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**GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR
RUNNERS AND
SWIMMERS THIS
WEEKEND**

Mrs Foulger writes:

We love showing visitors around our school and answering their many questions. A hot topic at the moment from both current and prospective parents is how we prepare our pupils for the next phase of their education. Although situated in Bromley we are very close to the borders of Kent, Croydon and London. This means that many of our pupils have access to a wide range of schools; grammar and independent as well as the excellent local state secondary schools.

As children progress through the Prep school their class teachers will enter into a dialogue with you, seeking your thoughts and using their professional knowledge and experience to guide you.

Each Spring Term we invite parents of Year 5 to a meeting where we outline the procedures for entry into Year 7 and discuss what schools you may be entering your children for.

In one sense preparation for secondary school starts on day one, as everything we do aims to get all our pupils to be the very best they can be academically, covering all the National Curriculum requirements and so much more. All Prep pupils are taught the key techniques for tackling verbal and non-verbal papers having regular practice at both.

During Year 5 extra early morning 'extension' sessions are made available at no extra cost and we run summer holiday tutorial sessions, mindful of the fact that the grammar tests are very early in September.

For those applying to Independent schools we have a range of past papers that pupils can work through with staff able to support and help individual children eliminate any knowledge gaps. Interview practice and advice is offered as extra preparation.

In addition, our staff have frequent contact with many of the schools our pupils move on to, thus keeping us up to date with entry requirements and criteria for accessing scholarships.

We do aim to make the whole process as stress free as possible, with the result that the children are often unaware of the amount of preparation they are actually doing!

And rest assured, our pupils generally get their first choice of school.

If you have any concerns or further questions, please speak to me at Parents' Evening on Monday.



During the half term, I set an optional competition to both Prep and Pre Prep linked with Black History Month. The children in Pre Prep were tasked with watching a video about Dr Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to travel into space. I asked the children to create their own rockets, to demonstrate that they can, quite literally, reach for the stars. At a time when the gender pay gap is still an issue and around the world people are still experiencing injustice due to their skin colour, it is so important that our children grow up to see no barriers, and hopefully begin to close these gaps.

In Prep, the children could choose to illustrate a quote by a person with a different skin colour to their own that resonated with them or to research examples of people who have paved the way for all to experience education, or to illustrate the following quote by Nelson Mandela,

"No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

I cannot express what a privilege it is to see the hope and the passion in the entries. As always, they have surpassed any expectations I had, and so many have put in so much effort. They have the gift of cutting through the fluff, and getting down to what is really important in life.

I am very grateful for your support from home; your children are very special Global Citizens.

Mrs A Blaza



JTA COMPETITION AUTUMN TERM WINNERS

Pre-Prep : Thomas (Y1)

Prep : Olivia (Y5M)

Commendation : Lale (R)



**DON'T FORGET TO COME
AND BUY YOUR BOOKS
ON MONDAY**

Reflections on Reflecting

We don't often manage to get peace, quiet and a time to be still in the bustle of the week, but recently we have started to introduce periods of reflection into many classes. This is part of our PSHEE (personal, social, health and economic education) curriculum and allows everyone a chance to reflect on what they do, both in and out of the classroom. Sometimes a question is used as a prompt, but often the children write freely, while quiet music is playing, using the space to explore their thoughts and ideas. Such opportunities give children another way to deepen their self-reflection skills and develop their personal, social, spiritual and emotional intelligence, which will help them succeed at secondary school and beyond. In 5M we have been using reflection journals for the past half term allowing everyone (children and adults) to think about aspects of their week, what went well, what they have liked, not liked and why. The children really benefit from this time of quiet in the week, a chance to stop, be still and reflect.

'We can write our thoughts and nobody else has to know'

'I get to reflect on what happened today'

'When something is playing on my mind I feel much better because it's off my chest'

'It's relaxing and nice just to sit and reflect'

'I like how we have music on and everyone is quiet and nobody tells us what to write we can just write our own thoughts and relax'

'It's a time to relax'

Perhaps as we come to remembrance weekend we will all manage to find some time to be still, quiet and reflect.

Mrs McHugh

HAPPY DIWALI

Three Y5 children came over to Pre Reception and Reception to share their story of Diwali

A man called Rama was married to a beautiful princess Sita.

They were banished to live in the forest with his brother, Lakshman, by his stepmother, as she wanted her own son to be king. Ravana, the Demon king with ten heads, heard of Sita's beauty and goodness and abducted her on a flying horse carriage.

He took her back to his island, Lanka, which is now known as Sri Lanka. Rama and Lakshman searched for many months for Sita. Finally, they asked Hanuman, king of the monkey army, for help as he could fly. They found Sita imprisoned.

There was a battle which lasted for ten days. It looked as though Ravana was going to win, until Rama borrowed a special bow and arrow from the gods. Rama shot Ravana and the battle was won. Rama rescued Sita and after thirteen years they decided to go home. It was so dark, the people in the city lit oil lamps (divas) in their windows to show the way and to welcome them home. This is why we celebrate Diwali.

We hope you enjoyed reading the story!



REMEMBRANCE

Thank you to Y6 for sharing your family stories, poems and reflections with us all this morning.



In Pre-Reception they made their own poppies and marked the two minute silence by watching a film following a young rabbit through the poppy fields.

