

Dear Parents Carers,

Well, one term down, five to go! This has been a bit of a monster: eight weeks and more events happening than you can shake a stick at. The way things are shaping up, the next one is going to be just as packed (the list Beth has drawn up for me would make your toes curl). Everyone, and I do mean 'everyone', has worked their little socks off and has certainly earned a week's R&R. Apart from Beth, who downed tools... pardon, what? I have done this one already and need to get new material? Apologies... even if it is true.

Reception have achieved so much over the last couple of months: they should be incredibly proud of themselves. Over the last couple of weeks, they have been using the book *Funny Bones* by Janet & Allan Ahlberg as source of inspiration for much of their work. So far they have made X-ray pictures from white hand prints, with cotton buds as bones; created recurring patterns using the Funny Bone characters and are now writing what Big Skeleton, Little Skeleton and their dog skeleton are saying in speech bubbles. What is particularly impressive is the level of independence so many of them are already demonstrating in their writing. Rather than expecting Mrs H or Mrs Davey to do the work for them, they are using their sounds, phonics sheets and key words to support themselves. Seriously, some of their spelling could give Year 6 a run for their money... yes, yes and me!

On Monday, Year 1-4 all went to the Hindu Mandir in Bristol (the only one in the South West and housed within an old church which the children found fascinating) as they continue to learn about faiths other than Christianity. After removing their shoes, they all entered the main vestibule where they were greeted by one of the priests. He was delightful with them, asking them lots of questions (which they did brilliantly at answering) and showing artefacts such as the bell which is rung to let their gods know they have come to worship and explaining how only the priests are allowed to dress the deities. One element to the Hindu religion that I did not realise at all, was that on the walls of the temple, they had pictures of many of the key figures from major world religions because all are welcome to worship in a mandir. As ever, the children were exemplary and respectful of their surroundings. Many thanks to all the parents who accompanied us on this trip, it makes all the difference having you with us.

Many of Year 5/6 took part in the North Somerset Cross Country Championships earlier this week. This is a large scale event, where children gather from all over the county to represent their schools and compete in huge races; this year, there was approximately ninety children for each year group! Without doubt, our daily mile has a massive effect and allows our little school to compete against far bigger primaries, such as St Peter's, who have over one hundred and twenty children in Years 5/6 alone. The one major point of difference, however, is that this really is 'cross country' with the race taking place over muddy fields rather than our manicured astro-turf. I can feel a few sessions of over and around the farmers' fields to help them acclimatise next year. The children were fantastic and absolutely did their school and more importantly, themselves, proud. All of them placed in the top half of their races and Yaz even managed to come ninth!

Our Stars of the Week are Krishen in Reception, Grace & Felix in Year 1/2, Zachary & Ethan in Year 3/4 and Molly & Poppy in Year 5/6. Lovely stuff. The house with the most conduct marks this term is Dragons and Dragons also had the highest number of work marks.

Over the last few weeks, it has come to our attention that a lot of non-healthy snacks are being consumed at break time. As a Healthy School, this is not something we promote and we would really appreciate it if you would talk to the children about their snack choices. Crisps and chocolate bars are not suitable as snacks (although, a small treat in sandwich boxes is, of course, fine). After half term, playtime snacks should be fruit or veg (things like carrot sticks) and not cereal bars as many are surprisingly high in sugar and it does blur the line between what is acceptable and what is not. We are currently exploring the possibility of setting up a fruit tuckshop but the logistics are proving rather difficult. We shall update you once (if) we have secured a supplier. Thank you for your help with this. Have a lovely half term. Play safely and take care. Incidentally, Year 1/2 looked fantastic today, dressed up as knights and princesses, taking part in their medieval dance. I particularly enjoyed Eloise's comment to me when I asked what she had come as: 'Medieval Fool!' said with just the right amount of disdain to convey the message of, what did you think I was?

Mr Tucker