



KEY DATES

FEBRUARY

15th - 19th

Half Term

22nd

School Resumes

ALL JUNIOR CHILDREN NEED
THEIR FULL PE KIT FOR
CROSS-COUNTRY

26th

Forms III & IV

First Swimming Lesson

MARCH

8th & 9th

3:40 - 7pm

Parent Interviews

11th

Form V

Brentwood Football & Netball
Tournaments

(Pre-notified teams)

14th - 17th

Form VI

Bikeability

18th

House Netball & Football

(pre-notified teams)

21st

Forms III - VI

House Cross-Country

(pre-notified runners)

23rd

House General Knowledge

(pre-notified teams)

24th

12 Noon

End of Term

NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE

25th—15th

Easter Holidays

18th

Inset Day

19th

School resumes

Dear Parents,

Half Term is upon us and it doesn't feel like it has been six weeks since Christmas. We are officially halfway through our school year and we look forward to what the next half will bring.

As you can see from the contents of this Newsletter, the children and staff have been extremely busy. Forms V and VI were lucky enough to visit the Houses of Parliament and enjoyed a guided tour around the House of Commons. They stood in the back benches and maybe we will have inspired one of them to go into Politics one day in the future. Our thanks to Miss Holt for organising the day. It was a wonderful experience allowing the children to see the heart of the nation where our British Values herald from.

The Pre-Prep team have been encouraging us all to recall our nursery rhymes with their trail around the school, again something that the youngest generations do not get so much exposure to these days due to the advances in technology.

I am aware that Headteachers around the country are writing to parents regarding several issues and I am going to add a plea to you all. Please could you monitor your child's exposure to gaming and ensure that they are only playing age-appropriate games. We are seeing a rise in 'play-fighting', especially among the boys, which is becoming hazardous at breaktime. We are clamping down on this and other behaviours as we deem it unacceptable and dangerous and so children who persist with this will end up missing playtimes and subsequently going onto Behaviour Report if it doesn't stop.

Finally I would like to congratulate the Form VI's who took the Brentwood Examination and have been awarded places. We are very proud of all their hard work and achievements. We are sure that we will be able to report further successes as they become known to us. Enjoy the break.

Mrs S-J Gooding

Headmistress

Young Voices - School Choir

The school choir had a fabulous time at the O2 Arena taking part in the Young Voices extravaganza. Schools from all over the country spend a long time preparing for the event and come together for a night of live music accompanied by a live band. The children all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Many thanks to Mrs Russell for all her work with the choir and to the staff and parent helpers who accompanied the trip.



PE Kits/Cross-Country

A reminder that all Junior children will need their full PE kit (tracksuit, suitable running trainers, white socks, white t-shirt, blue shorts and a drink) on a Monday afternoon after half term for Cross Country practices. The first three weeks will be training, the fourth week will be the trials for the team and then the fifth week will be the House Cross Country event which you are all encouraged to come and support.



House of Commons Trip—Forms V & VI

On the 8th February, Forms V & VI went on a trip to the Mother of Parliaments. We travelled by train, chatting whilst playing games all the way there.

When we arrived, we were given a ticket which was attached to a string and this was our security pass. Our bags were checked before entering Westminster Hall. It was very cold in there and there were brass plaques on the floor commemorating people who have been in there, including Winston Churchill who lay in state there before his funeral.

We went into a meeting room to put our bags and coats in and we waited for our tour guides. Our tour guide told us about the history of Parliament, then he told us a lot about Westminster Hall. We went to the House of Lords then we went to the House of Commons. We also saw lots of pictures of monarchs. After our tour we went back to the meeting room and ate our packed lunches.

Next, we went to the Souvenir shop and bought some cool stuff. After this, we met Mr Andrew Rosindell and shook hands with him. We also saw the procession of Mr Speaker.

We had our photo taken as a group with Mr Rosindell and went out onto the terrace and saw an amazing view of the River Thames.

We also saw the seat of Queen Victoria and saw lots of statues of former prime ministers. We saw Guy Fawkes and some other people's names written in a book. We also saw a picture of Queen Victoria.

Finally we got ready to leave and Mr Rosindell shook our hands and we went through a special tunnel that led to Westminster station. We met our parents back at Gidea Park station and agreed that it was the best trip ever!

Lakshmi Vemulapalli and Perry Mehta, Form V



Ragged School Trip - Form III

The visit to the Ragged School was very nice. When we got to the Ragged School we went down to hang up all of our coats and then we went to the kitchen. Anna showed us and talked to us about the dangerous jobs that children used to do if they did not go to school. The toilets were interesting - the one you used during the day was a hole in the garden and the night time toilet was called a 'gazunder'. They had to get water from a waterpump.

When we went to Mrs Perkins' classroom, it was quite unusual and she showed us how to do copper plate writing and she showed us some old coins. She also made us do some hard sums and she chose monitors. When we had finished with Mrs Perkins, we went to have lunch and then we went to the gift shop.

Feyifemi Ogunyemi, Form III



Nursery Rhyme Day - Pre-Prep and Form II

Form II and Pre-Prep coincidentally had their Nursery Rhymed themed days at the same time. The children in Form II have been looking at Nursery Rhymes in a cross-curricular way including creative writing, drama, singing, poetry, history and art. They even decorated biscuits, which was almost as much fun as eating them! The children very much enjoyed getting to know the history behind the popular rhymes and learning about the relevance they have to important periods of time. They have also created a beautiful art display in their classroom.

Pre-Prep: we have had such a fun time during our Nursery Rhyme week. We made posters and put them around the school with questions about Nursery Rhymes so the rest of the school could join in with us. We had many visitors from the Infants and Juniors reciting nursery rhymes to us. On Thursday we all dressed up as characters from rhymes. Mrs Barnett (Old Mother Hubbard) came in and we sang lots of rhymes. We made giant cut-outs of Humpty Dumpty, a king and a queen. We decorated biscuits and made many models out of junk such as sheep, cats, spiders and Humpty Dumpty. Finally we made a giant Mary Mary with flowers for our display board. What a time we've had!



News from Form I

Form I celebrated Chinese New Year and made dragons with their handprints.

As part of the topic about Knights and Castles, the children have all written their own non-fiction books about castles which include a contents page and a glossary. They have painted their own shields and were asked to include something important to their families. Some children chose religious symbols and Imaan chose a cupcake!



Mr Lagden's Visit - Form V

Form V had a visit from Mr Lagden (Georgia's dad) who works for Thames Water. He taught the children all about the definition of waste water (which contains waste from homes and industry) and how to treat it before releasing it back into the environment. The children had a chance to try on the clothing that the workers have to wear and look at the different tools they use.



Mr D Williams, Science Teacher

Little Princess Trust, Fundraising Work

Georgia Lagden in Form V and her mum (PFA Chair) Mandy Rice, will both be having their haircut. They are fundraising for the Little Princess trust which is where their hair will be going to be made into wigs for children undergoing treatment for cancer and money is also being raised for St Francis Hospice. The money will be split with 75% going towards the Hospice and 25% going to the Trust. If you wish to donate to this wonderful cause, please follow this link...

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=RLMR280>

