A MOST DELIGHTFUL SHOW!

Huge congratulations to cast, crew and staff involved in this year’s stunning musical production, “Mary Poppins” which played to packed houses this week in the school hall. Over seventy students were involved in some capacity with those on stage in tune, in costume and in character either as part of the chorus or in lead named roles. Annie Highton gave us a superb 'magical nanny' as Mary with able support from Kyle Gabriel as chimney-sweep Bert, and Melissa Tuomey and Luke Conlon as the children, Jane and Michael. Mr Mackenzie (Producer), Mr Fabian (Musical Director) and a whole back-room team of staff and parents made this magical show possible through endless hours of hard work and dedication. Those lucky enough to attend appreciate and thank all concerned for their efforts! It was, indeed, supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Equality Programme

This week has been very much ‘Production’ week but last week the whole school was focused on issues of ‘Equality’ as part of our Citizenship programme. Assemblies in KS2 and KS3 launched the theme and each morning tutor groups considered a number of questions raised. They learned about historical prejudice, discrimination and inequality and how progressively the law has changed in order to protect the oppressed right up to The Equality Act of 2010. It has been really interesting to listen to students talking about how things have improved but also how they recognise there is more to be done. Our aim as a Faith school is to live out our values as ‘a wise and gentle community’ (James Ch. 3) and to show understanding of equality through kindness to one another.

Bookmark

Following assembly, on Monday all children were given a school bookmark to use in library and silent reading lessons or indeed at home. The bookmark includes the school’s mission statement and four core values: Service Excelence Respect Faith. We hope and intend that this will be a regular reminder to pupils and you as parents of what we are trying to do as a school and as a community.

Helping Others

Part of our mission of Service is to help others less fortunate than ourselves. Last week, nine students went with Mrs Meaney and Mr Miles to help out at the local ‘Food Share’ centre. They spent a really helpful two hours working alongside adults at Dedworth Baptist Church receiving and sorting donations into packages, bagging them up ready for distribution. It was a moving experience and one which, the students agreed, brought its own reward in the form of feeling good about helping others. Some reflected they were surprised to see how much support is needed “in a town such as Windsor”, food for thought. See the back page for the school’s work with the homeless.

Whole-School Photograph

On Friday 15th March we are visited by the school’s photographers who will be taking pictures of each Form Group with their Form Tutor. This year – four years on since the last one – we are also having a whole-school picture taken. This will be available for you to buy if you so wish. Having the picture taken every four years ensures that all children who join in Year 5 and stay to Year 8 appear in one of the official photographs which we first had taken in 2011 for our 25th Anniversary. We ask that you ensure that children are especially smart and uniform as possible. The jumper will not be able to be in the photograph.

15th February - No. 10

has their school jumper available to wear for the photograph. Children not in full uniform or wearing the jumper will not be able to be in the photograph so we are collectively as smart and uniform as possible.

Half Term

Next week is of course half-term. We hope that you all have a good relaxing break and look forward to seeing pupils return on Tuesday 26th February at the usual time 8.35am. Remember that we are closed on Monday 25th for staff training.

Celebrity Gossip!

We are always so grateful to our PSA leaders and helpers for all they do to help our school community. This week we are also so proud that one of our PSA Co-Chairs, Nina Hartstone, became our first BAFTA award winning committee member! Nina was in helping at the production this week having collected her award last Sunday at the Royal Albert Hall. She is part of the amazing ‘Sound’ team who worked on “Bohemian Rhapsody” and you may have spotted her on telly in the BBC highlights programme. Congratulations, Nina and good luck for the Oscars next week!

SERFBOARD
NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>February 18th—22nd</td>
<td>HALF TERM</td>
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<td>Monday 25th February</td>
<td>INSET DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26th February</td>
<td>PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27th February</td>
<td>Year 8 French Trip Meeting - 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1st March</td>
<td>Quiz Night - 7.30pm</td>
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Quiz Night - 7.30pm

SERFBOARD
More Than a Shelter - Windsor

Last winter Emilie Chana a parishioner from St Edward’s Catholic Church was shocked to see the number of homeless people sleeping around our town centre during the coldest months of the year. It took Emilie nearly 8 months to get her project off the ground and with the financial support of CARITAS, on January 22nd, 2019, 5 Churches in Windsor opened their doors to provide overnight shelter to the Homeless of Windsor. The churches are offering an evening meal, a warm bed, and breakfast for the guests.

To begin with, the guests were very hesitant in accepting the help the project offered but after experiencing the chance of a warm bed and the companionship from the 160 volunteers, we now have up to 8 guests and Diamond the dog staying each night.

As the Churches are not in Windsor Town centre, the project had logistic problems on how to get the guests back to Windsor each morning. The project was delighted to get the swift support of the school in allowing the project to use their minibus for this morning journey. We also have a number of parents who are volunteering and providing the most delicious meals for our guests.

Hopefully, after this pilot project ends on March 3rd, More Than a Shelter will continue each winter, looking after the most vulnerable during the winter months in our town. Thank you STERF for being involved in serving the community.

Sports & PE Update

Pupils have been working hard over the last couple of weeks completing their assessments for, rugby and netball in games lessons. In PE lessons pupils have been performing their dances for this year’s theme ‘SPORT’. Each week pupils have choreographed actions for a different sport to complete their dances. KS2 have focused on basketball, baseball and athletics, KS3 have focused on the HAKA, rugby and the Olympics. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching their final performances.

Next term KS2 pupils will be focusing on gymnastics in PE lessons and hockey in Games lessons. (Pupils will need to bring shin pads for hockey). KS3 pupils will be focusing on gymnastics in PE lessons and handball in games lessons (except 7/2 and 8/1 rounder’s). Please ensure your child is bringing the correct PE kit for all lessons.

Congratulations to our new Year 7 sports leaders who completed their training last week. They will receive their badges in achievements assembly. We are looking to recruit 15 new sports leaders after Easter so keep working hard and showing us those leadership skills in PE and across the school.

Congratulations also go to pupils who have received sports person of the term. This term these were given for a variety of reasons including effort, leadership, sportsmanship, support to peers and progress in lessons.

REMINDERS

Y6 PGL Liddington, Wiltshire trip – final payment is due 1st March. All outstanding balances are to be cleared on this date. Please contact Mrs Blanchard if there are problems making this final payment.

Y7 reply slips to be returned for the Mini Vans and Stanley Spencer Gallery trip. Please ensure that the online payment is made before returning the slip to school.

World Book Day

We are excited to announce that on Tuesday 5th March we will be celebrating World Book Day and our author for the day is Ali Gardner. Please do get your slips and money returned by 26th Feb to purchase a copy of ‘Hardknocks, Hiccups and Headstands’ prior to this date. Children should come dressed as a character from their favourite book on this date – prizes will be given for the best dressed in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3.

Accelerated Readers—Congratulations go to:

Millionaires: Hannah Al-Hashimi 7/2, Ben Foster 7/1 and Lara Paesano 5/3.

2 Million words: Olivia Browne Gimeno 7/4.

Girls Policy Forum

I was put forward to the “Girls Policy Forum” by our fellow teacher, Mrs Bruce Carter.

I was so thankful for this opportunity to meet Theresa May (at the council) as us girls had much to discuss!

During our meeting in the “May” Room, I was able to ask Mrs May what are we able to do to make women more a part of politics and more prominent in society today? What do you think we can do?

Sienna-Grace Nettle—Year 8