

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well done year 6 pupils! Using a sporting analogy, this week has been about getting match fit for May. The pupils knowing the demands of the week and becoming accustomed to the routines that come with formal tests. This is such a difference to their daily classroom experience. Once the question analysis is complete and a check against the curriculum taught, staff will be well placed to address any misconceptions and gaps in knowledge and skills.

It has long been my view that gaps in knowledge can sometimes be less educational and more social and emotional. Both pupils and families worked incredibly hard during lockdowns with home learning in its various forms. A huge amount of time is spent on developing resilience, tolerance and being adaptive, as examples of characteristics required to form and maintain healthy relationships, and promote positive wellbeing. This is a huge part of a whole school curriculum. If you can, take the opportunity to regularly talk about this.

Our hugely successful EPraise shop featured a Yoga reward which took place on Thursday afternoon in the sports hall led by Miss Emerson. Pupils across all year groups, rare these days, came together for two hours of peace and tranquillity. What a great way to end the day. Next week is double points week, being the last week of half term, which is a great opportunity to make headway in earning candle credits for the next reward.



Thank you to Mrs Binning, Pupil House Captains and staff who led year group House assemblies this week. I can't wait until we start to mix greater numbers of pupils to meet as a whole House group. Nonetheless, it's another step in the right direction. Hopefully your child came home talking about the assembly and the activities they have signed up for to represent their House. Weekly inter-house competitions continue to be successful whether playing or supporting. In no time we will have everyone back on the field as we approach spring and summer.

This week, in both assemblies and as part of the curriculum, we have focused on internet safety. Year 5 had the pleasure of welcoming Paul Andrews for his Virtual Reality roadshow. Three key aspects covered this week: being safe online, playing and viewing age appropriate material and taking time away from technology to connect properly with people and form relationships. I sometimes feel for this age group, as they have been born into a world with constant connection through technology.

After my update in last week's bulletin concerning our current COVID cases, I am pleased to say (touch wood) that our numbers in school have reduced considerably over the last week. Reported positive cases have dropped to one or two a day.

I have also received a polite request from our food technology department. If your child is cooking, please can you ensure they bring a container to school to take their cooking home in. The department have had to lend over half their stock of spare containers in just a few weeks, and sadly only a few have been returned. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

I hope you enjoy the weekend, what a stunning sunrise this morning. Fingers crossed we all have the benefit of it over the next couple of days as well.

Mr R Christopher