye very much on the ball, a management team who applied sound fiscal discipline while supporting excellent academic programmes and teachers who are prepared to go beyond the norm. We enjoy committed parent support, and our children continue to make us all proud at the senior schools they go on to across the country.

Our new school newspaper is a glimpse into the past, present, and future of Moor Park. I do hope that as we develop the concept you find it interesting, an accurate record of the half-year and a window into the lives of those fortunate to have been through our school.

- Brendan Brady, Headmaster



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A TICK TOCK SUMMER

This term has seen our youngest of babies being extra creative, not to mention getting some very sticky fingers and muddy clothes! They have been painting with different materials such as mud, ice, and even jelly, as well as making colourful prints with real fruit. Our sensory potion play, where we make up a consistency of concoctions with tea bags and flour, has also mesmerised the babies.

We love to watch the seasons change whilst exploring the outdoors. One of our favourite activities is going on walks around our school grounds, where we see cows, horses, sheep and even rheas! The children love to watch the older children and observe the hub of

activity around the school. The Butterfly Room is always a hive of activity and this term our 'butterflies' have been exceptionally busy building with pretend construction materials, getting creative mark-making and enjoying many of the sensory play trays filled with everything from shaving foam, scented playdough and coloured rice.

The children also enjoy role play - washing, dressing, and feeding our nursery dolls. They are very good at working together and being careful not to drop the babies!

This summer, Kindergarten have welcomed our oldest nursery children to Woodland School. Their love for splashing in the stream,

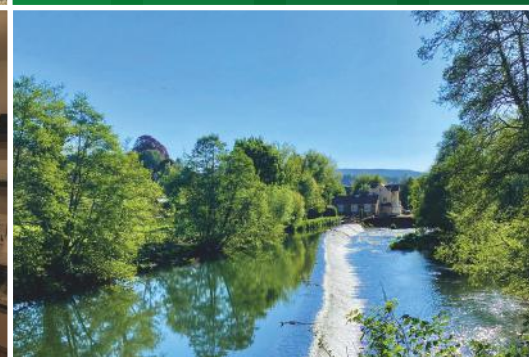
den building and making mud pies is clear to see and a joy to observe. It's not just about squelching and squishing the mud though, it's the perfect chance for the children to prepare themselves for their transition to Kindergarten - where Woodland School is frequented and wellington boots a necessity.

In September, six of our nursery children will be making the move upwards to Kindergarten and we look forward to seeing them bloom under Mrs Parry's care. Tick Tock will welcome new faces and our lovely nursery will step into an exciting a fun-filled autumn at Moor Park. We can't wait!

– *By Nicola Marshall*



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BUGS, BEASTS AND HOMEGROWN SUPPER: SUMMER IN KINDERGARTEN

The Summer Term at Moor Park means Kindergarten spend even more time in their favourite places - up in the woods and out in the garden.

This term we have been developing our gross motor skills, whilst climbing trees, stirring potions in the mud kitchen, digging in the sand and building obstacle courses with logs and tyres.

We have also been learning about using plants that grow in our garden and around the school grounds to show us where our food comes from. We grew a bumper crop of potatoes this year and enjoyed them with a dollop of butter and some mint, picked from the school garden. Elsewhere in the grounds, we enjoyed picking elderflower

heads and using them to make our very own elderflower and honey cordial. Being outside helps us to develop our speech and language skills whilst using our imaginations – and our bodies. Whether making mud ‘hot chocolate’, searching for bugs under the logs or riding the ‘tree ponies’, we are always seeking out new experiences and building our self confidence in a safe but stimulating environment.

We love to develop our knowledge, built on the interests of each child, and enjoyed finding out about minibeasts towards the end of term. Having discovered spiders under logs we were visited by a captive tarantula (and owner) to observe each tiny part of the exoskeleton on a far larger scale.

The children were also thrilled to spot solitary bees setting up home in our new bee house next to the wormery in the garden. Mrs Stevens came in to talk about her bee keeping hobby and even let us try on some of her protective kit, which was great fun.

Our love of the wildlife that surrounds us has also been inspired by ‘Mr Chunky’, the fluffiest house sparrow you can find in these parts, who likes to chirp at Mrs Parry - reminding her to fill up the bird feeders.

- By Mrs Parry

MICHAELMAS TERM

Save the Dates

22/09	Obstacle Course Pre-Prep
29/09	Better Together Day
02/10	Grandparents' Day
06/10	Open Morning
11/10	Harvest Festival Mass
14/10	Pre-Prep Activity Open Morning
11/11	Fireworks Evening
01/12	A Night At The Musicals
06/12	Pre-Prep Christmas Play
07/12	MPPA Christmas Fair
08/12	Christmas Performing Arts Showcase
10/12	Tick Tock Christmas Party
14/12	Christmas Parties & Benediction with Carols
15/12	Carol Service at St Peter's



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RICHARD CASTLE'S SOAPBOX DERBY

On a Sunday in June, our full boarders accompanied by staff (and gappies) spent the day at a local event with a wonderful reputation for speed, engineering antics and heaps of community spirit – the Richard's Castle Soapbox Derby.

The name 'Soapbox Derby' was coined in America by Myron E. Scott, a photographer for the Dayton Daily News, who took a photo of some boys racing down a hill in little homemade cars. Scott noticed the cars both had been built using soap crates and had four wheels, so he dubbed the boys' race a 'soap box derby'. Since adopted with great enthusiasm in the UK as well as America, the phrase now describes competitions in which children (and adults) race homemade, motorless, single-seated vehicles down an inclined raceway.

With a passion for STEM learning of the hands-on variety, Moor Park offered to sponsor the Junior Trophy at this year's event. The Junior Trophy Winners 2023 were:

- 1st. Aerostream
- 2nd. Dynamite Boys
- 3rd. Hillside Hurtlers

The occasional downpour of rain only made the course more entertaining, and we all had a super day watching home-made cars hurtling down the hill whilst cheering on our favourites. This will surely become a regular annual adventure for our boarders – and perhaps one day we might even enter a school soapbox (if we can agree who gets to drive it)!





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CRUSTS AND CRUMBS

You may have wondered why the school magazine has the name 'Crusts and Crumbs'; as I am partly responsible for the name, I have been asked to provide an explanation.

As you may know, Moor Park was started by Hugh Watts and Derek Henderson as joint Headmasters. The role of Deputy Head was termed 'Second Master' and the first Second Master was a lovely man called Joe Rhymer. Joe was very interested in encouraging writing throughout Moor Park, and he thought that publishing a school magazine would be an excellent way of doing this; an idea that has endured for well over sixty years. The question he posed himself was what to call the magazine. He wanted a name that was unusual and engaging. Joe used to call us boys 'crumbs', hence, my schoolfriend, John Voller and I gave him the nickname 'Crusty' – and so 'Crusts and Crumbs' was born!

Joe had a lovely sheep dog called Jeff and when we were in a group with Joe, Jeff made sure that we were all herded together. This included the many times during half-days, when we would jump into the back of Joe's Land Rover and explore various parts of Wales and the local counties.

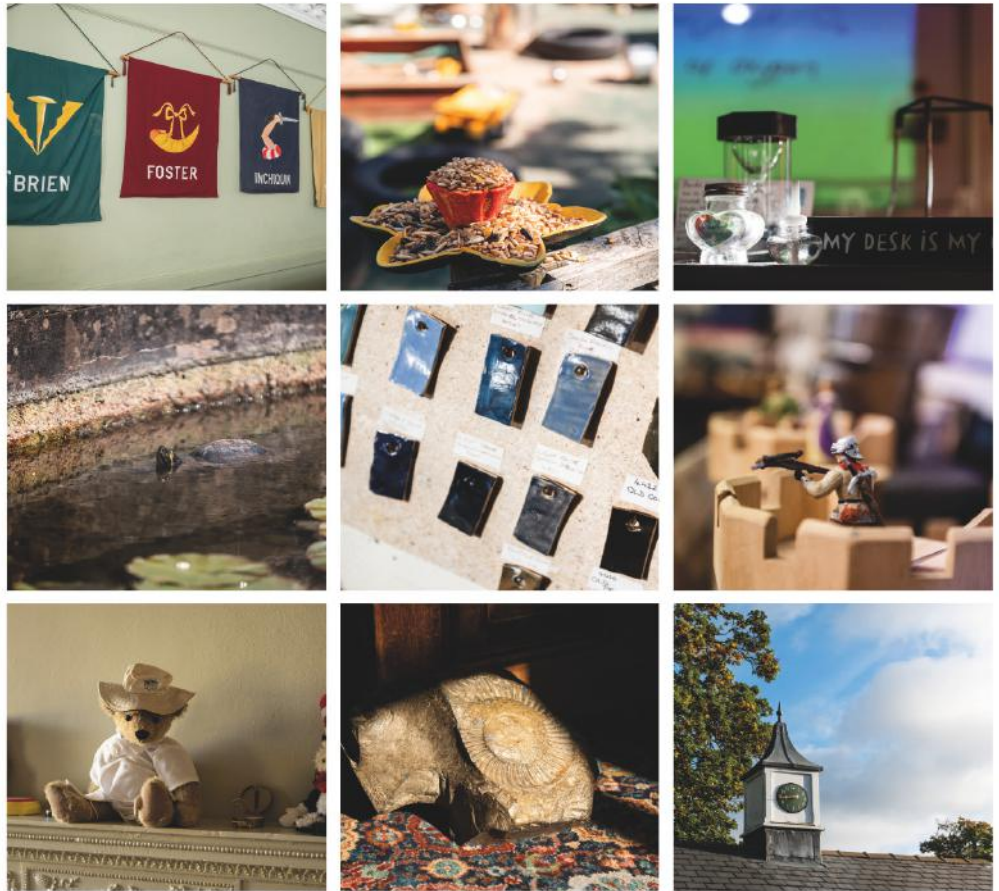
Joe was also responsible for a very popular game called Cocky Olly which I hope is still being played today. It involves hiding from Hunters and releasing those caught from the Cocky Olly Tree. Jeff was never part of Cocky Olly as he would have found it all too confusing!

