



31st March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the Easter holiday period, I would like to thank you for sending your wonderful children to our school and share with you some activities that have taken place this term and provide some details of forthcoming events.

### **Primary phase**

This term our primary phase reached the final of a national spelling competition. Thank you to Mrs Freel who organised this event and kept motivation and engagement high throughout the week. We were thrilled to make the finals in our first time at the event and one of our pupils even came 3rd overall; an amazing achievement given that there were 52 schools in the finals.

We have been very fortunate to have visits from three different authors this term: Reception to Year 3 were visited by [Helen Poole - Author & Illustrator](#) who read to the children and they all drew an illustration together. [Daniel Hippolyte](#), actor, writer and comedian, visited Reception and Key Stage 1. And author [Ged Thompson](#) visited Key Stage 2 where he facilitated workshops on poetry and story composition.

Many more activities and events have taken place, including museum visits and sports events, to name a few. Please take a look at our social media pages to see more of what we've been up to. <https://www.facebook.com/maharishifreeschool> (you can also find us on Instagram and Twitter).

### **Secondary phase**

In January, a group of our pupils visited Oxford University. We were hosted by Grace Walters, a former Maharishi School pupil, who recently graduated from Oxford University, and is currently working for the university. Our pupils had the opportunity to visit the college, experience some workshops and find out about the collegiate system. Our Y8-10 pupils took part in a local careers fair and Y10 pupils enjoyed a careers day at [Hurlston Hall](#).

Our Wellbeing Champions launched their lunchtime club this term - Your Space - with an arts table, poetry/quiet corner, games table and an information station which provides weekly information on topics that can help your wellbeing. The School Magazine Team continues to go from strength to strength with more members joining and regular editions of the magazine being published - all of this is being achieved by the pupils themselves who are leading on this initiative. Year 9 are preparing for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition which will be taking place in the next half term. All pupils doing DofE in year 9 - 11 are now completing their Sections (skill, physical and volunteering) and we are beginning to collect assessors' reports for these that show how committed, creative and persevering our pupils are. GCSE mocks have taken place this term and our year 11 pupils are fully focused and deserve every success in the upcoming examinations.

### **Both phases**

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 about which books they have enjoyed reading. At the secondary phase, we particularly enjoyed the range of 'adjective' inspired costumes that our pupils and staff modelled, including 'eccentric', 'ostentatious' and 'gregarious'.

### **Picnic in the Playground**

On 17th May, all of our secondary phase pupils will be transported to the primary phase for our inaugural 'Picnic in the Playground' event. We are looking forward to reuniting all of our pupils on one site for this joint pupil event.

### **Easter Bonnet Parade**

Primary phase pupils are invited to bring a homemade Easter bonnet to school on Monday 17th April. Prizes will be awarded for bonnets that are the most eco-friendly and those which have been made with minimal adult support. Parents are invited to attend the parade which will take place at 3:20pm in the primary phase playground. This is an optional event and one that we hope brings some creative fun over the Easter break.

### **Primary Phase Reading Challenge**

Pupils from years 1 to 6 are invited to participate in our '**100 books to read before you leave**' challenge. Thanks to Miss Lunn who has researched and arranged this wonderful opportunity which will enable our pupils to broaden the range of books they are exposed to in a fun and engaging way. The challenge includes opportunities to produce book reviews, which will be shared via each year group's Class Dojo platform, and there will be prizes available throughout the year. We hope you and your child/ren enjoy taking part.

### **Secondary Phase Music Club**

At the start of the summer term, we will be opening a Wednesday lunchtime music club, led by some of our upper school musicians. Pupils with current music experience, plus those who have no experience, but who would like to learn, will be able to spend Wednesday lunchtimes in room 1 jamming, learning new riffs or just enjoying the atmosphere. ***If there are any families who have musical instruments that are gathering dust at home and could be donated to the school, we would love to hear from you.***

### **Goodbyes and Welcomes**

This week we have said farewell to some valued members of our school community, who are moving on to pastures new. We wish Mrs Hughes (Miss Lisa) all the very best in her new career. Lisa has worked as our reception teaching assistant for many years and her enthusiasm for our lovely school will be missed. Mrs Baldwin, our reception teacher, has only been with us for a short time. However, during this time, she has become a valued member of our team and we wish her lots of happiness in her retirement. Kristine Whitehead, our office manager and IT technician, is leaving for a new challenge after many years at the school. We will miss Mrs Whitehead's contribution to our school team and wish her every happiness in her new role.

We will welcome Mrs Greenalgh as our interim reception teacher when we return after the Easter holidays. Mrs Greenalgh spent a day in reception this week, getting to know our lovely pupils, and she is very much looking forward to working with us and getting to know our reception parents. She will be supported by Mrs Singleton and Mrs Parrott, who will be

the reception class teaching assistants until the end of this school year. Both are known to our reception pupils already and are looking forward to being their new TAs.

### **Key Dates for Summer 1**

#### **Primary**

Mondays (lunchtime)	Y1 Dancercise
Mondays (after school)	Y1-3 Gardeners' World
Tuesdays (after school)	Y3-5 Yoga Club
Wednesdays (lunchtime)	Y5-6 Eco Club
Wednesdays (lunchtime)	Y4-6 Wellbeing Club
Fridays (after school)	Y4-6 Sports Club
Nurture Club	All welcome - every day AM & PM break

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

#### **Secondary**

Magazine Team	Mondays (lunchtime)
Your Space (Wellbeing Hub)	Tuesdays (lunchtime)
Music Club	Wednesdays (lunchtime)
Dungeons & Dragons	Dates TBC
Duke of Edinburgh	Dates TBC
Tuesdays (after school)	Y9 & 10 photography
Wednesdays (after school)	Y11 maths/English literature
Thursdays (after school)	Y11 art/Spanish

#### **Both phases**

School Fair fundraiser	27th April (Good quality unwanted gifts)
School Fair fundraiser	25th May (Bottle donations)
School Fair fundraiser	8th June (Chocolate/sweet donations)
June exact date TBC	Summer Fair

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



Lisa Edwards

"Through the alternation of rest and activity, our awareness opens to a more comprehensive vision ... When the mind functions while remaining ever steadfast in the state of tranquility, the full range of creative intelligence becomes lively. In that state one makes no mistakes. Every inspiration is right and leads to correct action for maximum achievement." **Maharishi Mahesh Yogi**

***Please encourage your child to continue with their WoW and TM at home during the Easter break. Your support is so important and helps us to maintain the unique and lovely atmosphere that our pupils are able to enjoy at our school.***