



NOVEMBER - 12  
w/c 4<sup>th</sup> December

## Mrs Campbell writes ...

What a term, what a team!

To have a whole new set of people to get to know has been wonderful but to have that and a new set of robots...

Since the beginning of term, a keen group of Year 6 pupils have come to the STEM room during two lunch breaks each week. They meticulously built our Lego Mindstorm EV3 robots, generously given to the school by Mrs Wagstaff. Their enthusiasm did not let up and we set about programming them.

Thanks to Mrs Foulger's early planning and Mr Mutti building our practice table to the exact dimensions required, we were now in a position to get ready for our first competition...



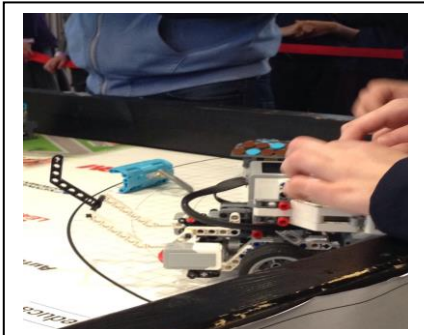
After learning some basics, we set to and built the components sent from the **'First (which stands for : For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League' (FLL)**. This year, the theme was Hydrodynamics. The team of ten was chosen - the maximum allowed - and we met three times a week. Neha led the important 'Core Values' aspect and the team learned a new word - **coopertition** (co- operative competition). Our solution to a water problem was voted on and we worked on presenting this challenge. With increasingly careful adjustments, we attempted the robot missions.

Finally the day came, and with thanks to Mrs Sowter, travelled to Canterbury for our first ever FLL competition, up against over twenty other teams including another school in the Wishford group, St Faith's. The tension was palpable as the team set-up and watched our EV3, complete with Lego attachment, do its practised program.

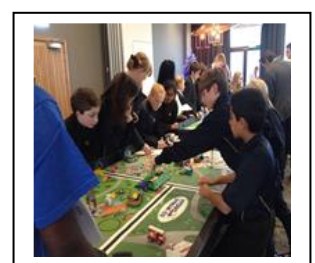
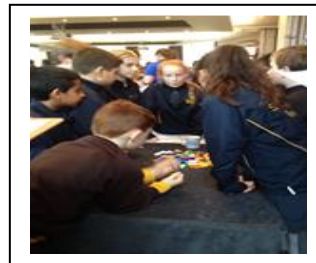
Precision was everything! And yes, after careful placement by Hollyann and Luke, in front of our eyes, the robot went over, put up its hook, lifted the pipe, turned and went perfectly back to the base! The team presented beautifully (complete with model, posters and PowerPoint!) in front of judges, confidently explained the robot's design and programming when interviewed and displayed fantastic 'core values'. The team learned, were inspired and came away proud of their achievements and wearing their medals.

The robots have been fantastic, but it's the teamwork and all the children that I have had the pleasure to teach from Year 1 through to Year 6, that has made this term so very special.

Best wishes to you all for a safe, happy Christmas and 2018.



FIRST LEGO LEAGUE: TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER



## CROSS COUNTRY

A random thought I saw on Twitter this week:

***'British children now, on average, spend less time outdoors each day than prisoners'***

*Dr Phil Hammond on BBC Newsnight.*

Fairly limited in its detail, it nevertheless got me thinking. The hidden jewel in our crown at St David's is without question our outdoor space. Those of us who have the privilege of showing visitors around will testify to the unexpected gasps and comments when our beautiful field unfolds before them, making the stroll up the path worthwhile even on the cold, damp days.

We are thrilled that the regular grounds maintenance and clearance means that we now have more space to enjoy and laying out the new cross country course within our own site is testament to this.

The pupils are loving the regular opportunities to run and are taking the challenge of running their own 'marathon' very seriously. To do so, they need to complete a total of 65 laps by February half term. Some of the children are already halfway to completing their total. Between them, Prep pupils have run a staggering total of 1,193 laps between them since half term. That is equivalent to nearly 18.5 marathons! Well done in particular to Zachary L, Dylan, Sarah and Rosemary who so far have run the most laps. Amazing! It's not clear how long prisoners spend outside but I have a feeling our pupils fare somewhat better! *(Julia Foulger)*



## FOREST SCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that Miss O'Sullivan has passed her Forest School Training and we are ready to go. More details to follow in the New Year.



## PARENT COUNCIL

We do listen!

Following on from our meeting and the parent survey results, you will soon be receiving a letter informing you that we will be trialling Class Dojo across all classes. The aim is to further improve communication between parents and the school.

Other subjects discussed at Parent Council:

- More notice of outings and trips
- Food provision in Early Room and Late Room
- Afternoon snacks in Reception
- PTA Fireworks

## KEY DATES

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

9.45am Pre-Prep Dress Rehearsal to School  
1.30pm Pre-Prep play perform to Parents  
1.30pm Year 5 & 6 to Focus Group at St John's Church, Eden Park

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Reception to Year 6 – Happy Puzzle Day  
3.30pm Happy Puzzle Shop open to parents

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Pre-Prep play perform to parents  
1.30pm Pre-Prep party  
2.00pm Prep to Cinderella at Greenwich

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas lunch

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

11.30am End of School Term

## 2018

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January: Inset Day

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January: Term Starts

**Thank you to the PTA, parents and staff who helped to make the Christmas Fair such an enormous success. There was such a festive buzz in the school.**

**The children had a great time. If you didn't manage to buy your school calendar on the day, we have copies in the school office for sale at £6.50 each.**