**CAN YOU FEEL THE SPIRIT?**

This weekend sees the celebration of ‘Pentecost’ - the coming of the Holy Spirit in Christian Churches across the world. Friday’s assembly led by Father David marked this important event in school. And on Monday in worship Mr Miles explained how the Holy Spirit gave the early Christians the tools to be able to lead by example.

**Quiet Garden**

Our aim is to enable our students to flourish not just academically or socially but also spiritually. To this end we have developed a space in school which will open this term. “The Quiet Garden” is an enclosed space with raised beds, attractive planting, a centre-piece silver birch hexagon and ample seating and benching for children to use. This space has been funded through donations made following our teaching colleague Mrs Ruth Smith’s death a year ago. There is a rose planted in memory of Mrs Smith which is called “Bloom of Ruth”. The garden is inspired by Ruth’s commitment to good, caring relationships and to mindfulness. Children will be able to access the garden from the week commencing 24th June and will learn about its purpose in assembly beforehand. We intend it to be a safe, calm and attractive space for young people to meet and chat with friends, be quiet and still if they want to be, to be sad if that’s how they feel and to be welcomed by all who visit. It is part of our strategy to help children feel good about themselves and the world around them; their well-being.

The ‘official’ opening and blessing of the garden will be in the afternoon of Monday 15th July. It is exam week next week when all children should be focused on doing their best in end-of-term and end-of-year assessments. Year 8 performance represents their starting point for Year 9 in Upper Schools and will influence decisions in placing students in ability groups next year; there is a common framework used across schools in Windsor. Please keep children well-rested, hydrated and focused on revision so they can achieve their very best.

**Exam Week**

Our programme of summer events starts on Friday 28th June with a music concert in the afternoon after school. Look out for further details to follow. Creative Day (also a multi-day) is on Wednesday 3rd July and Sports Day (off-site all day at TVAC) is Thursday 11th July. We ask that children are dropped at the venue in Eton between 8.30am and they will dismiss from there too at 2.30pm. Whilst we realise that it is sometimes difficult and that the rules surrounding days off school are strict, it can be worrying for the children and puts them under unnecessary pressure if they have been told to tell us something that did not happen. Please do tell us the truth if your child is off school – it is much better for them and it is much better for them and it is much better for them and it is much better for them and it is much better for them and it is much better for them.

**Summer Programme**

We need YOU to confirm this and as soon as possible so that we can offer any spare places to pupils on our waiting list (Pending Admissions List).

**Safeguarding**

Our School Improvement Partner from Oxford Diocese, Jackie Cousins, visited earlier in the week to review the school’s safeguarding arrangements. Jackie is an experienced inspector of schools as well as our principal adviser so it is good to see that she found so many positive features of our work: “Very astute leadership ensures that there is an outstandingly high level of commitment to keeping pupils safe.” Jackie met with our co-head teachers and two governors to look at a range of issues, policies and case studies including child-protection arrangements, attendance, behaviour, risk assessments and the relevant parts of our curriculum.

**Transition Days**

Our Whole-School photograph went very well on Monday – thank you for your support with uniform and looking smart! The next one is scheduled for 2023 when then the new Year 5 this September will be then in Year 8. Makes you think doesn’t it? In the meantime Transition Days for Year 4 – Year 5 and Year 6-Year 9 are taking place on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th July when Year 4 and Year 8 pupils attend their new schools for both days (not those going to Holyport College). Year 8 are visited in school by staff from the receiving school before then.

**Honesty is the best policy!**

There were several occasions at the end of last term of pupils advising us of different information to that coming to us from parents. Children who were off school “sick” have told their peers and us that they were away on holiday.

Whilst we realise that it is sometimes difficult and that the rules surrounding days off school are strict, it can be worrying for the children and puts them under unnecessary pressure if they have been told to tell us something that did not happen.

**REMINDERS**

Please do tell us the truth if your child is off school – it is much better for them and it sets a much better example! On the last day of term – there were 57 pupils absent. 27 of these were due to sickness. 2 days before only 6 pupils were absent.

We ask that your child attends right up to the end of each term as required by law.

**7th June 2019 - No. 16**

Leaving STERF?