Even after Joe Rhymer left Moor Park, he would still come over on half-days in his Land Rover and take a group of us boys out on an expedition; and Jeff never forgot his duty! I know that Joe would be absolutely delighted that Crusts and Crumbs continues and is very much a part of the all-embracing, encouraging culture of Moor Park; I share that delight.

- *David de Freitas 1964-69*
Chairman, Moor Park Society

Where in school?

Can you correctly place these pictures taken in and around Moor Park?



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AN MPPA YEAR

The Summer Ball is the highlight of the MPPA calendar and after months of planning and organisation the evening took place on 20th May in glorious sunshine. The event was a huge success, and we are delighted to report that we raised over £22,000. Thank you to the Ball Committee for their meticulous planning and to our auction donors for their generous auction lots. A special thank you to Diana Moores and her team who produced (and donated) the most wonderful food. I think everyone will agree that the whole evening was a huge success.

As soon as the Ball was over, we turned our attention to the Summer Fete. This year the fete was in the afternoon after Sports Day, a tradition that has been rekindled after a five-year absence. Families enjoyed picnics in the glorious school grounds and the fete was opened following a lovely speech from Hannah Limmond, our longest serving Year 8 mother. The usual fete favourites including jolly jars, coconut shy, slippery pole, archery and the dog show were very popular, but the highlight of the afternoon was the catapult where children had the opportunity to fire water balloons at Mr Brady. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the afternoon such a success. I am pleased to report that we raised in excess of £3,000.

The MPPA has had a very successful year both in terms of fundraising and linking parents to the school and each other. We have raised over £28,000 through various events including the quiz night, the Fete, apple juice pressing, cake bake sales and the Summer Ball. With these funds we have purchased six replacement swings for the school playground, two iPads for the learning support department, an amplifier and a gazebo. On top of this we have also donated £20,000 to The Moor Park Founders' Fund which will provide funds to update the school's information

technology systems. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the MPPA representatives who have given up so much of their time to attend meetings, organise events and generally act as messenger between the school and parents. I am very proud to have been involved in the MPPA for the last two years and I am delighted that Sarah Thornhill has agreed to become the new Chair. The MPPA is a great asset to the school, and it will continue to thrive with Sarah at the helm.

- *Robbie Underhill:*
MPPA Chair 2022-23



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GOING FOR GOLD IN CHAPEL CHOIR

It has been an especially exciting year for our Chapel Choir, winning a gold medal at Hereford Performing Arts Festival as well as performing to our local community. Three of our Year 8 Leavers describe 'choir life' at Moor Park.

'The choir rehearse every Tuesday and Wednesday in the school Chapel. We work hard and enjoy singing a wide range of music, from contemporary to liturgical material. Our first performance this year was the Christmas carol service at St. Peters Church in Ludlow. Later in the Lent Term, we entered Hereford Festival singing arrangements of 'When I Grow Up' and 'Bless the Lord my Soul'. There was stiff competition from other schools, but we managed to come away with gold!

We had a great time performing at the Summer Concert at Richard's Castle and it was lovely to sing in front of our friends and family. Being in the choir is fun and it is lovely spending time with children from different age groups. Thanks to Mr Yates, Miss S and Mr Nicholls for all your time, energy and support.'

- By Katie, Isis and Rosie



THE SLEEPY MAY BUG



At 12 o'clock the May Bug flew into a washing line.
"Ow, my wings hurts!" said the May Bug.
"Would you like a wet towel?" asked the washing line.
"Oh no, that's too wet! I'm off!"
Off the May Bug flew.

At 1 o'clock the may bug flew into a little girl called Sophie.
"Ow, my wings hurts!" said the May Bug.
"Would you like a wet wipe and bandage?" asked the little girl.
"Oh no, that's too heavy! I'm off!"
Off the May Bug flew.
At 2 o'clock the May Bug flew into a dog.
"Ow, my wings hurts!" said the May Bug.
"Would you like a sloppy lick?" asked the dog.
"Oh no, that's too slimy! I'm off!"
Off the May Bug flew.

At 3 o'clock the May Bug flew into a chair in the dining room.
"Ow, my wings hurts!" said the May Bug.
"Would you like a plate?" asked the chair.
"Oh no, that's not bendy enough! I'm off!"
Off the May Bug flew.

At 4 o'clock the May Bug flew into a hole.
"Ow, my wings hurts!" said the May Bug.
"Would you like a cosy leaf?" asked the hole.
"Oh no, that's too bendy! I'm off!"
Off the May Bug flew.

At 5 o'clock the may bug flew into a whiteboard in year 1.
"Ow, my wings hurts!" said the May Bug.
"I'm going back to my jar. I'm hungry and it's much safer there!"

This story was inspired by a May Bug, that flew into Class 1 in a rather clumsy way. The children wrote it together.

- By Year 1

One sunny break time in year one, a sleepy May Bug was in a jar.
The children let the May Bug go.
He flew off.

He flew straight in to a tree.
"Ow, my wings hurts!" said the May Bug.
"Would you like a plaster?" asked the tree.
"Oh no, that will hurt when I take it off! I'm off!"
Off the May Bug flew.

At 11 o'clock the May Bug flew into a window.
"Ow, my wings hurts!" said the May Bug.
"Would you like a blanket?" asked the window.
"Oh no, that's too soft for me! I'm off!"
Off the May Bug flew.



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FROGS, TRAINS & BIKES: A YEAR 1 SUMMER

It has been a busy few months for Year 1, who seem to have grown considerably in many ways since they first arrived from Reception. Most have longer legs; many have lost (and grown) teeth and all have blossomed.

During the second half of Lent Term the children explored the topic of houses and homes. We looked at a variety of housing, old and new, from caravans to castles and discussed the attributes of each. A trip to Pembridge in Herefordshire proved rich in timber-framed buildings, including a 16th century covered market and the parish alms houses. It is possible however, that the highlight of the day for the class was calling in to Mrs Phillips' house for a drink and biscuits!

Summer Term was as amazing as ever – with unanimous vote for 'bikes' as the very best part. Allowed to bring into school their bikes, the children of Pre-Prep are free to roam the fields on two (or more) wheels each break time – leaving them exhilarated, red-faced and laughing. Aside from the obvious physical benefits to the children, it is also clear that they benefit emotionally too – and are better able to settle to learning after the time and space to stretch their legs and race around.

Not to be out done by the bikes, were froglets. These unsuspecting amphibians made their way out of the lake and into the long grass – only to be discovered by delighted children, who had endless fun watching them leap about.

Our grounds were the ideal location for the topic of minibeasts. We explored Woodland School with great enthusiasm, looking in the soil, in the air, under bark or within the long grass, leading to many discussions about the habitats and habits of those vital creatures we uncovered. Our trip to the Severn Valley Railway gave us another opportunity to discover new and fascinating creatures as we went pond-dipping, as well as the timeless joy brought about by the huge, hissing steam trains and their glorious whistle.

The Summer Term was rounded off with energy and gusto on Sports Day. Year 1 had enjoyed the afternoon practices with Mr Harrhy, Miss Robertson and Mr Watts – and their practice paid off, as they put everything into their races. Family and siblings cheered on the side-lines, stickers were handed out and everyone collapsed in a heap (albeit briefly) before the afternoon's Summer Fete began.

Year 1 is over for this troupe of terrific children. We hope they'll remember all the fun we've had together as we've learned, played, performed and competed – and we look forward to watching them continue to thrive with Mrs Hill in Year 2.

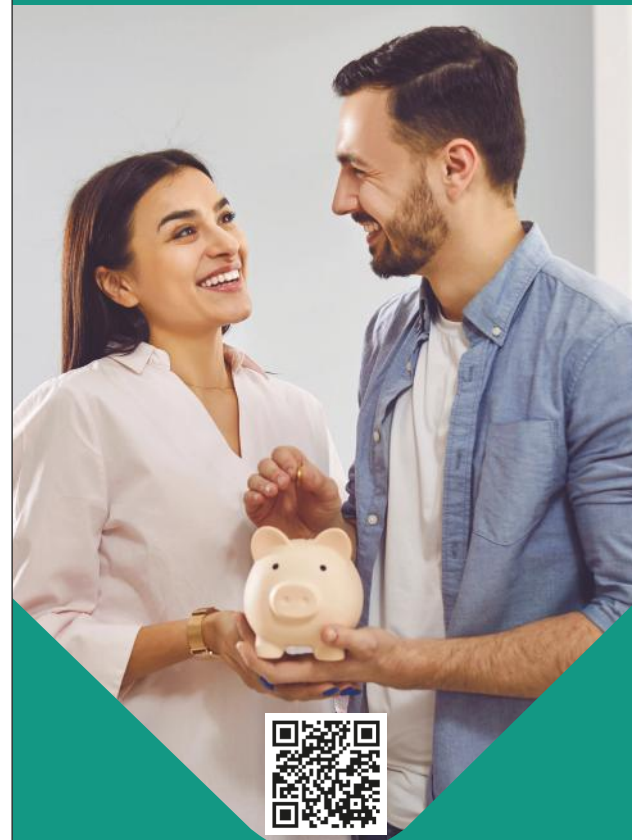
- By Mrs Phillips



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‘O’ IS FOR OUTSIDE

Zigg: O is for outside where we think we learn best,
Away from the classroom and the dreaded spelling test.

Grace: We’ve foraged for elderflower high and low,
And used our green fingers to make our plants grow.

Aby: We’ve litter picked around the whole entire school,
And passed on the message that dropping litter is not cool.

Emmy: Inside, our classroom has housed chicks, tadpoles and hens,
Outside, Casper and Percy set up their lamb and sheep pens.

Dexter: Our trip to Maude’s house was the best we’ve been on,
We released tadpoles, skimmed stones while the sun almost shone.

