

Dear Parents,

With the change of the clocks comes the inevitable change in the weather. Which of course, caught many of our pupils out on Wednesday. The tumble drier was in full use during the day drying out various garments. I was amazed at the number without a jacket and the blank look when asked if they looked out the window before leaving for school. I am sure they won't let that happen a second time....

Personally, I have had a fabulous week spent mainly in lessons watching our pupils engage with their learning under the skilful guidance of their teacher. The quality and quantity of work produced, the posing of challenging questions and response to the pupils were key strengths. Many conversations afterwards with staff reflected on the Inaugural WAT Conference and learnings from this. It's great to see the impact of CPD training days in the classroom.

The quality of teaching over the course of the year has become consistently very good across all areas. A few examples including the excellent KS3 science teaching by Mrs Etheridge and Mr Rangdale, delivering a hands-on science curriculum. The quality of material the pupils study in RE courtesy of Mrs Richardson. I was so taken aback that I took a pupil journal to show their excellent work and the impact of effective scaffolding had on their learning. The arts work produced by the pupils and how Mrs Thompson and Mrs Anderson have developed creative writing in the English department. As I say these are just a few examples of the great team at EMS.

On Thursday Year 5 had their first Treehouse Theatre day. Below is some feedback from the pupils. Mrs Weir and Mrs Prestage have set the bar through their dress and the pressure is on Mr Brennan and Mrs Richardson to be 'in part' next time round. Ben from Treehouse Theatre, lights up the pupils' imagination and sets the tone for topics. I am sure the year 5 pupils have learnt a great deal about Ancient Greece.

What we did on Greek Day

When we came into school on Greek day, the first thing that we did was go into the hall and we were introduced to Ben, who works at Treehouse Theatre. He said that we would be doing a "play in a day" activity; every class would have an act to do! Throughout the morning, all the classes had a chance to practice their act. In my act I got to be the god, Poseidon! While the classes were not practising their acting they made some Greek Gods and Goddesses Top Trumps, which was really fun, and designed some Greek pottery, which was cool as well. After lunch, we performed the play. With every act together, it looked really polished and impressive. So, on the whole, Greek day was AWESOME!!

Toby Richardson

Well done to the Year 6 pupils and staff who worked through a week of Mock SATs. As mentioned last week, preparing the pupils is as important as the knowledge and skills they need to demonstrate in the test itself. It has gone very well and pupils now have a better understanding of the process in addition to the style of questions presented. We will repeat this again in February. I can also confirm the maths powerpoint for SATs is live on the website. Sorry for the delay.

I hope you are pleased with the report you received regarding the start your child has made to the academic year. These would normally be sent home at the end of term and consultation evenings after the Christmas break. We have worked on the wording of the report and these mirror other schools in the Trust. It is important to attend the parents evening to discuss next steps in learning. I look forward to seeing many of you on Wednesday and the following Tuesday.

Finally, I would be grateful of your feedback through the Ofsted Parental questionnaire that comes with the report. Your views are important and help shape decisions we make in school.

Have a great weekend and I hope many of our pupils will be involved in Remembrance Day services / parades on Sunday. Mr Jenkinson led a very thought provoking Collective Worship on Wednesday.

Rob Christopher

Parent helpers

Do you love food and enjoy cooking? Do you have a few hours to spare during the morning? If so Mrs Stewart would love to hear from you to help out in practical food lessons. Please get in touch via the office if you are interested.

# A WEEK IN PICTURES



Year 5 Greek Day

