

28th March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Please see below some updates from the spring term.

### **Welcome**

This term we welcomed our new parent governors, Louise McCloskey and Rachel Hobson, who are bringing new skills and perspectives to our governing body.

### **OPAL (Outdoor Play & Learning)**

Our primary phase playground is continuing to develop. This term we introduced, amongst other things, a slide and a climbing frame, some gym mats, table football and a 7-seater aeroplane. We are continuing to collect donated items from the OPAL Bingo cards. Thanks to everyone who has helped to improve 'play' for our primary pupils.

### **Spring term activities**

Reception class have been spring detectives this term; looking for signs of spring in the eco garden and recording their findings using their ever-growing phonics knowledge. Year 1 have been weather reporters this term in geography; learning how to observe the weather in different ways, including cloud watching and they have made a rain catcher and wind ribbons. Year 2 learned about fire safety during a visit from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. Parents can access a recommended story from here: [Child Safe](#) Year 3 enjoyed an interactive day at the Catalyst Museum. Year 4 enjoyed an Ancient Egyptian workshop, including a Virtual Reality session. Year 5 took part in Bikeability and had some Bounce Forward sessions, where the children worked on goal setting and resilience. Year 6 took part in Bikeability and enjoyed a visit from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service where they had a Road Sense workshop.

Other primary phase activities have included World Book Day, the KS1 Young Writers Competition, the Pupil Parliament debate and visit to the Mayor's Chambers, a disco, the new tuck shop, the swimming gala, Y5 & 6 Park Run and basketball competition, Y3 & 4 girls' dodgeball competition. Friends of the Earth Club has been very active with tree planting at Beacon House, litter picking in the local area and the recent Reduce and Recycle Sale. Out of Hours Club has seen the introduction of some new activities: knitting, crafts, gardening and movie night, plus new snacks being offered (eg. humus, wraps, fruit).

Secondary phase pupils from Years 9-11 enjoyed a fantastic language immersion trip to Murcia in Spain where they practised their Spanish listening and speaking skills whilst playing beach games, enjoying a pool party, hiking, mini-golf, Carnival and much more.



Pupils from Year 10 & 11 enjoyed a visit to Queen's College, Oxford University where they learned about the requirements to go to university and had two taster sessions: one from a Masters student about climate change and one about cancer cells delivered by a 5th year medical student. Y10 pupils enjoyed a performance of Macbeth at the Palace Theatre in Manchester. Y9 and 10 Youth Leaders are currently working on their mini challenges - raising awareness for their charity or issue of choice. One group showed outstanding resilience, perseverance and courage whilst doing their "raising awareness for homelessness" sleepout. KS3 music & computing lessons were introduced to the secondary curriculum this term and have been well received. We look forward to adding design technology from September. Pupils enjoyed the spring reward trip to Air Nation and dressing up for World Book Day. Pupils appreciated the efforts of the Wellbeing Champions who created immersive activities to enable pupils to gain some 'experience' of what it feels like to have some neurodivergent conditions.

### **Extra-curricular activities next term**

#### Primary phase clubs

- Netball Club
- Music Club
- Eco Club
- Drawing Club
- School Council
- Tuck Shop
- Magazine Club

#### Secondary phase activities:

- Y11 Spanish revision
- Y11 maths revision
- Y11 history revision
- KS4 extra art
- Y9 & Y10 Youth Leadership Course
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Duke of Edinburgh Award

### **Upcoming events - Save the Date**

Open Day 24 April - school will close at 2:30  
Y11 Leavers' Meal 7:30-9:30  
Y7-11 Blackpool Trip 17 June  
Y11 Leavers' Assembly 18 June 11:00-12:00  
Sports Day 21 June  
Summer Fair 28 June  
Book Cycle TBC  
R-Y1 Windmill Farm end of term trip date TBC  
Y2-6 Gulliver's World end of term trip date TBC

### **Upcoming sports fixtures**

23 April Y5/6 dodgeball  
30 April KS1 multiskills  
4 June Y5/6 football  
11 June netball class TBC  
18 June athletics class TBC  
25 June netball class TBC



### **SENCO Surgery**

20 minute appointments are available to book to meet with one of the SENCO team to discuss any SEND-related concerns you may have, find out what we have available in school and what is available within the community that we can signpost you to.

### **School Dog - Meet Pud**

Primary parents will be familiar with Ralph who comes to the primary phase on most days with Mr Lowrie. We are delighted to let you know that we will also be having a school dog at the secondary phase. Pud will shortly be coming to school with Ms Lea-Hayes. A letter and consent form will be shared with secondary parents after the Easter break.



That's all for now. We return to school on **Monday 15th April** at 8:50 (for a prompt 9am start) at the secondary phase and from 9:00-9:15 (for a prompt 9:15 start) at the primary phase.

Wishing you a happy Easter on behalf of all at the school.

Lisa Edwards

"If we think of defeat, that's what we will get. If we are undecided then nothing will happen for us. We must just pick something great to do, and then do it. Never think of failure at all, for as we think now, that's what we will get." — Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

"Problems are not solved on the level of problems. Analysing a problem to find its solution is like trying to restore freshness to a leaf by treating the leaf itself, whereas the solution lies in watering the root." — Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

"It may take a little self-discipline – be simple, be kind, stay rested. Attend to your own inner-health and happiness." — Maharishi Mahesh Yogi