Elanur: We’ve sketched in the outdoors drawing ferns, trees and flowers,
And listened to Mrs Hill go on about natures repeating patterns for hours!

Hannes: We’ve hunted for mammals by looking for clues
Of footprints, food and lots of poos.

Margot: Amphibian hunting was incredibly fun,
But poor Mrs Hill didn’t manage to find one!

Bee: We crunched through the snow gathering words
For winter poems which Kindergarten heard.

Elliot: Gathering bundles sticks to help us count up in tens
Finding excellent places we call our dens.

Leonora: Running outside as free as can be,
You’ll find us at the end of the day climbing a tree.

Maude: Building boats out of cardboard and trying to race them on water,
Counting flowers and stones to find a quarter.

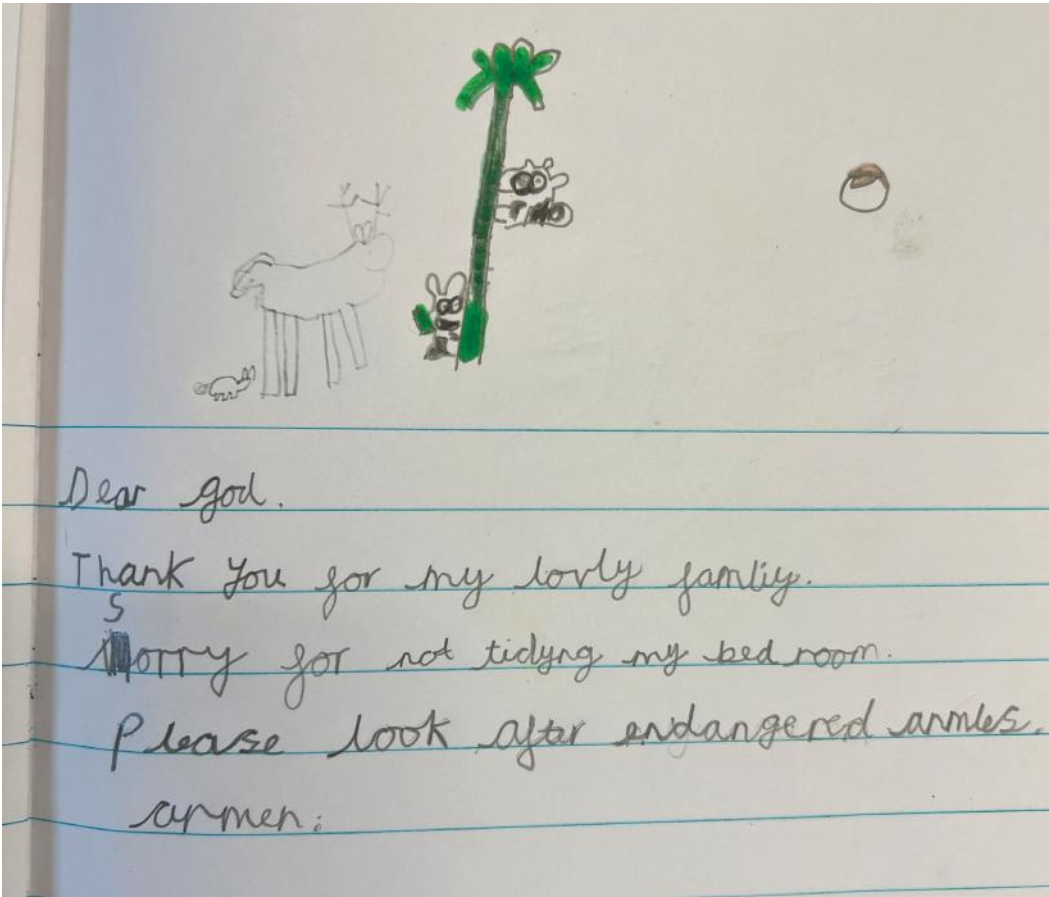
Amy Rae: Making tally charts by counting cars,
We found out red was the most popular colour by far!

All: We love it outside it’s fun to be free,
Biking with friends or climbing a tree,
We’ll be back outside soon to learn in Year 3!

- By Mrs Hill and Year 2



YEAR 2 MAUDE’S PRAYER



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CROSS COUNTRY: WHY I CAN'T DO IT



1. I've hurt my finger.
2. I hurt my foot 4 days ago (but it didn't hurt then).
3. I think I might be sick.
4. I've got a splinter.
5. My Mum said I don't have to do it.
6. Mr Harrhy said I don't have to do it.
7. I've left my kit at home.
8. I caught a cold.
9. It might be slippery.
10. Last time I ran I got stung by some nettles.
11. It's too far.
12. I think I might be 'off games'...

– *By the children
of Moor Park (as
recollected by Matron)*

THE FOUNDERS' FUND

In one of the early school prospectuses, the founding headmasters (Derek Henderson and Hugh Watts) describe Moor Park as a “rehearsal community where no mistakes, or at least a very few, are irredeemable and cannot be put right: and the more different types of people, temperament and ability [we] can accommodate and encourage the better a community and a school it is.”

It is in seeking to extend this ideal of the founding headmasters that the Founders' Fund was officially launched at prize giving in early July. In an era of increasingly difficult economic times and challenging restrictions in state education, it is incumbent on schools like Moor Park to be able to offer the opportunity of a Moor Park education to as many “different types of people” as we can accommodate. To do so we must develop a strong endowment fund – this is one of the aims of the Founders' Fund.

The other is to help the school

keep abreast of technological advances in IT.

Where the founding headmasters referred in their prospectus to “a model railway in the cellars ... an engine club where [the children] take various of them to pieces and then put them together again...” we are considering the impact of AI and how to best to use it to our advantage; what software enhances teaching and learning across the school and how best to apply IT in the classroom without overdoing screen time for children. The Founders' Fund will make a sensible and considered approach to IT advancement possible.

With direct approaches to select initial donors, the fund has approached £200,000 in donations and pledges. We are grateful to our early donors and supporters who have shown such faith in our school. They have done much to help us realise our initial goal of £500,000, which we aim to raise by the end of 2024, our 60th anniversary year.

To raise the balance, we are planning a number of functions over the course of the next 18 months for the entire Moor Park community and alumni. Opportunities will be on offer to donate as little as £5 or as much as one would like.

Stephen Henderson, son of founding headmaster Derek Henderson, is Chair of the Founders' Fund Committee, which has been constituted by the governors to manage the fund. The Fund has its own bank account, the committee reports to the governors and will deliver annual impact reports to donors.

It is an exciting time in Moor Park's history. Please be on the lookout for ways to support this most worthy of causes – and take a look at our Founders' Fund website page linked below:



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THE STAG



A MOMENT WITH STEPHEN HENDERSON



building and was so excited by the lake, the woods and all the playing fields - was this to be my new, wonderful playground forever?

Do you think that your father would agree that the Moor Park fundamental values have not changed much over the past 60 years?

In his later years we often discussed Moor Park and what would happen to it. He always wanted the school to not only survive but to flourish. He knew he and Hugh had set their standards from the very beginning and if they were kept to the school would maintain those values for ever. He went to his grave as a very contented man and his legacy was alive and flourishing.

The school is enjoying a period of growth and has maintained its independence through some difficult times for independent schools. What do you think is the secret to Moor Park's success?

The values of an education have changed little over the last 60 years or so. I genuinely think the success of the school was the buying in by all the Headmasters of what Moor Park was established for. A happy enjoyable education at Moor Park has been one of the utmost important beliefs that were established in 1964. The staff have been fantastic throughout the life of the school. They have all contributed in their different ways, but all have believed in the fundamental values of the school. Some tales from the common room have often been hilarious but

reluctantly cannot be shared!

The Founders' Fund was launched earlier this year. What are your ambitions for this fund?

I was very chuffed when the previous Headmaster asked if I would chair the Founders Fund. I had as you could imagine the most wonderful childhood and have always had a very strong connection/love for the school. My Mother and Father gave their lives to the school for just short of 30 years. I meet a number of old girls and boys who always bring a smile to my face when they describe their times at Moor Park. In fact, I have yet to hear from anyone who doesn't have fond memories. The success of the school is dependent upon its ability to understand change and embrace it. Nothing stays still for long. The Founders Fund will help the school adapt and provide state of the art facilities where they are needed. Just as importantly it will help those who cannot afford the full fees to have the same opportunities as those of us who can somehow pay the fees. If I can help facilitate this in any way then I will be delighted to know that the legacy lives on.

We all love to warm ourselves by the front hall fire each Michaelmas Term – occasionally leaning on the uniquely marked wooden fire surround. Are you willing to admit to leaving a permanent mark on the school as a child?

NO! My only black mark I can recall was being sent to see the Headmaster for talking in the dorm

and going to see my Father rather than Hugh! I had hoped that if I got whacked, my Father would have been a little less painful!

Finally, as a former first-class cricketer, playing for Glamorgan, Worcestershire and Cambridge University - do you have any stand-out memories of playing, or watching cricket at Moor Park?

Most certainly! I remember lots of Fathers' Day games and was always struck by how far the Dads could hit the ball. My son said the same comment when I played against him at his Prep School in the same match as I hit him out of the grounds (it was a juicy long hop at relaxed speed I have to admit)! I do also still to this day remember when I got my first 100 at Moor Park against St Michael's. I still have the gloves that I wore that day. I even remember the proud smile of my Father as he signalled a 4 that took me to a 100. My Father, Hugh Watts (both first class cricketers), and Mike Thomas taught me everything I needed to know. I now wish I had listened to them more often.

A moment with:

Stephen Henderson, son of Moor Park founder Derek Henderson.

Thank you for taking the time to chat with us, Stephen. What are you drinking?

As the hand has just passed 12.00 noon I am having a (small) glass of Pinot Grigio.

We would like to take you back to 1964, the year your father and Hugh Watts purchased the Moor Park estate. What are your very first memories of arriving?

