



KEY DATES

May

16th

Class Photographs

17th - 19th

Form VI

PGL

19th

Forms III & IV

Swimming - Gala Heats

20th

PFA Ball

'The Manor'

24th

Forms V & VI

Kidzania Trip

25th

Form V

Brentwood Taster Day

26th

Form I

'Pirates' Topic Day

29th - 2nd

Half Term

JUNE

5th

School Resumes

9th

Forms III - VI

Hornchurch Sports
Centre

Swimming Gala

13th

Form VI

First Aid Training

15th

Forms R - VI

'Thrilling Thursday'

Science Day

Dear Parents,

There have been lots of events going on over the last couple of weeks, and great excitement ahead next week as Form VI head off to PGL. Fingers crossed for the weather!

Following on from the Pupil and Parent Survey, there are a couple of new initiatives coming. The first one concerns your children's work. It is clear to us that parents are not seeing the full range of work which goes on in school, so from next week we are going to be starting a new scheme whereby children throughout the school will be bringing home a school book every Friday from a different curriculum area. We hope that you will enjoy looking at and talking about the work your children have been engaged in, and will gradually gain a much better overview of just how busy they are!

Your children also may have talked to you about two new ideas introduced to them by Mrs Kaylor and Mr Metcalfe. The first involves an illustration project which the children will be working on in order to brighten up and stimulate interest on the playground, and the second is for them to think about ideas for our upcoming Sensory Garden which will benefit every pupil. We have lots of exciting plans in the pipeline!

Finally, Form V and VI parents received a Parentmail this week giving them a link to the Girls' Day School Trust website on e-safety, where you can find fact sheets and videos for parents alongside videos for children, all aimed at increasing awareness of how to stay safe and happy on-line. Topics include Cyberbullying, Self-esteem and identity, Digital Footprints and Security. I mention the link here too for those of you who may have older children, or who may wish to look at the resources to educate themselves. The link is www.gdst.net/livemydigital and I hope you find it useful. We shall be repeating the e-safety evening for parents in Forms V and VI in September with Debbie Schofield from ICT Inspires, and hosting it bi-annually after that so that parents are given every opportunity to help us in educating our whole community about the pressures and dangers of life on-line.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Whiskerd

Infant Drama Workshop

The children in the Infants all took part in a Drama Workshop last week which was run by an outside company. We were using drama to boost confidence and bring out children's potential.

'We imagined we were on a Wild West adventure and we had to try and retrieve a hair from the horse with the golden mane to prove that he really did exist.

We had a wonderful time with Perform today, whisking us away to the Wild West. The children as always were transfixed and thoroughly enjoyed being immersed in the journey.

It was an absolute pleasure to have Perform come in and lead a session.'

Mrs Ridley, Form I Teacher



Maths - Form III

Form III have been looking at 3D shapes and exploring the different structures they could make with them and the way they fit together as part of their work on space, shape and measure.



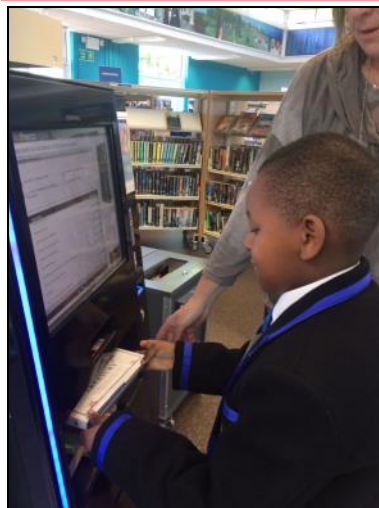
Outside Time - Form I and Form R

Form R and Form I have been taking advantage of the (only slightly!) warmer weather and spending some quality time outside using the equipment, playing with their friends and enjoying Storytime. Let's keep our fingers crossed for more sunny days!



Library Trip - Form II

Form II went to Gidea Park Library to learn about the services they offer. They were introduced to the way libraries run and what they can gain by joining their local library. All the children were allowed to choose a book to take away with them to read at their leisure.



Bottle Gardens - Form III

As part of their Geography work on the Water Cycle, the children in Form III all made bottle gardens to demonstrate the cycle in action.

'I found an empty water container and asked my dad to cut it in half which he did. I then found some stones in the garden and placed these in the bottom of the container. On top of that, I put some potting compost and patted it down. I then made a hole in the centre and put a flower I had bought in the hole and covered the roots of the flower leaving the leaves exposed. I then put some bark over the top of the compost so no weeds would grow. The I watered the plant and placed the top half of the container on the bottom half and put tape around the middle to seal it.'

Leila Jones, Form III



Bleep Test Trials

In an effort to increase overall fitness across the school, Mr Sturton has introduced the idea of all the children taking part in the Bleep Test once a week. Last week the children got off to a good start with everyone trying hard to see what level they could get to. Hopefully this will continue weekly and the children will strive to reach a higher level and increase their fitness levels.



Staff Congratulations

We are sure you will join us in wishing huge congratulations to two members of our staff - To Mrs Deacon who is expecting her third baby later in the year, and to Miss Fry who got engaged over the half-term.

