

Dear Parents,

I have really enjoyed speaking with your children over the past week and finding out more about how they will be spending this half term holiday with you. The past seven weeks has flown by, with the pupils taking part in various exciting events to supplement their learning, growth and development.

The in-house hockey festival last Sunday for our J1 and J2 pupils was a particularly enjoyable way to finish the penultimate week of this half term; and the Harvest Assembly and Macmillan Coffee Morning were really heartening gatherings, where we reflected on our good fortune and how we can use this to positively impact the lives of others.

The J3 pupils excelled during their Bushcraft trip, and the J2 pupils will undoubtedly be very excited about their residential at Castle Howard at the start of November. Our Pre-School pupils finished this week's *Pumpkin Week* with a pumpkin rolling course and competition, ably led by our PE teachers and Pre-School staff. Equally our I1 pupils were delighted with their *Fang-tastic Friday* Hallowe'en event; a number of them were bursting with delight when expressing to me how wonderful their *skele-bration* party was.

We have plenty to look forward to after the holiday too including a chess tournament, a theatre trip for our I1 – J4 pupils, a visit to KGS from *The Supervet: Noel Fitzpatrick* for our older pupils, and an array of other educational visits this year to supplement our curriculum. Next half term, we will also be inviting our J4Y parents to join their child for a KGS lunchtime experience. As the year progresses, our aim is for each class to enjoy this experience.

Some of our J4 Roles and Responsibilities were announced this morning to the J4 pupils, and I was particularly impressed with the support and congratulations that they offered to their peers during this gathering. I very much look forward to working with our bright, able and responsible J4 pupils when we return next half term. As a reminder, please note that I will formally announce these roles in the Achievement Assembly on Tuesday 8 November. I look forward to welcoming those parents that can make it on this date.

Finally, I do hope that the Curriculum Overviews sent home this week prove a useful reference tool when supporting your child. If your child is in J4, you may wish, for example, to take them to The Art of Banksy Tour (Media City, 21 October 2022 – 8 January 2023) in order to further enhance their learning and appreciation of the influence of Pop Art on modern-day artists. As part of our curriculum updates for this academic year, and within the subjects of History, Geography and Art and Design, we have implemented the *Chris Quigley* approach, which is underpinned by the principle that pupils are able to store knowledge, concepts, techniques and skills to their long term memory over a two-year period. This is broken down into three milestones: Milestone 1 – Key Stage 1 (I2 and I3), Milestone 2 - Lower Key Stage 2 (J1 and J2) and Milestone 3 - Upper Key Stage 2 (J3 and J4); some topics are therefore repeated within their key stage. In J1 and J2, for example, both year groups will study The Stone Age. In J1, studies will focus on a *basic* understanding, moving towards a *deep* or perhaps *advanced* understanding in J2, thus building upon their previous learning. This is also an extremely vocabulary-rich curriculum, designed to increase pupils' cultural capital throughout School. Should you require any further information or insight about the curriculum for the term ahead, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Class Teacher in the first instance.

Wishing you all a relaxing half term holiday. I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 7 November.

With best wishes.

Mrs K L O'Donoghue
Headmistress