My first memories are actually on the day of arriving at Moor Park. I was amazed at the size of the





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BEING ILL

FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE
MOOR PARK CHRONICLE
NO.1 EASTER 1965.

Being ill at school is much more fun than being ill at home. Everybody, or nearly everybody, has experienced illness at both these places at some time or other and knows exactly what I mean. But being ill at school is not all good fun. I began to feel ill on a Saturday afternoon and was looking forward to the film show later that evening. The name of the film was The Lady Killers, so you can understand why I felt rather reluctant to go to bed. I felt so flipping rotten, however, that I just had to. Anyway, it did not matter much because it turned out that the film was not half as good as I had expected and that I had not missed much.

I was not feeling too good, either, when Mr Rhymer came into the sickroom and asked me to write this article. As I sit here now, puzzling my poor, aching head what to say, it gets another ache each time a thought manages to penetrate it. That is another of the nasty things about being ill at school.

Speaking of nasty things, about the worst is when the curtains are drawn at about one-thirty in the afternoon and I have to take my 'rest' for a whole hour. I never sleep during it; it is even worse than the medicine and that is saying something. But these bad and nasty things are only the first and worse part, and the good things that follow just about cancel them out.

Most people think that the best thing about being sick at school is 'getting out of work'. Having, however, very recently received remarkably pleasant results of a certain examination, I am not particularly worried about this subject. What is nice is just having a little peace and quiet from the rowdy ruffians who inhabit the floor below me. It is also very pleasant not to be woken up by the pack of unruly ragamuffins who charge, every morning, as loudly and hard as they can, down the top corridor at break-neck speed.

Maybe I should not think it pleasant, but I do, when the healthy boys stand at the door and camouflage their jealousy and envy by shouting 'fake', or 'you're not ill', at the sorely afflicted. It is rather fun, too, to get away from the rush of everyday life and just quietly read. Not that I enjoy reading 'Dan Dare's Space Annual'! At first, everybody sympathises with you. This I enjoy immensely. But pretty soon they do not seem to care and the sympathy



wears off. One has a sense of luxury when brought breakfast, lunch, tea and supper in bed, and indeed it is quite luxurious: a big bed, a radiator right beside it, a bedside lamp, armchairs in the room. All these things help to give the impressions of luxury, but it is suddenly dashed when the Matron strides in and thrusts a revolting pill down your throat the size of a point two-two bullet.

I shall not go on to compare this with sickness at home for obvious reasons, but here is an account of life in the school sick-room, and if you have not already resided there I very strongly advise you to try it.

- Michael Leyden (written during the early stages of mumps).



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KIPP NORBURY

We were proud and delighted to hear that two Moor Park alumni have been made Chapel Prefects at Malvern College.

Isabel and Kipp, both of whom left Moor Park in 2019, are clearly flourishing at Malvern College and we couldn't be happier to hear from them.

Kipp has also been made Head of the Combined Cadet Force at Malvern College, an accolade that further evidences his attributes of leadership, responsibility, self-reliance, teamwork and perseverance.

"Moor Park matured me and gave me the confidence to do things that I never thought I would be able to do."

- Kipp Norbury, Moor Park alumnus, Head of CCF and Chapel Prefect at Malvern College

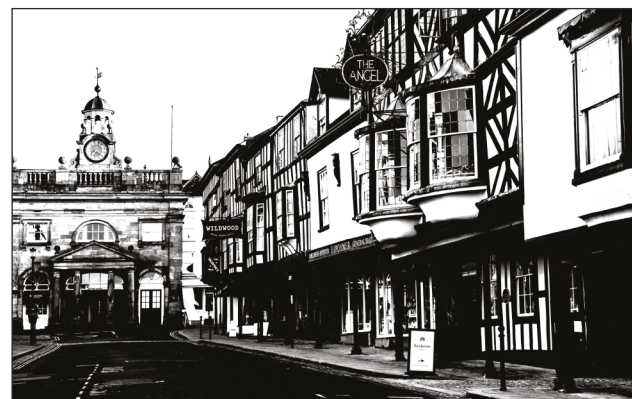
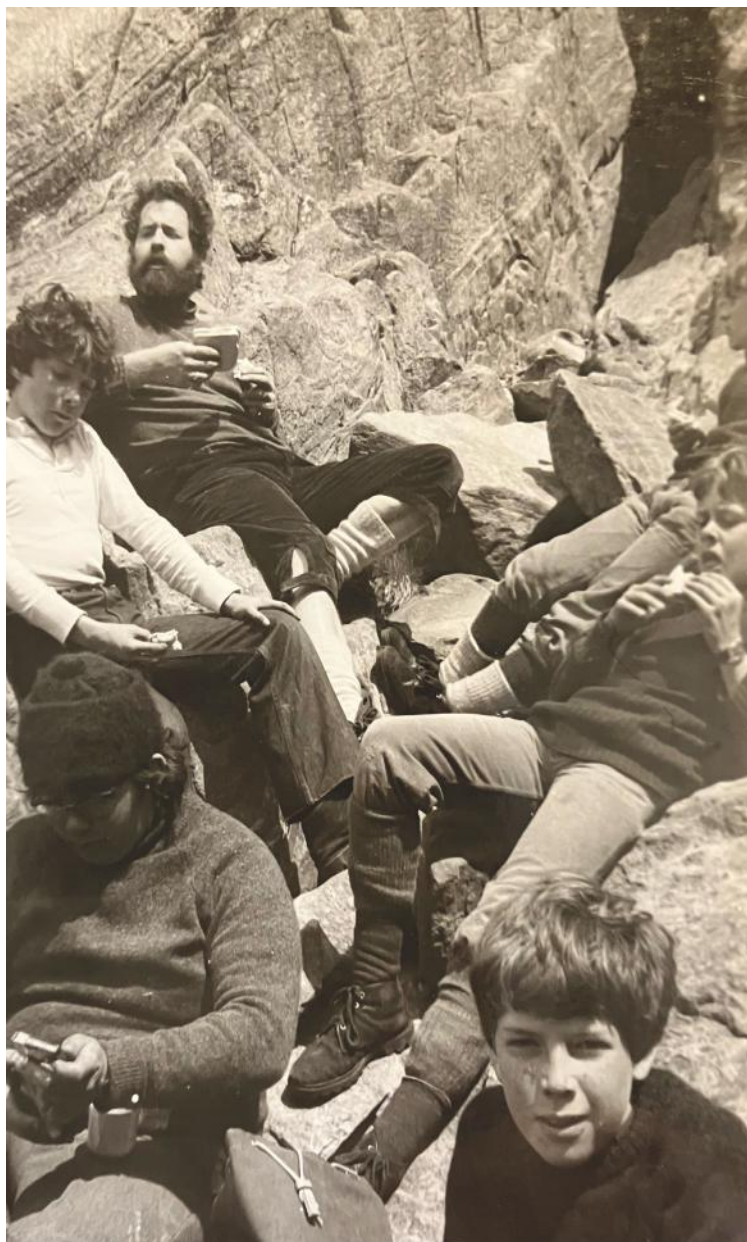
KEN JUDD - OBITUARY

Ken devoted 41 years of his life to Moor Park, and for much of that time he was down in the cellars, before 'escaping' in 2008. He immersed himself in all aspects of school life – not only as the 'woodwork' Master, but also as the outdoor man, no adventure too small to undertake. Then there were the Saturday night musical concerts, with Ken strumming his guitar to bopping boarders. My first experience with Ken was den-making in the woods – the kids were in their element, as was he.

He was one of the loveliest of people to know, a giant of a man, who was both gentle and thoughtful. In semi-retirement, he continued to work on the estate in his workshop (constructed with his own hands) with his son, Daniel. He always had time for people, and I cannot thank him enough for the care and interest he showed to my family.

He is sorely missed, and our thoughts are very much with his wife, Merle, son, Daniel, daughter-in-law, Meggan, and granddaughter, Olivia. They are and will remain very much part of the Moor Park family.

- Rupert Crew



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MY MOOR PARK MEMORIES

Nervous is how I felt as a nearly 11 year old arriving at Moor Park at the start of summer term in 1985 (yes, I know, that was a VERY long time ago!). In fact, apart from the lack of magic, I found myself reliving those memories when I watched Harry Potter first arrive at Hogwarts.

That first term went past in a blur. Learning the routines of life as a full boarder, meeting new friends from around the world and roaming the grounds on weekends filled my time and my mind during those first few weeks.

And then at the start of the Michaelmas Term, I was introduced to RUGBY. Soon after, I was playing blind side flanker for the 1st XV, finding that I had a reckless propensity for tackling anyone low. We won most games, despite being smaller than many of our opposing teams. Rugby has remained a key part of my life ever since, although it is a lot more difficult to watch or be part of the game since moving to the USA. My sixteen-year-old American-born son and I continue to disagree on the merits of American Football verses those of my favourite sport. However,

my family and I live in a town that has one of the best American Football (pronounced 'Mmmerican Futbaall') college teams in the country - the University of Michigan. We are proud season tickets holders to their games and proud parents of our daughter, who attends that university.

And speaking of education, I know it is the excellent teaching and learning experiences I had at Moor Park that provided the springboard to the life I have now. The strong foundation in Science and Mathematics, with the breadth of liberal arts education (although I am still not sure about Ancient Greek!), was instrumental in my graduating from Imperial College with a Masters in Mechanical Engineering after attending Kings School Worcester.

My overriding memories of Moor Park will always be the intensity of the rugby, the beauty of the grounds, the camaraderie with my fellow students and the robustness of the education. I feel privileged to have attended a such a special school which deeply influenced who I have become.

- Tom Howell

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We've many old photos of Moor Park over the years in our archives. Can you recognise yourself or a chum in either of these two group shots? We wonder what those children are doing now?





Most successful of all this year has been the creation of Library Monitor roles, which has led to a very productive year in the Library.

