



Message from Mrs Keep

Dear Parents

Without doubt, we have just had the strangest end to a term I've experienced in my many years of teaching, and it looks as though we will start next term in an equally altered 'new normal'. However, before the world was turned entirely upside down, we had a couple of days in school that I would like to look back on. They were the sorts of moments that come round infrequently and are all the more magical because of their rarity.

We had grown used to the lack of matches taking place in school but nonetheless missed the Wednesday afternoon feeling of the school combining into different teams and, supported by our most loyal and vocal fans, going into competition. And so, a couple of weeks ago, the school gathered outside to watch a couple of hotly contested matches. The first match played was staff v pupils football. The Year 8 boys took on a mixed staff team, made up of teachers from across the school. Miss Weller offered outstanding, impartial refereeing and I am delighted to confirm that the final score was 1-0 to the pupils. The teachers v pupils netball consisted of a Y7&8 girls team against another co-ed teachers' team, again from across the school. This time, there were a few more goals and the final score was 6-3 to the adults. The matches themselves were great fun, and having the school gathered to cheer and support lifted all our spirits. My thanks to the children who competed in such good spirits, the teachers who were determined to win (and yet lost), and everyone who gathered to cheer them on. At the time, we didn't realise quite how precious that sense of community was going to be.

The final week of term is always crammed full of events. There are usually concerts and House competitions and end of term treats. This term, of course, the end of term in a physical sense was forced on us earlier than expected. We may not have been able to have everything as we intended it, but as much as possible was crammed into the final 48 hours we were in school together. We managed to film a Year 6 Drama showcase and a variety of musical performances in lieu of the planned Spring Concert, and these will soon be posted on the VLE for us all to enjoy. The Pre-Prep children sang for their mothers, and the film of that was sent so that the lucky mummies could see their children's performance while enjoying their breakfast in bed.

On the last day of term, the PTA still managed to get us an Easter egg for every child and this year's 'Earn Your Egg' challenge was a little different to usual. Inspired by Paddy's suggestion that we do something kind for our neighbours, each child created a Positive Poster. These remain on our school fence and we have yet to see anyone walk past who doesn't stop to read them.

These are strange times and, by necessity, we all feel more isolated than usual. I hope that the children are able to look back on the end of term and feel the strength of community spirit to sustain them through the coming days and weeks. I suspect that none of us will be having the Easter break we expected, but nonetheless want to wish every LPH family well as we navigate our way through this strange new normal, at least for a while.

Take good care and stay in touch with each other.

News Round Up

Pre-School

The Pre-School have had an exciting couple of weeks! First we had British Science Week and the children had so much fun being scientists! They took part in experiments and made predictions. Some of the experiments they did were: the Skittle Experiment, Bubble Painting, Sinking and Floating, Looking at items that are Waterproof, Cornflour, Glitter Germs and Using a Thermal Camera!

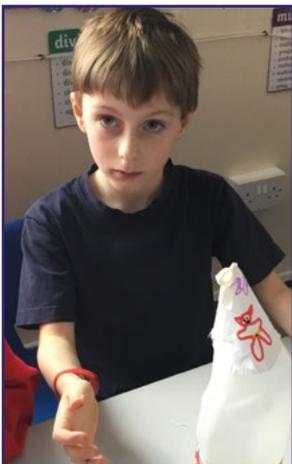


The following week, for those who have been in, we have been busy preparing special gifts for our Mummies for Mother's Day. We were so sorry that we were not able to hold our Mother's Day tea party but hope you all enjoyed the film of our song which we secretly recorded to be sent out on Mother's Day!

News Round Up

Year 2

As part of our recent Science Week the Year 2 children took part in a 'Mouse Rocket Investigation'. They made a paper cone and placed it on top of their rocket launchers (an empty bottle). They counted down 3,2,1...BLAST OFF! They discussed how high they could get them by making changes the second time around, such as shape of rocket and strength of push.



Drama

Year 5 Drama Evening

This year the children have been reading *Danny the Champion of the World* by Roald Dahl and *Varjak Paw* by S F Said and these books were used as the theme for the Drama evening. All the children were fantastic in writing, editing, directing and acting in their own performances and should be very proud of their efforts. We certainly were!



Drama & Music

Year 6 Drama Evening

As mentioned by Mrs Keep, we have a film of this evening which will be shared on the VLE.

Here is an image to be getting on with in the meantime.



Spring Concert

Mrs Bunker has been working hard with our pupils to prepare for this concert, which again has been recorded and will be available to view on our VLE.

First the solo musicians performed their pieces, followed by the Year 3 strings group in full flow. It is remarkable to see just how much these young musicians have embraced playing what can seem quite daunting instruments.

The Show Choir also had the opportunity to perform two songs they had been working on.

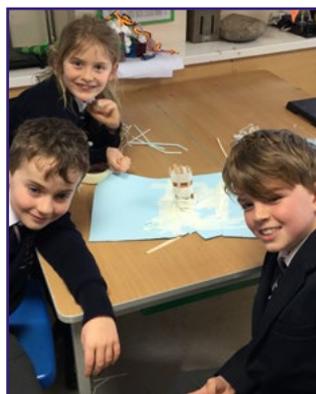


British Science Week

This year's Science Week was a veritable hive of activity involving every year group across the school. Here are just a few examples of what has been going on in the LPH Life Scientific!



Meeting hedgehogs - here on the left is Henry!



Eggnaut Challenge

The pupils in Year 4 were challenged to build a capsule that would survive re-entry into the atmosphere, protecting their Eggnaut without smashing them. They then had to launch them, and open them up to find out if they had succeeded!



Astronauts Race

This was a fun break time activity where pupils from Years 3 to 5 dressed up to run a relay, collecting 'moon rocks' to bring back for their team.

Space Reading Time

Honor, Zoe, Coco and Issy in Year 5 reading space books in the Snell Library.

British Science Week

Dr Hilary Nash gave a truly inspiring assembly to Years 3 to 6, and 8C, about her experiences on the *Expedition*, an all-female round the world expedition to monitor plastic in the ocean. She stayed on to deliver a workshop to the Year 8 class who enjoyed interviewing her.



Year 6 tried their hands at creating Stop Frame Animations



Newt spotting in the Science Garden



Making 'moonsaics'



Year 8 Scientific Investigations

Our Year 8 scholarship class formed three groups to carry out different studies. The first was a timely comparison of different methods of hand washing using petri dishes to take samples and to see what grew. Unsurprisingly just using cold water was the least effective method. The girls took on determining how much perception of taste is reliant on the other senses. Interestingly, the girl with a particularly keen sense of smell found it particularly difficult to identify samples whilst wearing nose clips. The third group carried out a comparisons of the PH of a group of metals, non-metals and their oxides, using a bunsen burner to create the oxides and measuring the PH of each. They then used their test results to modify their original hypothesis.

The Last Day of the Spring Term

'Capture the Flag'

Sports fixtures have been much missed, but our pupils have been competing in their Houses against each other in a number of different physical activities. There is nothing like a bit of healthy Inter-house rivalry to hone teamwork and collaborative skills in fun contests like the 'Capture the Flag' event. The pupils and staff made the most of our outdoor space to charge about making a lot of noise! Precisely what the rules were remains unclear and which House won is not that important (well not to the other three at any rate) but it was the joy of letting off some steam on the field and the taking part that were the main objects of the exercise.



The LPH Wall of Positivity

On the final morning of the term, at the suggestion of Paddy, our Head Boy, everyone set to and created colourful posters and messages for our neighbours and local community, to cheer them up in these difficult days. The blaze of colour is phenomenal and have been much admired, and appreciated, by passers-by.

