



## Headmistress' Newsletter

**Week Commencing Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Dear Parents,

What a busy and lovely week we have had in our final week of this half term. We have observed **Children's Mental Health Awareness Week** where the children had an assembly with the focus on improving wellbeing as well as this year's theme 'My Voice Matters'; about empowering children by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

In Ash Wednesday Mass led by Deacon Sean, the oldest to the youngest children in the School came together. It is so special that we can still become one as a community whilst we wait for our fabulous new Chapel to be completed. Afterwards, Year 4 and Year 7 collaborated together beautifully, sourcing Bible Stories and sharing their thoughts on how aspects of the Old and New Testament link together.



On Tuesday, **Year 7** enjoyed a trip to Worcester Cathedral to explore its history and, most importantly, the building's links to the Tudor Dynasty. The day started with a tour of the main features of the cathedral, including a chance to spot the famous pink giraffe in the West Window. The children examined Prince Author's tomb for Tudor iconography, the crypt and King John's grave, and then took part in a series of workshops that tested their knowledge of Henry VIII's wives and the swings between Catholicism and Protestantism during the Reformation. They learnt about the Cathedral's role as a place of worship, and the children got a chance to master two Tudor board games, namely Nine Man Morris and Goose. The day offered a great opportunity to revisit some learning in class and to learn how local history links with the broader Tudor story.



We were delighted to welcome Mrs Worgan to our **KS3 assembly** this week in what we hope will be the beginning of a series of career-themed talks. Mrs Worgan shared her knowledge and experiences of the banking sector, with an insight into the kind of careers that are available now, and how these might change and adapt into the future. The children were surprised by the number of people who are employed within the banking sector in the UK, and the wide range of jobs available. Many thanks to Mrs Worgan for taking the time to visit and present such an interesting presentation. If any other parents would be interested in coming into school to share their career experiences, please email Mr Dieppe at [dieppes@winterfoldhouse.co.uk](mailto:dieppes@winterfoldhouse.co.uk)

This week saw the launch of the annual **Dragon's Den Project**. Our OWLs, grouped into pairs and threes, have four weeks to develop an idea, research the market, create visual prototypes, and present a business plan for an invention that relates to the sports and fitness markets. The OWLs will present to this year's Dragons on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

## ☆ Stars of the Week ☆

3B – Hugo H-G; 3W – Joss W; 4B – Isemay L-S; 4W – Archie S; 5F – Florence P; 5L – Seb G; 6L – Thomas W  
6S – Cameron McE; 7D – Alice J; 7M – Harriet N; 8B – Imogen W; 8S – Savannah L-F

Congratulations to Swifts who are this week's winning Pack.

On Monday our superb trumpeters under the direction of Mr Thomas put on a lovely **Mini-Me** concert in the Main House. They entertained the assembled parents, demonstrating a high standard of playing.



Congratulations to all children in 4W who are the fortnightly **'Frame of Fame'** winners, with their David Hockney inspired colourful landscape.

In **Year 2**, children looked at possessive nouns and letter writing in English, and in PSHE, they worked in teams to design a 'Dream Bird' combining all of their hopes and dreams. In Mathematics, they continued their work on measurement, working specifically on 'time'. In **Year 1**, children celebrated Shrove Tuesday, Valentine's Day, and Chinese New Year. In Science, they visited the school weather station and learned about the equipment inside, whilst in History they learned about explorers from the past. The KS1 children's highlight of the week was attending the Ash Wednesday Mass and getting their ash crosses from Deacon Sean.



In **Early Years**, Reception children began their week with a lovely trip to West Midlands Safari Park. The sun shone and the children had a super guided tour around the park and learnt lots of new facts about the animals. They learnt about Lent in RE and in Maths, they investigated addition by combining two groups. Kindergarten 2 children designed and created their own pancakes using their imaginations. On Valentine's Day the children made love hearts using their amazing threading skills and spoke about the special people in their lives. They also carried out some beautiful observational paintings of the stunning snowdrops in the School grounds. In Kindergarten 1, children celebrated Chinese New Year, learnt about the dragon, did a Chinese Fan Dance, and made Chinese lanterns. They listened to the story of 'Handa's Surprise' and used their memory skills to recall the story and order the story picture cards.



In **Nursery**, the Cygnets have been looking at vegetables, using flash cards at carpet time and listening to their new story 'The Enormous Turnip'. They created large vegetables using paint, glue and lots of different materials and had lots of fun completing their Valentines cards to take home. The Goslings made paper plate tigers and some beautiful collage tiger pictures using tissue paper to create the stripes. Meanwhile, the Ducklings enjoyed spending time in the Gosling Room. They participated in the 'Wild Animal' topic with the other children and went out for some lovely rainy walks around the School grounds, looking at the beautiful spring flowers that are starting to appear.



I hope you have a restful half term.

Best wishes,

Denise Toms  
Headmistress