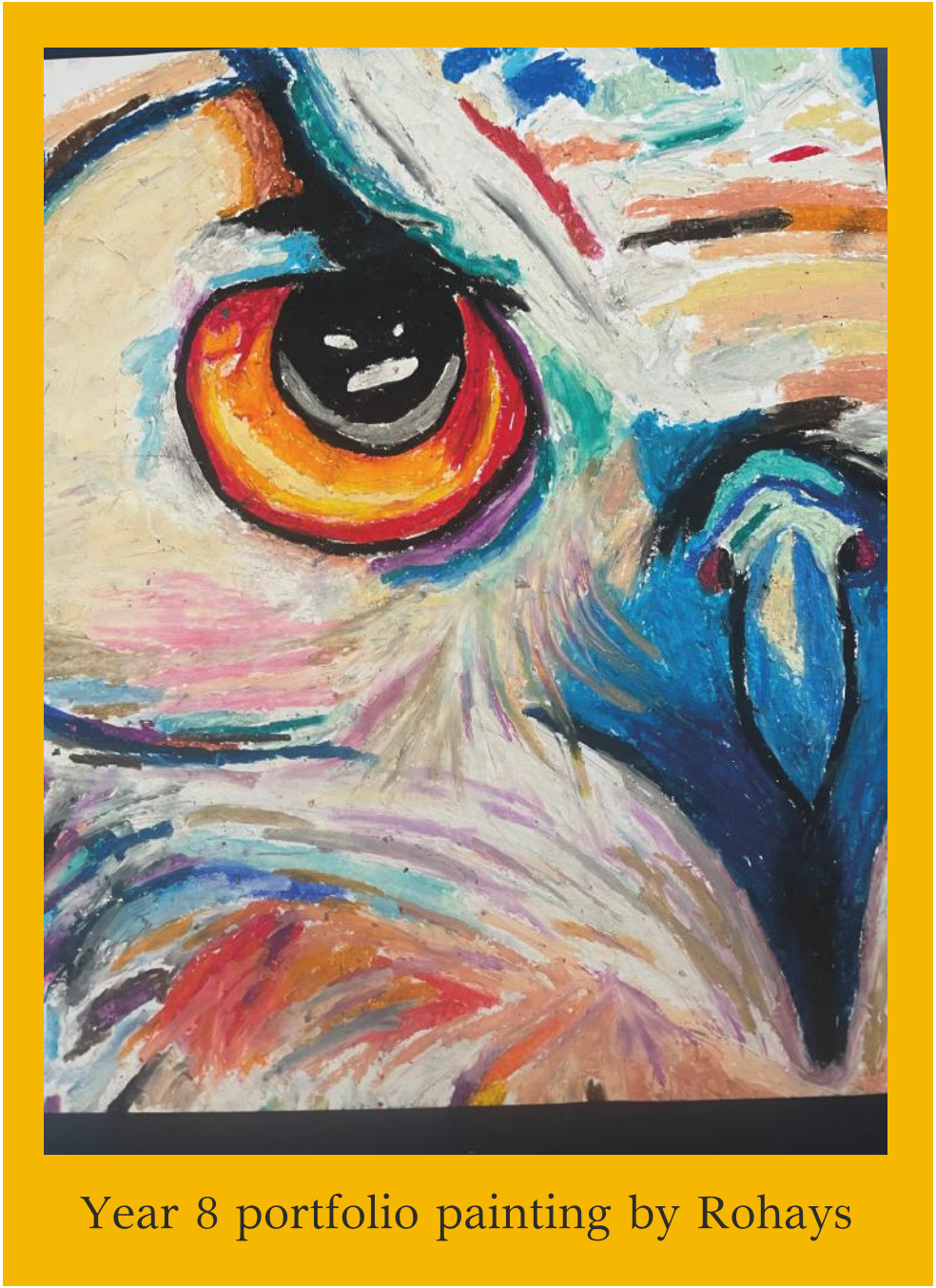
The picture-book area, for our younger readers, has been sorted and tidied creating a welcoming space for relaxing and reading.

In the main library room, deftly guided by the knowledge of those that use the library, a thorough inventory has been conducted. Duplicate titles and books that hadn't been borrowed for some time have been taken off the library shelves with a view to finding new homes for them.

This immediately lightened the Library; our lovely books are no longer squashed onto shelves, making it much easier and less intimidating for children to browse and explore.

It has also led to the creation of a new mini library in Sickbay. This marvellous idea was suggested by one of the Library Monitors and is wonderful evidence that what we hope to achieve by appointing Library Monitors, namely that the children of Moor Park feel an ownership of, represented by and invested in "their" Library, is working.

We are continuing with this theme and formalising other mini libraries around the school; moving some of the duplicate titles and other books to more appropriate locations. So far the Library in the Girls'



Year 8 portfolio painting by Rohays

Dormitory has had a facelift and work is continuing on the Library in the Boys' Dormitory.

Ultimately, all books in the library and our mini libraries will be catalogued and our catalogue will indicate where each book can be found as well as providing the bibliographic and subject details of all our lovely books.

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- By Caroline Martin



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FROM FIELD TO FORK AND MUCH MORE: SUMMER TERM WITH YEAR 3



Year 3 began this year with a rush to get vegetables planted. As part of Science, we analysed the soil type, and prepared it thoroughly for our plants. We germinated some seeds in class, using glass jars allowing us to observe as the root pushed through the tough seed coat. Here we proved plants need light, water and oxygen to germinate. We planted our new seedlings outdoors and looked after them along with other vegetables including carrots, broad beans, tomatoes, courgettes and lettuce. At the end of term, we took a few seedlings home to replant, but left the majority to see how they would mature over the summer. Year 3 won't mind a seeing a little bit of rain over the summer at least – and we also hope they enjoy tasting the fruits (and veg) of their labour.

In English we looked at non-fiction writing. Mastering non-fiction comes with its own set of skills and strategies. We learned about the features often used when structuring non-fiction and practised using this technique writing letters, play programmes and reviews.

The icing on the cake was writing the lines for our play 'The Gingerbread Girl' and performing it to our families in the outdoor theatre, in the Secret Garden. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon and the children performed wonderfully, buoyed on by the laughter and applause of the audience.

In Maths we looked at money and enjoyed using fake money to find change when role-playing shopping. We also looked at time and shape. We particularly enjoyed taking shapes apart to investigate their nets, and counting their faces, edges and vertices.

We finished the year with an all-action trip to Aberystwyth beach to discuss coastal feature such as wave cut platforms, the formation of bays, constructive and destructive waves and man-made sea defences. More importantly to race their teacher across from one groin to the next, eat chips on the pier and ice-cream at the top of Constitutional Hill, before catching the funicular train back to sea level.

- By Miss Taylor



YEAR 3: GEOGRAPHY AND ICE CREAM IN ABERYSTWYTH

"Best trip ever! Well, apart from that time we went to the soft play" said Edward as we got back on the bus after a long, slightly damp day at Aberystwyth beach.

The children learnt about erosion and looked at how bays are formed. We saw wave-cut platforms and the clear layers in sedimentary rock. We also investigated the man-made sea defences and discussed how we can prevent further erosion.

We had a chat about longshore drift, identified different parts of the shoreline and looked at the evidence left by constructive waves. On a side note, the class also ate chips on the pier, rode the funicular railway and had an ice-cream. Not to mention the incredible view from the top of Constitutional Hill that we enjoyed together.

Best trip ever (well, almost)!

- By Miss Taylor

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WHAT WE LEARNT THAT ISN'T IN THE CURRICULUM

We know what Moor Park is backwards.
I learnt how to open a banana properly.
I can blow up an ant (but Mr D says I shouldn't).
NOON is the same forwards, backwards and upside down.
I can make a sausage roll (push it down a hill).
I made a snow angle in Maths.
We named the rheas – Dia and Chris.
I can't pick myself up in a carrier bag.
I learnt a new language – tortoise.
Penny can wear her shoes in Franc's shoes.
We can play 'spoof'.
We must not write our names inside the desks – but we did! So, like the other older children, we can find our old desk in years to come.

- By the 12 children in Year 4



TABLE MONSTER

There's a monster on the table,
No one else can see it there.
I really wish it would go away,
'Cause all it does is stare.
When I sit down at the table to do some
Drawing or some art,
It makes me really confused,
So I don't know where to start.

I find it really hard to sit down and do some work,
My mum said this monster story's driving her berserk!
One morning I said to Dad,
'That monster's driving me mad'.
Now let's get rid of that table –
It really cannot stay,
I don't have to see that monster
Every single day.

I make up stories of this monster,
Tales of distant lands.
But I'm the only one in the world who really
Understands.
He's my imaginary friend,
The only one I see,
And although he is invisible,
He's visible to me.

- By Phoebe (Year 4)

A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO FRANCE – FRENCH TRIP 2023



After three years of interruption from COVID, it was great to be able to plan another French trip. It was, at the same time, both exciting and challenging as we were trying a new location and this year, the trip was open to both Year 7 and Year 8 (a total of 46 children).

We spent the week in Château Beaumont, Chailland, which is situated 20 minutes from my hometown of Mayenne. The food was good, the evening activities were great fun and all the staff at the Chateau were friendly, helpful and great company. The staff who had been on the previous trips certainly appreciated not to have to do all the shopping, cooking and cleaning!

As in previous years, visits during the week included le Mont Saint-Michel, St James American Military Cemetery, Pontmain, Jublains, St-Suzanne, Jardin Aquatique d'Evron, Lactopole, Ange-Michel fun parc, Hyper U supermarket, Pegasus Bridge museum and the British Military Cemetery of Ranville, all names that should bring memories to the past Year 7 children between 2003 and 2019. The children were great company and a real credit to the school. Staff at the Château, as well as our coach driver Craig were impressed by their politeness and good behaviour and it was so pleasing to hear the same kind of comments from staff in other places, or from members of the public.

