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w/c 18.03.19

GET YOUR DANCING SHOES READY  
IT'S TIME FOR THE  
PTA PREP SCHOOL DISCO  
FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
6.30PM TO 8.00PM

## Mrs Foulger writes:

As someone who spends time following an increasing number of individuals and institutions on Twitter, I have learnt to scroll quickly and be selective as to what I actually read and take note of. It is a great tool for keeping up with our fellow Wishford schools as well as keeping abreast of advances and current trends in education.

Something that caught my eye this week was the line,

*'School days are the happiest days of your life. Really? Try telling that to some teachers!'*

It then went on to say that 'The School Happiness Standards Agency' was to be set up, giving schools a grading from 1-5 on their happiness rating, working in a similar way to the Food Standards ratings we may have become familiar with. The whole article was a spoof but it made interesting reading and got me thinking. Thinking in particular about the happy place that St David's actually is.

My mantra, shared with other staff and conveyed to prospective parents on a regular basis, is that **'a happy child will learn'** or my other line, **'happiness we can do...'** It is something that I passionately believe in but not just for our pupils. My aim is to make and keep everyone happy; parents, visitors and of course the staff. Happiness spreads and it makes for the very best working environment for each one of us from the oldest to the youngest. I know I am lucky as I love coming to school and my wish is that this should also be the experience of each person who walks through the doors every day.

So back to 'The School Happiness Standards Agency' on Twitter ...do we at St David's warrant a top grading of 5?

5 - The 'Very Good' grade for *'schools that just can't stop smiling at each other.'*

*'Schools that are Very Good don't really look at a glass as being half empty or half full but look at the jug next to the glass.*

*They just focus on filling the glass. Children are relaxed, well behaved and eager to learn. They flourish because they are happy and resilient, challenged and supported.'*

**Spoof article or not, I like to think that describes us – most of the time!**



On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, our two St David's quiz teams took part in the area heats of the National Quiz Club Championships at Bishop Challoner School.

A total of nine teams were tested on their knowledge of a wide range of subjects and we were proud, if not surprised to be the only school to know how many degrees an owl can turn its head! (270°)

When the final results were announced, we were delighted that we finished in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place behind Bronte School and Dulwich College – a great achievement!

Congratulations to Neriah (Y6), Alice, Jack & Rohan (Y5), Nalani & James (Y4) and Mya & Toby (Y3) for representing us so admirably.



## Anyone for Bluetooth?

Have you seen robots that flash different colours? Using wireless technology is great and in Robotics, children have been using this technology to control their designs, with some amazing results!

Our robotics and devices were in pride of place on Open Day but it is the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm of the children that is where the real pride lies! Our robotics clubs have waiting lists (anyone for sensors?) and are run every term for different age-groups. However, we are constantly using technology and honing our ICT skills right across the curriculum from poetry writing and filming to scientific PowerPoints and data-logging, to creating charts and spreadsheets in Maths not to mention composing music, safe research in all areas and using our My Maths and Language Angels software - to name but a few examples!



## Mrs Handy and Mrs Foulger took a walk on Tuesday morning, this is what they found...



Mrs Blaza playing in the mud kitchen with Reception whilst Miss O'Sullivan inspired Year 2 to get back to nature during a Forest School session, amazing what fun can be had digging in the woods with sticks. However, we did resist sampling the mud potion being made!

Pre-Reception were intent on sharing their knowledge of the days of the week and one little girl proudly showed the card she had made for her mum, with writing deserving of a Head Teacher's excellence award.

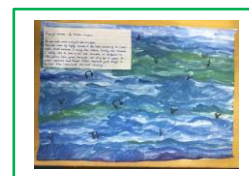
Year 1 were being creative, using a layering technique to represent a jungle scene that was ready to put in place the tiger made in a previous lesson. Inspired of course by Rousseau (and Mrs Thorpe and Mrs Wright)!

Over to the studio where Year 6 were pitting their wits against one another in a practice, interactive maths quiz, all competing for a coveted place on the school team.

Our global citizens in 5B were busy collating and arranging work into their own Global Passports, ever mindful of the significance of being part of something so much bigger...

Year 4 demonstrated their developing knowledge and understanding of measurement to problem solve in their maths lesson, whilst Year 3 broke off from their English lesson to wish Ava a happy birthday, accompanied on the clarinet by Mya.

Finally, 5M proudly showed us their personal reflections on spirituality. Having selected from a range of materials, each one of them produced something profoundly moving and then wrote a short piece outlining their thoughts and inspiration. Do try and take a look at the finished pieces that are displayed around the school.



A lovely, illuminating walk...

### SPECIAL AWARDS - WELL DONE!

The following pupil  
has been awarded an  
Excellence Award  
sticker and certificate  
from Mrs Foulger

Anoushka Parekh  
(Pre-Reception)  
for her excellent  
writing

On Thursday, the Bug Man  
transported Year 1 to the rainforest.  
They were thrilled to handle a large  
snail, two types of cockroach, beetle  
larvae, a tarantula, a snake, a blue  
tongued skink and a stick insect type  
creature called a eurycantha.

They were also introduced to a  
terrapiin, a cane toad, a frilled lizard  
and a tree frog with teeth!  
The looks on their faces say it all!

