



The Head Teacher writes...

Just coming up from a hall full of children watching me shave two members of staff! All in the life of a Head Teacher who was maybe a little over-enthusiastic with the foam... Seriously though, a fantastic effort by three male members of staff who have raised in excess of £100.00 for Prostrate Cancer by supporting the Movember appeal.



It's been a busy week for Wishford visitors. On Tuesday we welcomed both Jenny Burrett and Penny Horsman to St David's and we were delighted that their visit coincided with the presentation to the parents by Year 6 of Archie Dobson's War which they first performed to the school on Remembrance Day during assembly. Jenny wrote this response to the evening:

"It is both inspiring and somehow right to see the young people of St David's Prep understanding their freedom and celebrating it. They are the heart of England, the true young voice of today's democracy that our soldiers paid for with their lives. It is good to know that their heart is still beating in the eternal mind of each generation.

*'And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven'
(Extract from 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke)*

Truly inspired by the challenge of understanding World War I, these year 6 children have been invited to enter the lives of World War I soldiers and their families through their dramatic and musical piece, 'Archie Dobson's War', appreciating the human suffering, yet extraordinary camaraderie and spirit of this time. Indigo, Tilly and Greta described the whole learning experience as 'very exciting', saying that they have learned never to try and solve problems through war and to live each and every moment of every day. A visit to Whitgift School's World War I exhibition, including entering into a trench, set the scene. Sharing the head's memorabilia and understanding what shrapnel out of her father's foot looked like, reading letters from her cousin who did not come back from an air mission and completing a project with a variety of independent research tasks in it and questions to follow up, led to much improved knowledge and empathy. This project was so powerful that parents had to come and see the outcomes and share in the excellent production at the end. Following a delicious supper, parents and visitors watched the show which left them very moved by the commitment of these young soldiers who knew it was 'a long way to Tipperary' and had learned to 'pack up their troubles in their old kitbag', leaving their 'only girl in the world' behind them as they set out to war. They knew it was likely to be their final 'GoodBy-eeee' or they were likely to return injured. But we all knew by the end that 'Old soldiers never die!' Such impactful and memorable opportunities are never possible without inspirational teaching and the chance to make sense of this history through music and drama requires both talent and dedication. "

Thank you Mrs Sowter, Mrs Merritt and team

PRE-PREP YEAR 2 ATTEND PIRATE SCHOOL

Last Friday, an excited Year 2 walked up to West Wickham station to catch the train and DLR to the Maritime Museum in Greenwich. They enjoyed an entertaining and informative day, attending Pirate School where they learnt to walk and talk like pirates and practise their scary pirate faces. They explored the museum to find treasure to put in their treasure chests.

A good time was had by all!



UPCOMING DATES

DECEMBER

Friday 2nd	Year 5 & 6 Football v St Olave's (A)
Saturday 3rd	12.30pm–4.00pm PTA Christmas Fair
Monday 5th	Flu-Nasal Spray Yrs 1, 2, 3
Tuesday 6th	Pre Prep & Prep School: +Flying Pizza Tour–Scrooge
Wednesday 7th	9.30am Pre-Prep Dress Rehearsal
Thursday 8 th	9.30am Pre-Prep Christmas Play
Friday 9 th	9.30am Pre-Prep Christmas Play 7.00pm Carol Service at St John's Church (compulsory Years 3 - 6)
Monday 12th	Years 5 & 6 visit to Focus Group
Tuesday 13th	Happy Puzzle Day
Wednesday 14th	Pre Prep: Messy Church Pre Prep Christmas Party Prep visit to Greenwich Theatre
Thursday 15th	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch Prep: STEM day
Friday 16th	11.30am Term Ends
Monday 19th–21st	8am–6pm Holiday Club

JANUARY

Tuesday 3rd	Prep School returns
Thursday 5th	Pre-Prep School returns

Congratulations to Laurence (6), Sam L (6), Megan (5), Rosemary (5), Lucy (5) and Zoe (5) who qualified to represent London South at the ISA National Swimming Championships in January 2017

Following on from the E-Safety Talks that Mr Leach gave during our recent parents evening, several of you expressed interest in the book he mentioned regarding the use of websites for homework. Here it is and should be available at Waterstones or Amazon.



Last week I was out of school on some training. When I told people where I was going I had a range of responses; one being "I'd rather you than me"!

The training was for an initiative called Forest School, meaning I was outside for the whole week learning a range of new skills that I could bring back to school to do with the children.

Forest School is regularly misunderstood: it can be misinterpreted as a brand for a school that takes its pupils outside occasionally; when in practice it has a more fundamental meaning. Its name refers to a philosophy in which students work outside in a natural outdoor space to build confidence and creativity. The idea is not to see which child can produce the best piece of natural art or who is the best at something, it is all about the journey the children go on and the process of learning.

My week was fun-filled, exciting and full of new and innovative ways of teaching outside the classroom. I built and lit large fires, put up a tarpaulin, used a range of tools to make different items (including picture frames and chairs) and more importantly learnt how to teach children become more confident.

When I arrived I felt quite out of my depth and wondered how I was ever going to remember everything (learning different types of knots is difficult)!! However, once the week progressed and we became more of a team everything seemed to click into place. I became a lot more confident in my abilities and was able to see how all of what I'd learned could be placed into our school environment. Throughout the week I could see how the Forest School ethos is learner centred and should focus on the individual child whilst allowing children to take risks and expose themselves to challenge.

I have come back to school very enthusiastic and have told my class all about my adventures. I have showed them what I made and talked to them about what Forest School is. I am now looking forward to implementing this into our school and seeing the children have fun, safe and exciting Forest School sessions.

Miss O'Sullivan