A big thank you to both Mrs Oliver and to Miss Sewell for another successful trip - and to Mr Harrhy who joined the 'dream team' for the first time, and is now part of the French Trip family (even calling my mother in law "Mamie"). We were also delighted to have taken with us our Ecuadorian Gap student JJ who was great fun, amazing with the children and took some fabulous photographs.

It was so good to be back to normal and such a pleasure to lead an 18th successful Moor Park French Trip. Next year's trip is already booked for Years 6 and 7 - be prepared for a lot of fun and a great time!

'It was a blast!' – Isis

'An experience I will remember for sure.' - Mati

- By Monsieur Collin



LET'S GET CREATIVE AT MALVERN COLLEGE

The Faculty of Art & Design at Malvern College welcomed our lucky Year 5 pupils for a Creative Day in the Summer Term – a super way for our children to experience senior school life and be inspired to get involved.

Our students rotated around the faculty, trying their hand at a range of creative techniques including jewellery making, Computer Aided Design, screen printing, making a pinhole camera and creating iron-on designs for cotton tote bags.

They also had lunch, which by all accounts was a delicious chicken curry with “the best naan bread EVER”!

Isobel Barratt, a Malvern College Chapel Prefect and former Moor Park pupil, gave up her time to help the children with their creative endeavours – a really lovely gesture and lovely to meet our 2019 ‘Leaver’ once again.

Year 5 returned to Moor Park filled with tales of their favourite activity as well as those objects they had made – beautiful mementos of a wonderful day at Malvern College.

- By Mrs Morgan and Mr Conway

YEAR 5 SCIENCE: AN EDUCATION

Helping Year 5 uncover the way the world works (or the way they think it works) in Science has been an education – and not just for them! Year 5 are not a placid bunch. They love a challenge – and don't leave them bored or they'll eat you alive!

We explored the outer reaches of space and how our galaxy was formed. A flat earth believer presented his ideas via video link on the formation of the earth and why it can't possibly be round. They left the class more convinced than ever that the earth is round, but they loved the idea that Antarctica might just be a super-large ice wall that surrounds the earth and stops us all falling off.

ChatGPT proved that AI can write a summary of the formation of the planets and the galaxy equally convincingly as either a 10-year-old or

a seasoned astronomer. Except ChatGPT wrote the 12-line paragraph in less than a minute – and provided three different paragraphs on three similar queries. How we deal with AI must be a big question for us.

We zoned in on how animals have adapted to survive by stalking the Moor Park deer to postulate why their bellies are lighter in colour than their backs. Theories came quick and fast, about why their tails pop up and show a white underside when they run - and we thought much about the rogue gene that resulted in the hairy deer of Mortimer Forest.

We even (gasp) went to the library to discover more about adaptations – and found that books hold an awfully large amount of information. The cactus proved the most fascinating example of adaptation in plants, with the reasons for its waxy skin and needles

proving enthralling. Look it up in a library if you don't know – don't Google it.

Things turned suitably scientific when we started exploring mixtures and solutions. The Bunsen burners, magnets and mortar-and-pestles were the highlights. Solving the puzzle of how to separate iron filings from a rock salt mixture wasn't easy – but blue tissue paper is a clue.

Just as we started working out why different substances dissolve at different rates under different conditions, the year came to an end. Much was learnt (I'd like to think), fun was had, beakers were broken, and a mess was made. All in the pursuit of science – just as it should be.

- By Mr Brady



THE GREAT ESCAPE – YEAR 6’S OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed an outstanding couple of days at the Great Escape in June. They enthusiastically welcomed two boys from Abberley Hall, who will be joining them next year, and settled on the first day to some outdoor group challenges and games.

The children had a very happy first day, topped off by a visit from Mr Brady, burgers and chips for dinner and a super ‘wild’ swim to cool off. It was SUCH a delight to see the children so happy. Theo was elected ‘kindest child of the day’ by his peers, which they insisted was well-deserved.

The night was spent under canvas – and after an action-packed day, there weren’t too many complaints at bedtime. In fact, the children slept beyond 7am – possibly suggestive of some whispering after lights-out, but still pretty impressive!

Day 2 was another brilliant day. Everyone, except for Miss D, had a ride on the 520m Black Hawk Zip Line – one of England’s longest zip lines that can reach speeds of up to 50km/h. There were one or two hesitations but every child overcame any trepidation and it was an exhilarating challenge!

All in all, it was a terrific trip, with perfect weather and loads of fun. Our host Mark Willis was really impressed with the children’s attitude and behaviour, and we all returned to school exhausted but with many amazing memories and new friendships forged.

THANKS to the brilliant staff who joined Team Great Escape, Jake and Louisa, who were fabulous. Thanks also to The Great Escape Company for the best outdoor adventure we could have asked for!

- By Miss Donaldson



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A LETTER TO SPAIN FROM MOOR PARK

Hello, we are Micaela and Matilde, we come from Spain. We have been at Moor Park for one year. It has been a great experience because of all the kindness around the school. Every teacher understands and helps you get through the year and it's a great opportunity for everyone, and a chance to explore a new culture. They are all also very empathetic, which is a great virtue.

Now the best bit is boarding. Boarding is when you sleep at school with all your friends. It is also where you have the most memories. You put your clothes in a big drawer underneath your bed. Another thing we love is that you learn a completely different language. At first it is quite difficult to speak a different language, but you get used to it.

A veces te da ganas de hablar espanol pero aprendes a aguantarte.

Sometimes you really miss your parents and family, but your friends always help you through it. The weekends are really fun, especially in the Summer Term.

¡Te lo has a pasar genial! Al principio te has a querer vite a espana pero al final ho te has a poder ir.

- *By Micaela and Matilde Domecq Arias*

.....

A REVIEW OF OLIVER



ENCORE! Please sir, we want some more! What a triumph! What a treat!

Mrs Jenkins has once again led her troop of Year 8s through the ups and downs of performance preparation - to include herself coming a cropper out of the Henderson Hall and a false fire alarm just before opening night!

The hall was buzzing with excitement as it filled with the trademark gusto of Moor Park singing voices (thanks, Miss S) and the clapping and stomping of beautifully choreographed dancing (thanks, Izzy).

Mr Pearson conjured up a spectacular London Bridge backdrop; there was even a life-size coffin into which poor Grace (Mrs Sowerberry) was ungracefully but hilariously dumped!

From the appreciative audience came oohs and aahs at the moving singing of Oliver (Katie) and the demise of the stunningly performed Nancy (Isis), chuckles and giggles at the cheeky artful Dodger (Bertie)

HOW MY LESSONS IN SCIENCE HAVE CHANGED WITH MISS DONALDSON

In science we learn in many different ways, like photosynthesis and role plays. While learning about reactivity, we did a fun activity. I gave a pound, to learn about sound. I was in desperation, to learn about respiration. We learnt about solutions and mixtures, using some pictures. To learn about chemical reactions, we did some actions. We used lots of courses, to learn about forces. While learning about diaphragms we did lots of screaming, (but we were actually learning). Not a book in sight, we feel we learnt it right.

- *By Amelia and Katrina*



and hysterical courtship of Mr and Mrs Bumble (Linchy and Rohays), and gasps and boos at the suitably evil Bill Sykes (Paddy). They were mesmerised by the masterful performance of Fagin (Henry W) and his rough but charming gang of thieves and joyfully clapped and sang along to Oom Pah Pah!

The overseas students added a unique flavour to the classic English Victorian script with their charming accents. Bravo!

The sense of spirit backstage, as the Year 8s supported, encouraged and congratulated each other, mirrored the togetherness of Fagin's gang front stage, and was a joy to see!

Along with their end of term dinner and adventures on camp, there couldn't be a better way to close the curtains on their magical time at Moor Park!

- *Liv Thomas*



YEAR 8 HAGLEY PLACE

Our Year 8 have been striking up new, inter-generational friendships over the past term during regular visits to Hagley Place Care Home. One of our former bus drivers is a retired mental health nurse who runs ball skills sessions at Hagley Place with patients suffering from Alzheimer's.

The outcomes of such connections are felt by both the young and elderly, and our pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their visits, learning much about the lives of the ladies and gents they have met as well as sharing their own opinions about the world.

'It was really interesting listening to all the stories from when they were little.' Sophia

Many residents do not have regular contact with their own grandchildren and might otherwise miss out on such relationships – similarly many of our children have little contact with the older generation. The social interaction is particularly valuable for otherwise isolated elderly patients – who are also more likely to get involved in the activities, including art and ball skills.

During the pandemic we weren't able to make such valuable, face-to-face connections in our wider community, and we've been so pleased that Hagley Place Care Home invited us to be part of this very special project.



SUMMER SEASON WITH THE 2NDS (U13 BOYS)



We had some close matches this season and our win against The Downs Malvern was particularly memorable. The team has played a mix of pairs and 11-a-side cricket, and the boys have adapted well to the different forms of the game. We have also had soft and hard ball games to allow every boy a chance to represent the school, no matter what their skill level.

The boys have all made some improvement as individuals and, as a team, they have played the game in a very good spirit (no dead ball stumpings here!). The overseas pupils have also adapted very quickly to the game and made a big contribution to our performances. Well done to all the boys who have played for the 2nds.

- By Mr Conway

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: BUILDING BRIDGES

The DT department are looking to shift the focus of projects to the great outdoors next year and take advantage of the opportunities presented by our lovely grounds. Year 7 and 8 will be involved in constructing a bridge near the lake, based on the design of the mathematical bridge spanning the River Cam, and will also be involved in the construction of a wildlife hide by the lake. Planning for these projects has begun this Term.

We would also like to site various animal boxes (for birds, hedgehogs and bats) around the grounds and use these to assist the study of local wildlife in Science lessons. Some of these boxes have been constructed by our children in Year 4 – all helping to make some really positive additions to our school grounds.

There have, of course, been plenty of chances to engage in workshop-based activities, with projects including making board games, a study of Weobley village houses and the construction of Da Vinci-inspired catapults.

