



Dear Parents,

It has been a fantastic month of learning in school. The children in Y6 have moved through their national tests in their usual upbeat way—thanks to their preparation and hard work; the children in KS1 have been enjoying learning outside and the teachers have been preparing for a busy term 6 full of special events. I've heard the fine weather is due to continue so enjoy your family time together in the May half term.

May Queen

This Friday will see the 108th crowning of the May Queen. We are delighted that all of our Y6 girls took the risk to stand for the role. They wrote and presented to the other children across the school who then voted for the person they wanted to fulfil the role. Lily Kimber was elected and our warmest congratulations go to her. I want to share with you how generous-hearted the Year 6 girls were in supporting each other and in congratulating Lily—I felt tremendously proud of them all. The Year 6 girls have chosen the attendants: Emelia Mackereth, Sophie Reece, Beatrice Empson, Seren Walton, Piers Clutterbuck and Ted Freebrey. We are set for a special occasion.

Pond dipping

What a delightful spell of weather we are having. The children in Class 1 and Class 2 have been making the most of it by exploring pond environments and pond dipping with Mr Dougan and staff. I joined a group who found: a male newt, a ram-horned snail, caddisflies, cotton grass, red and blue damsel flies and an extraordinary quantity of tadpoles! The children loved the experience and clearly learned a lot.

District Sport Competitions

District Sport preparations are underway with KS2 pupils enjoying the use of our big field to compete against their peers. They clearly worked hard as they came back to school sticky and tired. Pupils who are selected to represent the school will be coached by Mr Boon to further develop their skills ready for the inter-school competition. A big thank you to Mrs Childs for organising and to all the parents who helped walk the children to the field safely.

Class 3 Assembly— cooperation

Class 3 took full ownership of their assembly on cooperation by devising and presenting their own sketches. They explored how cooperation was vital in getting ready at home in the morning, in games and clubs. Thank you for making us all think.

Maths & Science Problem Solving Day

A small group of our Y5 pupils made the most of the opportunity to work with children from other schools at Maidenhill Secondary School. The focus was exploring the speed of birds, animals and humans. The children undertook practical work, solved problems using conversions and worked together. Our children said they had fun, enjoyed measuring with a trundle wheel and were surprised how fast some animals were compared to others. It was commented that our children listened well, cooperated and fully engaged in the learning opportunity.

Y6 Young Enterprise

The Year 6 pupils have decided on their company name and product already this year: Sweets-r-us! They are designing, making, advertising Peg-Pals ready to be sold at the Duck Race on Sunday June 25th. Oliver Beach and Esme Clutterbuck were voted as chair and vice chair of the company and will be leading the project. The profit from their company will support their trip next term to our partner school in central London, Charles Dickens.

Religious Education Curriculum

The Gloucestershire syllabus for RE will be changing from September 2017. The principle aim of RE is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religions and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living. The teaching will continue to cover religious traditions for the following groups: Christian, Jews, Muslims, and Hindus. The structure of teaching is understanding core beliefs, examining the impact of beliefs in everyday life and making connections & reflecting to help pupils develop their views.

Duck Race

Our annual Duck Race is on Sunday 25th June. Do keep the date free and join in the fun—fingers crossed for more of this fine weather. A message from the PA team: please send raffle ticket slips and Duck Race stubs to Mrs Lester as soon as possible as it helps to prepare for the day in advance. Many thanks.

Keeping cool

After half term please feel free to send in sun cream and sun hats to protect your children from the sun. Named water bottles are very important too—these are taken outside at lunch and break times so children can have plenty to drink.

Parent Association

Our thanks go to the PA who have paid for a broken and unusable section of the trim trail to be replaced. The trim trail is an area that the children love to use during lunch and playtimes—all classes have the opportunity to use it over the week. Also the school is trialling the use of creative dance linked to class curriculum themes. Our aim is to encourage children to be creative, give them more opportunity to be active and support their physical development in dance. The children will work with an experienced Advanced Skills Teacher and the day of dance will be celebrated by a mini performance at the end of the day. The PA have funded the trial and if successful this will be extended to all classes over next year.

Premises

We are hoping to have work undertaken on the river boundary of the school in the Summer holidays. The present plan is to use gabions to support the bank nearer Class 5 and thin piling/walling to support the bank near the bridge. We continue to liaise with GCC on this matter. Our thanks continue to be extended to our merry and skilled band of volunteers: Mr Gardner did a wonderful job of clearing the gutters in half term and found over a dozen tennis balls in the process; Mrs Pegler has continued to support the children with the garden area—it's lovely to see the children enjoying weeding at lunchtime and plants popping up. Thank you for the positive comments about the planters around school—I'll pass on the feedback to those responsible.

Dates for your diary

Term 6 will be as busy as usual—here are some of the key dates for your diary.

May

- Fri 26th - 108th May Queen Celebration—after school
- Last day of Summer Term 5 for pupils

June

- Mon 5th - INSET—for staff
- Tues 6th - First day of Summer Term 6 for pupils
- Fri 16th - Class 2 assembly —10am parents welcome
- Mon 19th - Y3/4 enrichment visit to The Wild Place
- District Sports for throwing/jumping at St Matthew's School (Res Wed)
- Wed 21st - PGL Evening for Y6 parents 5.30pm
- Sun 25th - Duck Race - come and join us for a quacking good time!**
- Mon 26th - C1 & C2 enrichment visit to Cotswold Farm Park
- Mon 26th - District Sports for running at Stratford Park (Res Wed)
- Wed 28th - Robinson Cup and Endeavour Shield Awards
- Sexual relationship education information evening for Y6 parents 5.30pm
- Fri 30th - Class 1 assembly—10am parents welcome

July

- Mon 3rd - Y6 on PGL residential for the week
- Mon 10th - Gloucestershire Cricket Schools Day: Y4 pupil visit
- Tues 11th - Y5 & Y6 link visit with Charles Dickens Primary School, London
- Wed 12th - Alex Fryer Music Award
- Thurs 13th - Music Celebration Evening 6pm
- Mon 17th - School sports day. 1.45pm at the school field. Please collect children from the school field.
- Tues 18th - Optional Parent Evening for parents of Y2 & Y6 pupils
- Mon 24th - Rainforest story teller (pupil treat)
- 6pm: Y6 leavers assembly for Y6 parents

Thank you for your continued support.

Zoe Avastu
Headteacher



Aiming high.....together