

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Spring 2! The evenings are drawing out and the mornings becoming lighter. It does lift the mood doesn't it? This week also marked the beginning of Lent. I heard many tales about the different pancakes and their fillings enjoyed on Tuesday. Our pupils definitely have a sweet tooth.

At the beginning of the week we welcomed Nick Wood from Verwood Methodist Church for our KS2 assembly. He spoke passionately about resilience, trust, personal growth as he reflected on the well known bible story of Jesus going into the wilderness. I hope to do this message justice this afternoon.

A huge thanks to everyone who has sent in items in support of the Ukraine appeal. These items will help support those in need. All schools in the Trust are doing their bit. We have spent time talking to children about what is happening. Here are some useful links:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/how-to-explain-conflict-ukraine-to-children>

There are also a number of cross-Trust projects re-starting. For example, this week our English department has spent time moderating writing standards within our own setting. This will be followed by, over the next couple of weeks, the department working with colleagues from the other three Trust Middle Schools with the same focus. Yesterday I met face to face with Heads from all schools in the Trust with a focus on curriculum and teaching & learning. The first time in two years we were all together in one room.



On Monday we launch the House Art competition. It is a collaborative project where every entrant is included to create a mural inspired by Gustav Klimt. Artwork can be mixed media that demonstrates a decorative pattern that reflects Klimt's style. It is fabulous that all pieces contribute, so please, encourage your children to get involved.

We will be holding our second Skills Builder Challenge Day on Tuesday, **8th of March**, with the theme of 'Game On'. Over the course of the challenge, pupils will apply all eight essential skills as they consider: **Why do we have rules in sport?** In groups, they will research, design and present a brand new sport, including rules, players' kit and a model playing field to their tutor group. The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills and has been used to create many different career and job opportunities for pupils. It is so important for pupils to recognise all of the different places where they are developing their essential skills. Skills Builder challenge days at school are just one part of the picture. Hobbies, interests, community connections and activities at home can all help to build the eight essential skills pupils need now and for their future success.

This year Science week falls between Monday 14th to Friday 18th March. It seems like such a long time since we were able to celebrate this very special event, so we decided to bring it back in style this year. We are looking to put on a Science extravaganza. I don't know about you but I have missed it! The theme this year is 'Growth'. It would be great to get everybody involved by asking you all to think of an activity you can do to reflect this year's theme. You might decide to plant a sunflower or grow new skills by taking up a craft or sport or you might decide to research the growth of our scientific understanding in an area of your choice. Be as inventive as you like. All we ask is that you let us know by taking a photo and sending it in (more information to follow, keep an eye on the website). Then send another photo once your activity has shown 'Growth'. You could even choose to send a full timeline. Let's get the whole family involved! Check out the 'British Science week' official website for more activities you can do at home: <https://www.britishscienceweek.org/>.

As we move into Spring and the temperature rises we will start to remove coats in the classrooms. I have kept a close eye on our 18 classroom temperature/CO2 monitors. Frequently the temperature is 20 degrees in the main part of the ventilated rooms. Currently, pupils placed by the windows will still need to wear a jacket. When this is no longer the case, we will make the switch to no coats in classrooms. It would be helpful to start talking to your child about this.

This is a busy month as we start to re-establish routines. Here are some useful dates for the diary:

7th March: Art House competition launch

8th March: Skills Builder Day

14th March: Science week

17th March: Parents evening - online

18th March: Red Nose Day - info to follow

23rd March: Parents evening - online

Wishing you all a great weekend.

Mr R Christopher