The very youngest DT pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been introduced to the tools and techniques of the workshop in their exploratory sessions, with our Year 8 pupils offering their time to help ignite an interest and passion for Design Technology that we hope will last throughout their time at Moor Park, and beyond.

- By Mr Conway



THE 1ST BOYS CRICKET

The 1st squad were a tremendous group of boys to coach. They had the right balance of having fun but also being competitive.

The season began with our first game against Abberley on the Astro due to wet weather. Despite this we played well, posting a defendable score. With some excellent early season bowling from Tom, we competed well but Abberley made the score with an over to go.

As the weather improved so too did our cricket. Wins against Bedstone and Lucton followed.

Bowling and fielding highlight of the season came against Packwood with some stunning bowling from Moor Park. Sadly, a thunderstorm cut an exciting game short. Mid-June meant the Year 8 leavers had their opportunity to play against their parents which they did with a tight win in an evening game. Well done the girls and boys who played.

As the Year 8 play loomed, we headed to Abberley one last time. Abberley beat us convincingly in the first game. We then had a limited overs match, which we won on the last ball. A lovely afternoon of cricket at a school which will be greatly missed on the circuit.

Bertie captained the side very well this term with Canó, our Spanish wicket keeper who kept brilliantly considering it was his first season. Many Year 7 boys performed and improved greatly, and this bodes well for next year. I am confident that those children leaving Moor Park will remain passionate about their cricket and will enjoy future successes in their next school.

- By Mr Martin

GIRLS GAMES: “THIS GIRL CAN”



It has been an amazing first year for me at Moor Park, with lots of highs from Hockey to Netball and then onto Cricket. I spoke with the girls to get feedback how they have found the sporting experience this season.

“We have learnt sport is a community” Matilde.

Summarising in three words:

1. CONFIDENCE - It has been noticed that girls from all ages at Moor Park have improved self-esteem and confidence through playing different sports and seeing themselves visibly improving.

“It’s okay to try new things and push yourself out of your comfort zone” Grace

2. DETERMINATION - Let go of fear and failure. We have encouraged girls to develop an understanding of leadership skills, team ethic and teamwork through different team sports. We focus on success and embrace the challenges that we may face by making

sure they learn in a positive, fun environment but also by setting realistic personal and achievable goals.

“Having the opportunity to speak so our voices are heard by sharing our own ideas” Katrina

3. FRIENDSHIPS - The girls have learnt that sport has the power to bring people together and this has been demonstrated in matches. Games sessions allow the girls to bond over their experiences, work hard together and compete in a healthy way against each other.

“Sport means companionship and friendship, meeting new people and being able to mix with others”. Rosie

I am very passionate about creating more of a happy sporting environment for every girl and to help them reach their full potential. I believe that sport should be about encouraging and motivating young people to participate in physical activities that they can continue into their adult lives. Developing role

models for girls is key. Naturally, this includes encouraging the girls to learn from successful sportswomen. It is evident that female sport is on the rise, with ECB promoting the Women’s Ashes series heavily alongside the men’s tests, and not forgetting the media support of the Lionesses, when they won the UEFA Women’s EUROS back in 2022. There are many more events yet to come including Wimbledon, the Netball World Cup, FIFA Women’s World Cup and Golf Women’s US Open - and I am sure we will see more awesome performances. There’s a real momentum around women’s sport at the moment, and it’s great to be involved and give every girl at Moor Park more opportunities, so they can believe in themselves.

Lastly, we want to say a big thank you to all the girls for their hard work. I look forward to coaching them all in the next academic year.

- By Miss Robertson



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THE COLTS A CRICKETING SUMMER

This year’s cohort of Year 5 and 6 have had very little, if any, previous hard ball cricket experience. We knew that this was going to be a tough journey for our boys, with some challenges along the way, and that they might be at a disadvantage in comparison to some opposition teams. Despite this, we agreed that we would play hard ball cricket (where the opposition allowed) both in matches and training, to begin learning new skills and to grow in confidence.

With the use of our nets, we were able to get some valuable practice time, and this helped to dispel some of the fears and perceptions about hard ball cricket that the boys had. Our bowling has improved to the point where everybody had an opportunity to take wickets and indeed, we saw some success in matches.

Our fielding was a little below par as we did not have the opportunity to practice as much, as we concentrated on batting and bowling to try and get the game going, however the boys threw themselves into it and balls were caught. Batting was still our biggest challenge, with only a few mastering the transition from soft to hard ball. I am sure with a bit of work during the winter months we will see further improvement.

Overall, I have been really impressed with the efforts the boys have put in this term, evidenced in our last game. A fantastic victory against an inexperienced team showed just how far we had come and gave the boys a huge boost in confidence. If this season has achieved one thing, it has thrown the boys together on a roller-coaster of emotions – thereby cementing friendships. They have survived the ride as a team, which is a credit to their tenacity, resilience, and camaraderie.

Lastly, a huge thank you to the boys who gave everything and the support from their parents.

- By Mr Harrhy



CRICKET SEASON WITH COLTS B



I hope the kids have had fun over the season; cricket is not necessarily their thing (at least not for the time being), but they have had a few cricketing moments along the way. They have all shown improvement in some aspect of the game, but most importantly they have stuck and worked together. The nature of the game has allowed the kids to catch up on important matters of school life, wonder at the vagaries of staff temperaments whilst oblivious to low flying cricket balls and the telepathic screams of ‘you get the ball!’. It is said cricket is baseball on Valium, but for us it was Temazepam. Half an hour on one’s feet was enough to reduce some to an unconscious heap on the ground, whilst others crafted daisy chains.

When it has come to batting, many of the players took up the mantle of ‘run everything’ which brought fun and excitement, but also taught them that risk-taking can pay off. Some ran before the ball left the bowler ... Dima, Sasha and Theo were great proponents of this and consequently made numerous runs.

Bowling was an area that they all improved in, although consistency was their Achilles heel (but an important life skill). Chaz, our overseas compatriot, was bowling well by the end, but it was Lewis who was our wicket taker.

Fielding was a potluck adventure, and as Vivian said in Pretty Woman, the ball could be ‘a slippery sucker,’ unless you were Danya who made the catch of season, instinctively catching a rocket of a ball, much to his amazement and worry.

The team was valiantly led by Rab and Seb, who loved their roles and showed empathy in their decision-making.

For us, success isn’t measured by victories (though we did register a couple of wins) but by how far we came (which I feel has been a long way) and that we turned out to play even though we could have been elsewhere.

I had fun and I hope the kids did too.

- By Mr Crew

PEOPLE WE WILL MISS



Moor Park is not just a school, it is family. I can remember the first couple of days and how overwhelming everything was, but having all the kids and staff members around, Moor Park very quickly became a second home to me. The view and the grounds are fantastic and there were so many possibilities on offer.

But what makes Moor Park so special are all the people who love it and give everything to make this school outstanding.

I am incredibly thankful to be a part of such a great thing and Moor Park and its people will always have a special place in my heart.

- Louisa Strump



I cannot put into words how thankful I am for the amazing year I had at Moor Park. The children and the members of staff are all incredibly kind, helpful and definitely made this school feel like home to me. They are what makes this place so special.

Thank you so much for everything you have done for me!

I will keep the memories I have made during this year in my heart forever and I am immensely grateful that I can call you all part of my Moor Park Family.

- Katherina Kutzim



Moor Park is amazing. But not only because of the beautiful school, classrooms, lessons and landscapes but more because of the kids, parents, teachers and all of the staff members.

More than a school, Moor Park feels like family! So keep it up and look after each other so that it can continue to be as incredible and amazing as it is.

Thank you everyone for being so welcoming, friendly and nice. Thanks for this insane experience!

Gonna miss you all but hope to visit soon!

- Jose Joaquin Riofrio: July 2023



Mr Yates has been with us over the last two years and has made a real impact on the school in this short time. Leading both Drama and Music at the same time is not an easy task and he has undertaken it with brio, introducing rotating timetables so that children do not always miss same lessons and looking after our peripatetic teachers.

Most memorable for our pupils though, is surely Mr Yates' talent at writing and arranging songs and music – something he does with astonishing skill, wit, and musicality. We've all enjoyed the tunes and lyrics from Pre-Prep assemblies to the extraordinary Year 6 production of 'Jamie Dillon – The Musical' (written and arranged by Mr Yates).

Additionally, the children have benefitted from Mr Yates' indefatigable energy – whether in Performing Arts lessons, in play rehearsals or elsewhere around the grounds, we will miss hearing the laughter and singing of a troupe under Mr Yates' command.

Mr Yates' energy, dedication and sense of fun will be greatly missed here at Moor Park. From all those children whose confidence and performance skills have been nurtured and grown in his care – and from the staff who have worked with and alongside him – we say a huge thank you.

HEAD BOY AND GIRL SPEECH

Good Morning Mr Rodgers Coltman, Mr Brady, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Speech Day 2023. As many of you know, for the lucky ones, our time at Moor Park began in Tick Tock, where under the loving, watchful eye of Mrs Marshall and her team, we learnt some important life skills: how to use the loo properly, how to hold a pencil, how to wipe one's nose. I am sure the ones of us that graced Tick Tock with our presence will remember it as homely, wonderful environment, where are formative years were shaped by love, kindness and joy. Thank you Mrs Marshall and your Tick Tock staff, who have done, and continue to do a superb job.

As we moved up the years we were taught by a number of brilliant teachers and had some notable experiences. Year 1 brought much joy and laughter and Year 2 saw us thrive and develop under the beady eye of Mrs O, who would cartwheel around the fountain endlessly, due to our times tables being correct.

It is lovely, as Y8's, to see the Pre-Prep children learning to ride their bikes, challenging themselves on the same banks that were once the obstacles we took on to test our own confidence, all those years ago. Now, under the brilliant Mrs Phillips and her team, Pre-Prep stands out to us all as a solid foundation on which the step up to the Prep school naturally comes. To Mrs Phillips and all the Pre-Prep staff, thank you for those solid, irreplaceable years of consistency and care.

