

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, I cannot say I am very fond of this whole week back at school malarkey. I was quite happy with the four day working week – this was far too much like hard work. Hopefully, you all had a great holiday filled with an offensive amount of chocolate with your biggest problem being whether to have beef burgers or fish fingers for tea. For me, the highlight was popping over the county border to Burnham, in Somerset, and realising all the children were already back at school. Bliss.

All sorts has been happening in Reception this week: from constructing solar systems (they like a challenge in Mrs Hayward's class) to creating clay aliens. However, my personal highlight was the wedding of Rose (with full-on veil) and Benjamin. It was a beautiful ceremony with Samuel officiating as the vicar, Bill and Rory the best men and Zachery looking like the jilted ex. It had all the trappings of a real wedding: iffy dancing and the bride going off in a huff. Very similar to how I remember my own nuptials. What more could you ask for? Their wedding list is currently being held at John Lewis and features some exquisite cut glass and a beautiful Winnie the Pooh crockery set.

Year 1/2 have certainly hit the ground running; with many of the children coming in on the first day dressed in explorer gear. In my mind's eye, all adventurers look like Indiana Jones (control please Mrs H) and several children were clearly on my wave length, with a more than passable impression of an extra from Raiders of the Lost Ark. More than that though, we also had: climbers, astronauts and, from Mrs Brierley, Amelia Earhart in flying helmet. Mrs Brown looked fab in full space suit, complete with oxygen cylinders. Yes, this is meant to be fun but it is also about kick starting their new Explorers Topic by capturing their interest and stimulating ideas. I shall try and share some of their writing with you in the coming weeks so you can see how they are getting on.

Year 3/4, or the runners' club as we prefer to call them, have added an extra dimension to their daily mile. Over the holidays, Miss Madge has created a map of our Capital with the course of the London Marathon marked out on it. As the children complete their miles, they move along the course until they reach the finish. It is a great way to show the children just how long a marathon is and give them a goal to aim towards. Currently, they are just approaching the Cutty Sark and shall be progressing towards the Design Museum next. The way my running is going, I am still stuck at Waddleville and fast approaching Middleagespread. Such is life.

Amongst the preparations for SATs, Year 5 and 6 have managed to squeeze in the odd bit of light relief – usually in the guise of some sporting activity. On Tuesday afternoons, they are lucky enough to have the pro from Tickenham Golf Club come in to take a session. What she has them doing is extremely impressive, with the drills and games specifically designed to teach them the skills of holding the clubs correctly (not having a swing like you are about to murder a cricket ball) and striking the ball cleanly. Something like golf tends to be a great leveller as few children have had a go before attending secondary school, thus putting them on an equal footing. Many of them have performed extremely well but a special mention must go to Lucy. Not only does she hit the ball as straight as a die but she is now helping correct Mr Fossard's slice. Good luck with that Luc, it may take some time.

On Thursday, we celebrated Her Majesty's (no, not you Beth) Birthday. To be honest, I was not very sure how 'into it' the children would be as the Queen can be a bit of an ethereal figure to them. I need not have worried. Almost everyone came in wearing red, white and blue; cricket jumpers were donned and many a crown and tiara managed to sneak its way into school. Particularly impressive was Freddy's crown: a good foot in height and emblazoned with the words 'King Fred' – it was quite a sight. Just before home time, we all gathered in the hall to sing a rousing chorus of God Save the Queen and blow out 90 candles in cup-cakes. All very patriotic.

Congratulations to Zachary in Reception, Jess & Tilly in Year 1/2, Matilda & Louis B in Year 3/4 and Jack & Joshua in Year 5/6 for being our Stars of the Week. Great stuff. Our house with the most conduct marks is Dragons and with the highest number of work marks is Phoenix. Congratulations to Jack D who has earned his bronze star badge, Molly P her silver, Josh L & Aaron their Gold and Charlie & Izzy V their platinum badges. Well done everyone!

Our book review comes from Charlie in Year 6 this time. *How to be a dork!* By Rachel Renee Russel. This book is about a girl who's a dork (another name for a geek) and she gives you tips on how to be one too. It is written as if she

is speaking to you and even gives you quizzes so you can see how geeky you are. So if you want to be a dork, read this amazing book.

Have a lovely weekend. Play safely and take care. Oh, by the way, thank you to all those parents and children who have been supportive of my new facial fur. It is fair to say that it has had mixed reviews from, 'distinguished' (I like that one. It is a very kind word for 'white') to Aaron's assessment of, 'What have you done to yourself?!' I was going for ruggedly dashing Aaron but fear I may not have pulled it off. Beth, as you would expect, has been extremely silly about the whole thing and has been sporting a fake beard all week which was made for her by Isabel in Year 6.

Mr Tucker

Coming up this week:

Thursday: Year 3 & 4 trip to @Bristol

School clubs

Please could you ensure that you have applied for lunch time and after school clubs by the end of this weekend as the services will be closed on parentpay after this time. From next week onwards any children in attendance will be charged via the 'half session' facility.

Sponsor Money & Christingle boxes

Thank you to everyone who has brought their Sports sponsor money and Christingle boxes in so far. If you have yet to bring them in then please could you do so on Monday.

There has been quite a bit of very worthwhile fund raising going on at school recently so thank you very much for your generosity and support.

Sports Relief Money

An extremely respectable £71.30 was raised for Sports Relief at the end of last term - thank you everybody!

Year 6 Photo book

Every year parents of the year 6 children endeavour to give the leavers a day to remember. One of the gifts that is received really well by the children is the photo-book. If there are any willing volunteers to organise the photo-book this year then please could you let Lucy Vowles know. It is surprising how quickly the Summer term goes.

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday 1st May 10:00 - All Together In Church (ATIC), All Saints' Wraxall

A service of music, words and prayer for all ages.