

1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Easter holiday period has arrived and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school, let you know about a few activities that have taken place this term and provide some details of forthcoming events.

Primary phase

<u>Reception</u> pupils have done lots of eating this term! They have learnt all about Chinese New Year, which finished with a celebration dragon dance and a Chinese banquet; they had fun finding out about Shrove Tuesday, and the children enjoyed making their own pancakes at the pancake station; and they finished the term hearing all about the Easter story and having hot cross buns!

After being inspired by the visit from author Helen Poole earlier in the term, <u>year 1</u> children have created their own characters and events for their own adventure stories. They have all done some amazing written work and they will be reading their stories to some of the other classes. <u>Year 2</u> really enjoyed preparing for the Spring fair performance and especially loved making pictures of their lovely mums! They have also really enjoyed learning all about nurses throughout history at the start of the term where they thought about all the ways nurses help us. <u>Year 3</u> enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Catalyst Museum where every child got to become a scientist for the day. The children have loved reading the poetry of Robert Louis Stevenson and using their creativity to produce their own poetry.

<u>Year 4</u> have been studying natural disasters and climate change. Alongside watching some documentaries, including David Attenborough's 'witness statement', the children have done their own research on one particular natural disaster. Their research has helped them to write their own report and provide valuable information about a natural disaster. <u>Year 4 and Year 5</u> worked on a collaborative art project, creating sunflower chains as symbols of our solidarity with the people in Ukraine and everybody else who is affected by war. <u>Year 5</u> has been writing comparisons of different texts such as Harry Potter and Philip Pullman's book Clockwork. In history they have learnt about the slave trade and in geography they learnt about different environments around the world such as biomes and vegetation belts. The <u>year 6</u> pupils have been working really hard for SATs. In English, this half term has been all about persuasion texts with an environmental theme. The class also held a debate about whether it should be a criminal offence to put recyclable items in your landfill wheelie bin. We have some excellent public speakers in the making!

The spring fair was enjoyed by all at the primary phase. The children loved having the opportunity to showcase some of their CbIDS work to family members and it was wonderful to see the improved confidence of many of our pupils since the Winter Fair showcase. Thanks to

Headteacher: Mrs L Edwards BA(Hons), PGCE.

Tel: 01695 729912 Email: enquiries@maharishischool.com www.maharishischool.com

Cobbs Brow Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 6JJ

all who supported the event and a special thanks to our amazing fundraising team and staff. Thanks to the contribution of our whole school community, we raised almost £1900 half of which will be donated to Unicef and the work that they are doing in Ukraine and half will go towards Design & Technology resources for the primary phase.

Secondary phase

Fundraising has taken place on a monthly basis at the secondary phase, led by our head girl, Maiya, who invited all pupils to nominate a charity of their choice, one of which is drawn out of a hat each month and is the focus of that particular month's charity fundraising. Maiya also organised a Bake Off event with a Valentine's Day theme. We were blown away by the number and the quality of the entries. Well done to everybody who participated, including the many staff and pupils who 'volunteered' to be on the tasting panel;)

Our head boy, Jamie, was instrumental in resurrecting lunch time clubs at the secondary site after a long pandemic-related hiatus. Film Club, Reading Club and Science Club have been enjoyed by pupils this term. Generous donations for Ukrainian refugees have been collected by our head girl and year 11 prefects, Maisy and Izzy. Our current year 11 team of prefects and head pupils are the most proactive group we have ever had at the school and they have been excellent role models for our younger pupils.

In response to a plea to parents for materials to enhance the secondary phase pupils' break times, we were delighted to receive benches, tyres, plants and more. These items have made such a huge difference and we are very grateful to our generous parents and grandparents.

We have a new secondary phase magazine and a new team of content creators and editors. The second edition of 'The Inspirer' has just been published and, once again, showcases the talents of our pupils, from their writing and illustrations to their creative and entertaining content. Well done to the team and Miss Webster for all their efforts!

Having completed their training in the autumn term, our core team of 12 Wellbeing Champions have been proactively putting their training to good use. One group is in charge of the wellbeing notice board which includes notices like 'small acts of kindness' and information from the Young Minds website. Another group is responsible for general wellbeing and is currently looking into hydration options for around the school. A third group has chosen to focus on relevant activities that can be disseminated during form times and are currently working on some presentations for both form time and assemblies. The Wellbeing Champions are showing great independence, creativity, leadership, teamwork and a sense of responsibility in the way that they have taken on these important roles.

Miss Madden set our pupils some challenges to mark National Pi Day. Well done to Verity who, amazingly, memorised 100 digits of Pi! Well done also to Seren who came up with the most creative answer to the question: If 3 is the answer, what is the question? Seren's question, which included ratio, angles and trigonometry and rounding wowed Miss Madden!

We love this time of year at the secondary site as room 1 starts to fill up with Y10 and Y11 art and photography pieces. Within their architecture project, years 10 and 11 have been creating abstract sculptures inspired by vorticism, and are now working on surreal architectural sculptures inspired by Michael C. McMillen and Sylvain Corentin. Photography students are currently working on a 'light and dark' project. They had fun dressing up for their photoshoot, creating interesting silhouettes and shadows, and explored reflections and dramatic lighting in their still life photography

Both phases

We marked Neurodiversity Celebration Week at both phases and learned about the different ways in which people think and learn, and highlighted the many strengths that come from the ability to think differently.

World Book Day was enjoyed by all and, as always, it was wonderful to see the creative and imaginative costumes and to hear from the children which books they have enjoyed reading.

Key Dates for Summer 1

Primary

Tuesdays Craft & Art Club Reception-Y3

Tuesdays Rugby Y4-6
Tuesdays Guitar Y1-3
Wednesdays Yoga Club Y1-3
Wednesdays Eco Club Y4-6
Fridays Sports Club Y4-6

Start dates and sign-up letters will be sent home in the first week after Easter

Secondary

Mondays Y10 & 11 art

Tuesdays Y9 & 10 photography

Tuesdays Y11 maths

Both phases

21 April School photographs

Date TBC June/July Summer Fair

With very best wishes for a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Lisa Edwards

Did you know...?

From the earliest days of his teaching around the world, beginning in 1959, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi spoke often of the positive, peaceful global transformations that would naturally result when as little as 1% of the world's population practised the Transcendental Meditation technique. Then in 1975, the results of the first scientific research were announced, which found a statistically significant reduction in crime rates in 12 American cities when the threshold of 1% of each city's population practising the TM technique was reached.

https://www.tm.org/blog/maharishi/maharishi-on-the-1-effect/

Did you know...?

Parents of Maharishi School pupils can learn TM in Skelmersdale at a much reduced cost: only £145 which is 50% of the lowest fee.

Over 300 scientific studies show Transcendental Meditation offers a wide range of benefits, including:

- Reduced anxiety and depression
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- Greater resilience to stress

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