

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a great week! I've heard exciting stories of ski trips with plenty of snow, some escaping to find some early season sun and many who caught up with family and friends. It was the first time in years I remained in Southbourne for the week and my girls took full advantage of being at home with their 'things', seeing family and most importantly, just slowing down and spending quality time together as a family unit.

This week has been dominated by sporting events. I took full advantage in my new role to support the year 7 football team win their cup match against Purbeck. The final score of 5-2 was fully justified and the final goal was a fine team effort. I wish them luck in the next round.

Well done to the Year 6 Football team who won their fixture against Lockyers Middle School yesterday. Mr Foord tells me the whole team played with excellent cohesion and with two goals in the second half secured a 2-1 victory. On to the semi finals where we play Oakdale.

Year 8 and 7 rugby teams spent time at Wimborne Rugby club. The year 8 team was less experienced than the teams they played against, but they retained possession fantastically well and scored plenty of tries in their four matches. I have high hopes for the year 7 team today.

The great thing about observing both events, and today will be no different, is not necessarily the result - although we always want to win. It is watching the pupils have to 'dig in' during the games when they are not on top. I feel that too often in today's society people are too quick to give in when things get uncomfortable. The resilience, self-belief and trust in others are life skills they will all need as they develop as people. You will all be very aware of the drive to improve academic standards; but we also place a high value in developing our pupils as people who thrive in challenging environments, make good decisions under pressure and persevere in all things they attempt.

On Tuesday we have a monitoring visit from a HMI trained Education Specialist. Whilst it is not an official visit linked to our Ofsted last year it will provide us with some hard evidence to the impact of our improvement journey from an external source. I will provide you with updates when we have received feedback. I am confident and looking forward to our amazing pupils and staff showing their talents that they consistently show on a daily basis.

On Friday 2nd March we will be holding a cake sale to raise funds for Mosaic and the PTFA. Your support of these events in the past has been outstanding which has enabled us to raise a lot of money for some very important causes. All donations of cakes, whether homemade or shop bought, are gratefully received.

Sadly, Mrs Turtle is unwell and currently signed off until the end of February. We have a French specialist to cover her classes and will be available until Miss Turtle is fit to return. French planning and resources are being supplied by Miss Fagge and I am supporting the Humanities planning and resourcing. This will ensure the pupils still receive the same level of work and they have the consistency of one member of staff covering those lessons. The cover teacher, Mrs Harvey, is also a former Headteacher and carries a purposeful and energetic buzz in the classroom from my observation on Wednesday. The pupils left the room knowing they had been challenged!

Finally, over the half term the year 8 corridor, room 13 and room 15 were decorated in the same colour scheme as the reception area. It has completely changed the whole appearance of the area and it has a much more mature and grown up aura to it. We will put some displays back up, but for now I am enjoying the clean lines, openness and brightness of the area. We will continue to work on all areas of the school. The next area will be the main corridor from reception into the main area of the school.

Enjoy a dry and bright weekend. I hope the rugby team bring back the Calcutta Cup on Saturday!

Mr Rob Christopher

## A WEEK IN PICTURES



Year 6 Football Team



Year 7 Football Team



Year 8 Rugby Team



Year 7 Rugby Team