As we went up through the Prep school, we came under the care and all-time best nicknamer in the world, Mr D, and we started boarding in the Tree House, loved and cared for by Mrs Duffield. Endless games of 'I went to the shop and bought', watching 'You've Been Framed' and Josh Gardener constantly losing a number of his rabbit teddies. This then called for a search party, lasting half the night and which would end in a happy reunion when Josh found his beloved teddy...under his pillow. And who could forget Moose's famous Friday fish and chip dance, a dance it is rumoured, he is still asked to do to this very day. Mr and Mrs D gave us an amazing introduction to the boarding life of Moor Park and it has stayed with all of us, who were lucky enough to share those times with you both. Thank you.

As we progressed through the Prep school, the Covid pandemic became a difficult time to navigate, but Moor Park went above and beyond the call of duty to support us and as we know, did not miss a beat.

Year 7 and 8 saw us at the top of the Prep school and this meant setting a fine example to the younger children. I'm sure that the water fight that Rosie, Isis and Adre had on dorms with wet, blue paper towels is the kind of example we're referring too. Or indeed, Grace jumping off the top bunk on dorms and making kindling of one of the other beds:

Grace: 'I don't know what happened, I just sat on it and it broke..

Staff Member: 'Really Grace, or were you bouncing on the bed?'

Grace: 'I wasn't bouncing ON the bed, I landed on the bed'

Staff Member: 'Yes Grace, but from where...?'

'The top bunk... replied Grace.

This general destruction of the dorms leads us nicely onto some key players in the boarding house. Marianne and Jane whose unfortunate job it is to look after the girls and boys wings. We do are best to keep things tidy, but this year has proven difficult for these wonderful ladies, as more often than not, we seem to think the floor has replaced our lockers (of course this is aimed at some rather than others). We are eternally grateful for all you have done and thank you hugely for looking after us.

To Dipp and her team in the kitchen who have kept us fed and watered all these years. They say an army marches on its stomach, but Moor Park marches on Dipp and Rose's puddings! Thank you all for everything, and indeed for this evening - a prime example of your skill and dedication to us all.

There are so many people who help us in our everyday lives here

at school. Matron in sickbay, who seems to have rather a lot of customers on a Thursday afternoon... You patch us up, listen to our worries and have been a huge support to EVERYONE in the school from the youngest child in Tick Tock to the oldest member of the staffroom. Cherry and her team behind the scenes, cleaning up after us, serving lunch, and being a friendly face at every turn. Clare and Ruth at the front desk, who communicate with our parents when we've forgotten to tell them 'WE WANT TO BOARD'. Gail who has done hundreds, if not thousands of loads of laundry on our behalf, and the brilliant bus drivers who are there at the break of day, every day, to take us into school. Rob and his amazing men on the grounds team. For every athletics pitch marked out, for every fire lit, every cricket wicket manicured to perfection. The endless set building and fixing of everything! To all these complete legends, thank you all, for your incredible work, patience and ability to just smile and crack on.

Our time at Moor Park has offered us ample opportunity to thrive in a number of areas. Sport, for many of us has been a huge focus and a big part of our time here. Mr Martin and his dedicated team of coaches have given us the opportunity to learn how to win gracefully, lose with dignity and play with resilience and grit. It has been awesome having Mr Watts and Miss Robertson join the team this year, their outstanding expertise in their respective disciplines and willingness to throw themselves full bore into life at Moor Park has been beneficial to all the children in the school. We are so happy that you are both part of the Moor Park team!

To all the games coaches, thank you for the training, the matches, the bus journeys and above all, nurturing within us a love for sport and the need for discipline - giving us the opportunity to build friendships and be part of a team.

Drama and music are other areas where many of the cohort have excelled. Whether singing in the Chapel Choir, pursuing an instrument, performing at cabaret or belting out some cracking hymns in chapel, opportunities are varied and many, giving everyone a chance to sing or make music. After 2 years in post, we wish Mr Yates and Boo all the very best for a bright future and thank him for all he has done for music at Moor Park.

A huge shout out to Mrs Jenks, who, off the back of a wonderfully successful Vicar of Dibley production has thrown herself, heart and soul, into our production of Oliver. Thanks Mrs Jenks and thanks for the hundreds of Speech and Drama lessons, exams, years of Hereford Festival preparation and all you have done for us over the time we have been here.

The boarding team has played an integral part of our lives at school, whether we are full, flexi or a mixture of the two, the boarding house is a hive of activity, loud music and mischief. Headed up by Monsieur and supported by Miss S and Mrs Ball, the boarding evenings consist of out of control hockey matches, Monday fundays with Mrs Middleton, Watersides, the Tour de Moor, themed nights, Cabaret, Nerf nights, BBQ's, 40/40 in around the fountain, and long summer evenings spent with friends, watching Mr Martin and Mr D hit a ball in the air for someone to catch; endless cricket net sessions and of course spending time with our beloved gappies Lou, Kat, Giuliana and JJ. All of this paints a picture of our childhood days, untainted by screens, with the freedom to roam, as the sound of laughter rolls through the grounds. These days are the things that dreams are made of.

The staff room at Moor Park is a unique place. An eclectic, wonderful group of people who have given their lives over to the noble and at times challenging vocation of the teaching profession. While we cannot name every individual, we would like to thank you as a whole, for nurturing, inspiring and challenging us at every turn.

I quote, Latin will not be the same! I'll miss Mrs De Souza's singing in our lessons! The Art exhibition in the Old Library was outstanding and testament not only the art scholars but to the wonderful Mrs Morgan,

who has supported and inspired them over the years. And Mr Conway has certainly made his mark in the DT department, encouraging creativity and critical thinking at every turn and supporting Linchy through his scholarship. And, let's be honest, it's not in every school (if any) that French is so highly anticipated that the subject has its own dance. Isn't that right Tobes?

To all of our teachers, you have nurtured, guided, encouraged and supported us from the very start to now, the very end. We will miss you all.

At the start of the year Mr and Mrs Brady joined us from South Africa. Mrs B, you have been a brilliant support to children further down the school and your kindness and quiet, reassuring presence has been a welcome addition to the Moor Park community. Thank you for all you have done this year.

Leading from the front and in his first year as Headmaster at Moor

Park, Mr B has got fully involved from the outset. Breakfasts are always hailed by his bright greeting of 'Good Morning children' as we do our best to reply (but half of us are falling asleep in our cereal and Diego is still upstairs in bed). Corridor cricket has become a firm favourite upstairs once again, and we are encouraged to think for ourselves - and critically, rather than within the constraints of red tape and rote learning. Mr B, thank you to you and your staff for helping us become the type of young men and women we want to be.

While it is sad to leave the grounds and buildings of Moor Park, we take comfort in the knowledge that it will always be a second home to us all, no matter how long or short our time here has been.

As the future beckons, and a new wind starts to take hold of our sails, we know that the values of hard work, faith and love will remain with us as new horizons call. To all of Year 8, go well, my friends and Godspeed. To Moor Park, thank you, for everything.

RECEPTION LEARN THE BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE

Like the changing of the seasons, the children of Reception returned, energised for their final term. We took advantage of the glorious weather to observe the different trees and plants that we could discover, as well as the many minibeasts that also call Moor Park their home. We searched under rocks and rotten logs, in the stream and amongst the leaves.



Back inside our classroom, we were able to see first-hand the fascinating process of metamorphosis, through first-hand experience in the form of 8 tiny caterpillars (and food), kept humanely in tubs and then nets as they grow. The children quickly became fascinated by our caterpillars, which seemed to grow and change each day. We learned all about the four different growth stage: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis) and butterfly.

Patiently, we watched and waited until the caterpillars finally pupated. From that exciting moment, the children spent time each day gazing at the brown chrysalides, wondering if today would be the day that they should emerge. Of course, each was given a name: Miss, Netch, Flutter, Belle, Jax, Bill, Madey and Daniel. This interaction provided as amazing opportunity for observations, and rich discussions between the children.

Finally, we arrived back at class one day and saw that our nets contained butterflies, testing their wings and showing off their beautiful colours and markings. In addition to the beauty, the class agreed that the butterflies had 'really long tongues' and hairy bodies.

Then, all too soon, release day arrived and we trooped outdoors, looking for a good spot for our winged friends to taste their freedom. We said our last goodbyes and wished them well as they fluttered skywards, hoping that they would always remember how much they were loved by the children of Reception.

Just like those butterflies, Reception now spread their own wings and make their next learning journey towards the limitless possibilities that lie in Year 1. Reception, you have been and will continue to be amazing. Fly free!

"Those that contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts." - Rachel Carson.

- By Miss Bill



KINGTON SMALL BREEDS FARM: RECEPTION'S DAY OUT

Our Summer Term trip to Kington's Small Breeds Farm was a lovely day out for Reception, who were delighted by all the animals but especially the pygmy goats!

There were in fact two pygmy goats that are looking for new homes - please, Mr Brady! Can we have them here at Moor Park?! We learned that this miniature breed are easier than the traditional breeds to keep as pets, but they are known to eat just about anything that grows - including flowers and vegetables. Perhaps the Mr Ball and the Moor Park Gardening Club wouldn't be so happy to welcome them after all...

The children were enchanted by the many different breeds of owl that we saw. We even got to stroke a very well-behaved Southern White Faced Owl called 'Dibble', who was out for his morning exercise.

'He's so soft!'

Unlike goats, Southern White-faced Owls feed on large insects, spiders, scorpions, small birds, reptiles and small mammals. 'Dibble' in the wild would hunt from a perch, dropping down and gliding low over the ground before swooping up to a new perch (a branch of a tree or similar). This breed of owl is native to the southern half of Africa.

The weather was a little bit soggy on our day out, but it didn't dampen our spirits and we returned to school filled with enthusiasm and facts for those small breed animals that we met on our Summer Term trip.

- By Miss Bill

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