

April '23

After the fun and excitement of Easter, the pupils have settled back well into the daily rhythm of school life. The smiles that enter the classrooms first thing in the morning are an indication of the excitement ahead and within minutes the questions unfold... "What, where, when, how and most importantly, why?" A new day begins and a fresh adventure begins.

Our charity work this month has focused on two events. Back in March, the pupils had a fantastic day dressing up as superheroes in aid of Red Nose Day and the variety of outfits were amazing. In addition to this, the Eco Club were extremely keen for the school to mark Earth Day 2023 and a non-uniform day in green and blue (earth and sea) ensured all the pupils could celebrate environmental awareness and raise money for 'Team Trees' and 'Team Seas'. When the initiative comes from the pupils, we know we have a fighting chance of a brighter ecological future. Our links with the AONB are a vital aspect of our love for the local area and pupils from Year 6 had a wonderful morning at Tower Farm planting over 200 trees with Dougie and Belinda. A huge thank you to Jonny and the AONB team for allowing us to assist and we look forward to monitoring the development of the hedgerow site in years to come. The local National Trust rangers arranged a series of fun and engaging sessions for pupils on Arnside Knott and all the activities fed directly back into the curriculum back at school – integrated learning at its best. Finally, the infants braved a spell of damp weather to enjoy a 'Spring into Art' day at Leighton Hall. The extensive grounds and woodlands provided the perfect base to explore and embrace the wonder of nature, and the pupils loved it.

Back in school, various music compositions were learnt, rehearsed, polished and performed at our recent Charanga Concert. The range of songs and instrumental backing was very impressive and it certainly demonstrated the variety of music our curriculum scheme exposes the pupils to. Nicola Rich (singing and piano) and Ric French (guitar) continue to provide peripatetic lessons to pupils of all ages and we're very excited to be starting an infant choir led by Rev Hannah, our St James' vocal star with a voice of an angel.

The FOANs group continue to support the school at every opportunity and this was recently demonstrated when members of the school community and staff joined forces to tackle a whole host of jobs around school. We built, repaired, planted, painted and cleaned various areas around school and it was a wonderful reflection of the generous and caring nature of our parents / carers. A huge thank you to all involved – your kindness is thoroughly heart warming. Also in production are our commemorative school T-Towels featuring pictures of all the pupils and staff.

Our intrepid Year 3 and 4 pupils embarked on a two-day adventure to Tower Wood, Windermere, and their energy, resilience and independence was evident from start to finish. For many of the younger pupils, it was their first experience away from home and we were extremely proud of everyone. Preparing to 'fly the nest' takes time, preparation and careful nurturing, and residential at school are an extremely vital aspect of a pupil's personal development. Thank you to the staff for giving time and energy to create these golden opportunities.

"Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself." Chinese proverb.

This term we are looking forward to swimming sessions at Kendal Leisure centre, a Coronation tea party, the Big Sing event, a camping residential, tag rugby competitions and our end of term Worship Celebration in St James'. We're even going to tackle some moth trapping with the Larksfoot conservation group – life is never dull...

Take care, Mr Sharp