



Dear Parents,

This week seems to have flown and I can't believe it is already Thursday. Not only that, but the end of term is swiftly approaching and we have lots of events to look forward to in the coming weeks. Our Early Years students are busy rehearsing for their performance at the end of term, as are our Infants students. Even our teachers are getting very excited about the prospect of Christmas coming and are busy planning some festive displays to surprise the students very soon.

We have welcomed Year 6 back from their visit to Zheng Zhou and the Shaolin Monastery during Project week. I avidly followed their week via social media and was struck by the balance between team building activities and the service they performed in the Shaolin School. Speaking to the students, the overwhelming feeling was one of an experience that they will remember for a long time. They are beginning to put together ideas for how they can present their experiences of the week to parents that they will share during a special assembly on Thursday 26th November. In the meantime, to get a taste of theirs and other year groups' time away on Project Week, see our school website and click on the snapshot article; it is well worth a read.

In this week's assembly, Year 4 demonstrated some of the fantastic learning that has taken place during their topic of 'Chocolate.' Taste buds tingled as they read chocolate poetry, described tastes and explained their ideas for new chocolate bars. They also managed to enlighten us all on where cacao comes from, the process involved in turning it into the products we know and love, whilst at the same time educating us about the importance of Fair Trade. Congratulations to Mr. Kalff and his students on a job well done!

The computing curriculum has been brought alive in Class 2A this week as they have been learning to control computers, robots and programs. This has been part of their 'A to B' topic and has focused on inputting code or instructions to make an electronic device do as you want it to. The students have made BeeBot robots find their way out of a maze by keying in directions and distances to travel; this involved the skills of problem solving, persistence and collaboration to be successful. The students also used iPads and computers to get characters to find their way out of a variety of mazes using different types of computer coding. Mr Paez, our Computing Leader, regularly tells us that the ability to use coding will be an important skill for the future, so our Year 2 students are getting a head start!

It has been a pleasure to welcome parents into school this week for Early Years, Infant and Junior coffee mornings. These first of regular monthly events have been well attended and provided quality time for parents and leaders of the school to discuss how well the school year has started and to look at ways we can improve it even more. The format of coffee mornings has been very informal and we hope that other parents will take these opportunities to come and meet us. Some of the topics discussed were school food, water, communication and playtimes. We will be sharing some of the discussion points to all parents so that those who did not attend can have consistent information. We asked those who attended if there are any specific areas that parents would like us to focus on in the future, so if you have any ideas please let me or Mrs Passante know and we can try to organise.

We are hoping that many of our parents will also attend our Assessment Workshops next Tuesday. We are running these workshops for parents of Year 1 to 6 students and the aim is to give a detailed picture of our new assessment procedures that we are using in school and explain what information you will receive as a parent. There are two sessions to choose from, 9-11am and 5-7pm, both of which can be booked for on the school website,



although booking is not essential. It is our aim that these sessions will give you a good understanding of how we will be assessing your child's progress and attainment this year and why it is different to the system used in the past.

Just a reminder that there will be no school tomorrow (Friday) for students, but teachers will be in school tomorrow working hard on developing our curriculum further to build on what has been a great year so far.

Have an enjoyable and safe long weekend.

Best Wishes

Barrie Scrymgeour  
Deputy Head of Primary