If for any reason your son or daughter in Year 5, 6 or 7 is leaving STERF at the end of the school year please can you write and tell us so officially. Parents sometimes assume that another school or Local Authority or even another parent will have told us and this is not the case. We need YOU to confirm this and as soon as possible so that we can offer any spare places to pupils on our waiting list.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

| Monday 10th—Friday 14th June | All Years Exam Week |
| Wednesday 19th June | HPV 2nd Dose — Year 8 Girls |
| Thursday 20th June | Year 8 Business & Careers Event |
| Sunday 23rd—26th June | Year 6 Liddington Trip |
| Thursday 27th—3rd July | Arts Week |
| Monday 1st July | Year 4 Parent Information Evening |

**Y7—French trip 2020 payment was due Monday 3rd June.**

MasterChef

Last week saw the year 8 MasterChef teams competing in a hotly fought contest to find the group who will go forward to face the year 7 winners in the grand cook off in June. Well done to William, Charlotte and Sienna-Grace for creating a tasty tapas treat. Dish of the day went to Elizabeth for her Queen of Hearts themed tarts.

Art Exhibition

Another reason to visit your local library. Art work from years 5,6 and 7 on display at Dedworth Library, until the end of June.

Excellent engineers!

For the first year, as part of our new STEM club, 11 pupils from years 5-8 took part in the National Primary & Secondary Engineer Leaders award 2018-19. The South entry figures for the competition were staggering at 3702 entries; only 77 of these were shortlisted to be displayed in a public exhibition at the University of Southampton on Friday 14th June. There were only 19 pupils chosen as winners in the awards. Winning inventions are due to be turned into working prototypes by engineers.

Although we didn’t have any main category winners this year, we are pleased to announce that Hannah Sadler in Year 7 received the judges’ highly commended status and her work was picked to be displayed in the exhibition. Hannah created a wonderful invention design which focused on helping people with Cerebral Palsy use toys via a Bluetooth button which is easy to activate. Well done to all the young engineers who worked hard on this project during the Spring term. All entrants will receive their certificate at the next achievement event on Friday where they will be assisting with the First School sports day.

Sports & PE Update

The St. Edward’s Royal Free Middle School Year 7 football team finished their season in emphatic fashion by winning two trophies in one day. The first final on Tuesday 21st May saw them run out 4-2 winners against St. Peter’s Middle School in the district cup. The second trophy was won later in the afternoon where the side confidently beat St. Bernard’s Grammar School 7-3. Both finals were played at Arbor Park - home to Slough Town. The team remain unbeaten this season and the victories cap off a very successful sporting year for our School.

Congratulations also go to the new sports leaders. They have all completed and passed their training and are now ready to support the PE department and promote sport throughout the school. All of the leaders look forward to their first event on Friday where they will be assisting with the First School sports day.

Child Exploitation & Online Protection

CEOP have issued some new guidance for teenagers regarding sharing nudes. I think this would be good for parents as well; the advice given to students in school should be replicated with advice at home.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/need-advice/when-nudes-get-shared-around

In addition, CEOP have also created an article for parents which goes into more depth. Called ‘7 questions parents ask about nude selfies’ there’s a great deal of information including why it happens and what parents should consider.

Click https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/7-questions-parents-ask-about-nude-selfies to view this article.

WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE - COUNTY DRUG LINE EVENT

County Drug Lines are one of the biggest risks to our communities with young people being exploited to be used in criminality such as Drug Supply and Knife Crime. This issue often goes unseen by the general public, but it is a BIG problem and children are at risk. We therefore invite parents and guardians to DEDWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL at 19:00hrs on WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2019 to discuss and learn more about this critical topic – and how you can safeguard our children. There will be an input from a leading practitioner in the safeguarding of children as well as guidance and advice from Thames Valley police.

Accelerated Readers

Millionaires:
- Stefano Moretti 7/2, Oliver Bedford 5/2, Jonah McIntyre 8/2, Oliver Griffiths 8/3, Flora Richards 5/1, Aneira Thomas 5/4, Owen Stanford 7/1 and Rachael Hodgson 7/3

2 Million words:
- Katie Wood 7/1

3 Million words:
- Amelie Knowland 6/3

4 Million words:
- Jenny Compton-Williams 7/2

Honours Reader:
- Peter Jansen-Spence 7/1