



Headteacher:
Mr Wheeler

"Shine like stars in the sky as you hold on to the word of life"
(Philippians 2:15)

Friday 15th
March 2024

Good afternoon everyone,

It's been a busy half term and I can only apologise for the prolonged gap between these newsletters. There's been much to celebrate in the interim period, not least the evening of celebration for children's 'Be a Hero' projects from late Autumn. The children raised an incredible total of £2100.35, which as I hope you all know, has been used widely to bring great joy to the pupils of the Emily Collins School. I certainly hope that the children feel extremely proud of that and recognise the impact they have had. They have seen others in need and stepped forward to give something to others. Our children certainly have **shone like stars** and upheld our values of **love** and **courage**.

Below you will find a mixture of updates and information relating to the coming weeks, I do hope you find it helpful. I have also come across this resource that you may wish to explore in terms of supporting you as parents as your children grow up. Having spent some time listening to John Tait, I certainly found him thought provoking - even if some elements are targeted at older pupils: <https://www.fromthesidelines.uk/>

Mr Wheeler

A massive thank you to those who helped at our Ground Force event on Saturday 2nd March. We were able to develop 3 new areas in the garden for the children to use as well as repairing part of the meadow space, ready for reopening once the weather improves. The children are already enjoying the new spaces in the garden as you can see (right). **Further thanks** also go out to **National Trust** Ranger David Farthing and his team who have dug out the pathways and revitalised them with new bark chips. We are so grateful for them giving up their time and resources to support the school.



Reading @ Pamphill

World Book Day seemed to be a roaring success, the careers theme provided the perfect vehicle for the children to express their passions for the future. We were also stunned by how well supported the bedtime story event was - almost the entire school came back to enjoy a range of stories in what was a really wonderful event. Huge thanks to Mrs Woolnough for being the brains behind the event.

For almost a year now we have been holding a low stakes **class competition** based on the number of reads across the classes each week. Each class' target is to average 3 reads per week, per pupil. They work along a game board to achieve prizes for their classes. In recent months we have seen fewer and fewer targets met and, while you don't need me to tell you the value of reading with your children, please do try to record the reading you have done with them in their reading books - this is how we track it.

Sumdog



I'm delighted to announce our first **Sumdog Contest** of this academic year, pupils from Foxes and Stags are entered with a chance to win online and in school prizes for practising their Maths on this platform. The target is to answer 500 questions across the week and the children's score is based on the number of correct answers. **It's all about being quick without rushing!** If you need login details, please contact your child's teacher via Class Dojo.

Parents Evenings

It was great to welcome so many of you into school this week. Please do pass on any feedback about the process, the meetings themselves and our communication strategy generally. We want you to feel involved and well informed about your child's development. If you haven't managed to make a meeting with your child's teacher, we will be happy to arrange an alternative. Just get in touch!



Road Safety

Local residents have recently raised concerns again about road safety outside the school. I know the car park is in a state of disrepair and I am working with the National Trust to remedy this. Essentially the sustained wet weather has made it all a bit of a mess, including the grass verges and the amount of mud on the roads. Please be mindful of protecting this beautiful location as you park for drop offs and pickups by using the car parks wherever possible and not parking alongside the fence. This is for the benefit of everyone's safety.

Leadership Questions

Thank you to those who took up the chance to ask further questions about next year's leadership arrangements. I hope it was a valuable discussion and if anyone else did want to find out more, please don't hesitate to get in touch. As I said in my initial letter though, I think it is a great opportunity for both schools to strengthen through even closer collaboration.

Tag Rugby Festival

Those from Stags who wanted to take part in their first Tag Rugby training session this week, showing great enthusiasm and making great progress in their skills ahead of next week's festival. We will not be able to take everyone this year so will prioritise Y4s just as we have in previous years. It was wonderful to see such joy from playing sport and share in their enjoyment of success.



Thank you again for all of your support,

Mr Wheeler

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Upcoming School / PTFA Events

Stags Trip to Kingston Lacey - after this was postponed due to bad weather we are still looking to arrange an alternative.

Easter Service / Bonnet Parade: Wednesday 27th March, 2:30-3:15pm

We look forward to you joining us in church for our traditional Easter service - this year it will be led by Robin Langdown alongside the children playing their part as always. We invite children to wear an Easter Bonnet / mask to school if they so wish and will wear them down to the church. Prizes will be awarded to those taking part and getting creative. £1 entry can be paid through ParentMail.





School Disco / End of Term Party: Wednesday 27th March, 4-5:30pm

£3.50 can be paid through ParentMail, tickets include light snacks and refreshments. Timings have been selected so that the hall can be prepared following the church service.

PTFA Quiz postponed until April

Ticketed social event, film night for the children in Foxes classroom; Quiz in the hall for the grown ups. Food to be included. BYOB

Scholastic Book Fair: 23rd - 26th April

This proved to be a fantastic additional event last year with lots of families enjoying the opportunity to purchase a book (or two). It's also a great fundraiser for the school library with a percentage of the funds spent going to restocking our library with new titles. More details to follow.