

The Head Teacher writes...

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The more eagle-eyed amongst you, may have noticed the gradual shift of name for our school from St David's College to St David's Prep. At the moment both are still in use but we are now 'officially' St David's Prep and that is how we will be known in the future.

Names are funny things; our own names identify who we are. One of the exciting things about waiting for a baby to be born is the speculation over what the name will be. This led to a discussion in the staff room this week, how had we chosen names for our children? Mrs Handy told us that she had a name all ready for her daughter, but when she saw her she knew it wasn't right and changed it to Alice. Those of us who know and indeed taught Alice can't imagine her every having been an Olivia!

So my point is, names need to work and increasingly it has become clear that 'college' is not what we are. St David's is proud to be a Prep school and proud to be part of the Wishford group with all the benefits that brings.

What is defining is not the name; in our school it is the people: the dedicated staff, you the parents but most importantly it is the amazing, resilient and confident pupils that leave St David's as proud Davidians.

SENSATIONAL SCIENCE— MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!!

Pupils from Years 1, 2 and 3 were captivated by a science workshop this week. The children saw the effects of forces such as gravity, inertia, elasticity, expansion and action and reaction. They were involved in practical experiments, replicating and re-enacting the discovery of concepts by the scientists Isaac Newton, Galileo and Archimedes.

Innovations such as hovercrafts, rockets, Concorde and the building of bridges were explored to see how forces have been harnessed and used to help us.

We now know the origin of the word Eureka: Greek for 'I have it!' We also know how to bungee jump safely and to pull tablecloths off of tables without sending all the crockery flying (the children have been warned not to try this at home!)

Years 4, 5 and 6 are already looking forward to their Sensational Science workshop on Space next week.



WORKSHOP

SCIENCE



MATHLETICS



Staff are excited to see how eager the children are to log on to 'Mathletics', where they have the chance to compete against their peers within school and nationally. Challenges have been set for some

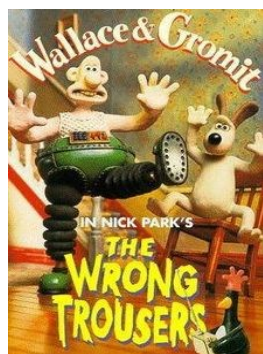
year groups and these have been completed as part of their homework as well as gaining them points.

At one point this week, year 6 reached 18th in the country and 40th in the world, leading to great excitement in assembly when they saw the leader board!

Many children have been working exceptionally hard and have already been awarded with bronze certificates.

Within school we are converting certificates into House points as an added incentive.

Keep working hard everyone!



Following a heartfelt request from the School Council this week, boys in Pre-Prep will now be allowed to wear long grey school trousers as part of their winter uniform, if they wish.

These are available from the school uniform shop, Graduates Schoolwear in Orpington.

PARENT COUNCIL

Despite snow on the ground there was a great turnout for the second Parent Council meeting last Friday. Over coffee and croissants a number of items were discussed. The suggested 'Suggestion Box' has been purchased and will be up and ready on Monday. Keep the good ideas coming!

The next meeting will be held on Friday 10th March at 9.00am

The PTA AGM will be held on Friday 27th January at 9.00am in The Cabin

Please come and support your committee, hear their plans for the coming year and learn how the money raised through last year's events has funded activities for all our children.

SPORT

- Good luck to our five swimmers who will be representing London South in the ISA National Swimming Championships at the Olympic Pool on Saturday
- On Monday five of our pupils will be competing in the ISA Regional Cross Country Championships at Frewen College
- Congratulations to the Year 4 girls who had their first netball match ever against Brae-side. Well done to Sereana for being named as 'Player of the Match'

SPRING TERM 2017

January:

Saturday 21st	ISA Swimming Nationals at Queen Elizabeth Park
Monday 23rd	ISA London South Cross Country at Frewen College
Tuesday 24th	Sensational Science Yrs 4, 5, 6 Netball Year 3 Braeside (A)
Friday 27th	9.00am PTA AGM in The Cabin Football Years 5 & 6 Braeside (H) Netball Years 5 & 6 Braeside (H)
Monday 30th	Assembly: Chinese New Year & workshops Yrs 4, 5, 6
Tuesday 31st	Year 3 to National History Museum

February:

Tuesday 7th	Young Voices at O2 Arena
Monday 13th—17th	Half Term
Monday 20th	INSET DAY
Tuesday 21st	7.30pm PTA Meeting
Thursday 23rd	Year 4 West Wickham library
Friday 24th	Netball ISA London South U11 Lingfield Notre Dame (A)
Monday 27th	7.45am Football Club begins Parents Interview Week begins Perform Drama Group Recp, Year 1 & 2
Tuesday 28th	
MARCH	
Thursday 2nd	World Book Day
Saturday 4th	ISA National Cross Country PTA Quiz Night
Monday 6th	Year 4 National Gallery trip
Wednesday 8th	Life Bus Girls Football ISA London South Virgo Fidelis (A)
Thursday 9th	Life Bus
Saturday 11th	Bromley Schools Cross Country at Crystal Palace Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Monday 13th	Reception to West Wickham library
Tuesday 14th	Quiz Club Competition Bishop Challoner
Saturday 18th	9.30am Open Morning
Monday 20th	Year 6 Bikeability
Tuesday 21st	Year 6 Bikeability
Tuesday 28th	PTA Easter Egg Hunt
Friday 31st	11.30am Term Ends