

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had a very exciting and entertaining two weeks here at school with our Creativity week followed hard on the heels by Science week and yesterday's World Book Day. I know that the children have very much enjoyed the activities and doorways into learning that we have explored via Bigfoot Arts, with music, drama, story -telling and film making alongside the Hogwarts experience for the older children. No sooner had we recovered from this plethora of activities that Science week / fortnight was upon us and Y5 were dissecting hearts and Y1 making "slime" with others making bath bombs and Reception learning about dental health - so important for the little ones with tooth decay at record levels.

It has been a fun time with World Book Day yesterday encapsulating everything as staff and children celebrated books, reading and the great enjoyment that reading can give us. I must thank all of the parents / carers for supporting the children to join in - school was a riot of colour yesterday and the sight of six spidermen web slinging around the Reception class will live with me for some time. There were some absolutely fantastic costumes and to this end I must mention the teaching and support staff who were superb across the board, really entering in to the spirit of things. The children completed some wonderful work and all in all it was a lovely day. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the day such a resounding success. There should be a lot of pictures and information relevant to the recent activities on the school website, which will be well worth a look.

On another note, you will be aware of what a tremendous job our school governors do in so many ways for our school. The recent DHT appointment was extremely time consuming and we have just completed the Admissions for September 2019 and the budget review, with more meetings pending on that front. The current team are highly skilled and committed and we are very lucky to have them. I was alarmed then, when I found out today that an error by the Local Authority has resulted in our Vice Chair of Governor's, Mr Ian Farrar's term of office being accidentally overlooked, meaning that instead of a straightforward re-election at the time, we may now have to hold a formal election to see him reinstated. If this proves to be the case I would hope that we can count on full parental / carer support for a one candidate election? We very much need to retain his experience and expertise in the light of the current very challenging educational agenda. Of course, should someone else wish to throw their hats into the ring then this must be allowed and once an election is up and running then there will be no further comment from the school until it is complete.

We will have to see how this pans out but needless to say it is a distraction that the school can do without with budget setting imminent and the new financial year almost upon us.

A very big thank you and well done is due to all of the Y6 children who are so diligently attending pre and post school settings, as we work towards the SATs. The children are

working so well with staff to cover all of the work they need to but as noted in the first paragraph, the school is maintaining its full commitment to the excellence and enjoyment agenda that has always been central to our beliefs. Y6 are enjoying their Mindfulness Lessons with the Tranquil Tree-house on Fridays and this is also part of our preparation for the challenges ahead. Almost all Y6 pupils were successful in gaining a place at the secondary school of their choice and we are hopeful that one or two issues can be resolved for others. We are fortunate in having some very good secondary schools in our Local Authority and remember, all of our children, regardless of faith are guaranteed a place at St Wilfrid's, an outstanding provider, if it is their first choice school.

Looking ahead : Open Evenings are scheduled for week beginning March 25th and individual appointments will soon be sent out giving plenty of time to prepare for the meetings. Thurston is also just around the corner - in fact the same week, so Y5 Open Evenings will take place from week beginning April 1st - again invitations will be sent with this in mind. Please remember that no After School Clubs take place during Open Evenings week apart from Karate on the Friday.

Finally, on Wednesday the 13th of March at 09.30, we will have our first Mass of this half term and of course, everyone is invited as we come together with Father Weymes during this Lenten season. Some of you will know that Mrs Fenwick, one of our key workers at school, is currently absent as her husband undergoes treatment in hospital. Please keep the family in your prayers at this very worrying time.

I look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming events.

Best Wishes.

Yours sincerely,

[K J Smithson](#)

Head Teacher.