

## Head of Junior School – introduction

Dear Parents

Junior School pupils and staff have enjoyed a busy two week period in the run up to half term with some really special events, both in school and further afield. The main highlight of the fortnight was our very first collaborative project day with Dame Bradbury's School. Years 5 and 6 were the trailblazers and, thanks to meticulous planning by the year staff in both schools and the readiness of the children to work with and get to know their counterparts, the day was deemed a huge success on both sites. While Junior School Year 6 pupils were 'evacuated' to Saffron Walden, the Year 5s from Dame B's found themselves 'on board' Tudor ships in Cambridge. The following links will direct you to detailed reports of the day's activities: [Year 6 evacuees - Tudor ships at the JS](#). Years 3 and 4 are now eagerly awaiting their first project day with Dame B's, which is on Thursday 27 February.

The enrichment of our curriculum is achieved in a great variety of ways and there have been excellent examples of this recently. In addition to working with children of the same age as themselves within the Foundation, Junior School pupils experienced a unique opportunity to link up with students in both Pre-preps, the Senior School and the Sixth Form College last Friday. Skype and FaceTime, with patient and cheerful assistance from our IT Support Dept, brought these sections of the Foundation together for assembly last Friday in order to launch our link with SOS Children's Villages. [Further details can be found here](#). We are now preparing for World Orphan Week (WOW) in early March and JS pupils have a good idea of what lies in store; this will include writing letters to children in Chipata, with a bit of help from Year 11 students, and coming to school as a character (human or animal) from a story or folk tale with a global connection, on World Book Day, Thursday 6 March.

This week has seen two other 'firsts' – in the form of expeditions for Years 3 and 6 in Cambridge and Leicester respectively. A short minibus trip across town took Year 3 pupils to Cambridge Gurdwara where they received a very warm welcome and greatly extended their understanding of Sikh worship. We are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Bhachu, parents of pupils in Years 2 and 5, and other members of the local Sikh community for their time and hospitality on this occasion. Year 6 had a rather longer journey in order to reach the National Space Centre where they enjoyed a wonderful day as part of their topic on the 'Final Frontier' ([click here to read the full story and see a few pictures](#)). Their next stop is Latham Road for the launch of rockets as part of a Maths lesson.

Visitors to the Junior School, this week and last, have included Kevin Crossley-Holland, children's author, poet and master storyteller, who spent time with aspiring young writers in the Library and addressed/entertained all four year groups in the Hall ([click here to read more and see photos](#)); Jake Wilson, singer/songwriter and folk guitarist, who gave a brilliant talk/recital as part of the Junior Inspire Me programme, and Mrs Ram who gave Year 3 children a remarkable opportunity to learn more about Indian culture and customs as part of their topic, 'Around the World'.



Mrs Ram talking to Y3 about India

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We have enjoyed several outstanding pupil-led assemblies during the last two weeks. Members of Rose and Street informed and entertained us with their assemblies, drawing inspiration from National Storytelling Week and New Zealand's Waitangi Day respectively. Members of Latin Club presented the story of 'Pandora's Jar' in full costume and completely in Latin; I don't think I was the only member of the audience who was grateful to Sarah Marshall for her excellent subtitles! Members of Year 4 are also to be congratulated on two recent assemblies; last Tuesday a small group of pupils from both classes enchanted us with their wonderful presentation about Chinese New Year; we were impressed by Tengyu Zhao's professional approach to this event and appreciate the support of her parents. Yesterday we were treated to 4Alpha's class assembly on the theme of seasonal characters – it was amazing how much the children conveyed to their audience about scarecrows, snowmen, the Easter hare and garden gnomes, even the tooth fairy made an appearance!

The Valentine Cake Sales are an annual treat and we are most grateful to those of you who have contributed to these through donations of cakes and spending money. Thank you in particular to Dr Jane Biddle and the PFA volunteers who assisted her for the considerable amount of time they devoted to the events which were held in the Junior School yesterday afternoon and in the Senior School this morning.

Wishing you all a very happy half term break with your families,

Katie Milne  
Head of Junior School



Latin Club assembly



Chinese New Year assembly



Easter Hare and friends in 4Alpha's class assembly



Valentine cake sale in the JS Hall

Issue No 9 / 2013-14 Friday 14 February 2014

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## Inspire me

Thank you to all our guests who came to our see our new library and the Inspire Me event last week – a wet and windy introduction to the world of adventure! If you missed the event, and would like to support our speakers and their charities, do take a look at our [web page](#).

Date for your diary – our next Inspire me event is all about Communicating Science on Wednesday 7 May – with author and alumna Lucy Hawking and Stephen McGann, actor and scientist.

# inspire me.



## Parents and Friends Book Club

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 5th March, at 8pm (contact Leonie Hyde, 01223 842727). We will discuss **'The Hundred -Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared'** by Jonas Jonasson.

We always have a lively discussion and are keen to welcome new members. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Martha Crouch for details (020 7638 6983, [martha.crouch@btinternet.com](mailto:martha.crouch@btinternet.com))