

16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a really positive and enjoyable term. The children have been here for the whole of it, worked incredibly hard, enjoyed friendships, learnt lots and are catching up with all they missed in lockdown. As always, thank you for all the support you give them and us.

Restrictions and infections permitting we will repeat this term's success next year but in the meantime we wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break.

Paul Clayton

Santa's Grotto

Our infant hall was transformed on Monday into Santa's Grotto by the PTA. Every child from Nursery to Year 2 visited the grotto during the day



and received a present from Santa, on behalf of the PTA. Anais from Iris told me, "Santa said 'Ho, ho, ho, Merry Christmas' and then he high fived me! He gave me a surprise present of crayons and a colouring book. I coloured in the rainbow picture and put it in my mum's bag for her."

Children in the juniors received some puzzles and treats from the PTA on Thursday during their class parties.

Singing Al Fresco

Parents were treated to several outdoor concerts this



week. Undeterred by our inability to hold our church services at St Augustine's as planned, Mr Speck took the singing outside! On Monday afternoon Reception children gave wonderful performances of *It's Winter Time*, *Away in a Manger* and the very entertaining *Sing Along*. On Tuesday Years 1 and 2

showcased their version of *It's Winter Time* as well as *Starry Night* and crowd favourite *Feliz Navidad*. Our Heathfield Schools' Partnership Choir rounded the day off beautifully by singing a selection of Christmas songs by candlelight as the school day ended.

Trip to the Oval Cricket Ground

Last Friday a lucky group of keen cricketers from the juniors went on a special trip to the Oval Cricket Ground. Kirtan explained, "*It was very big. We visited the Long Room with pictures of famous cricketers and went to the museum where there was memorabilia such as the world's oldest cricket bat from 1753. We also saw the Test Match Special room where Radio 4*



broadcast from." Jai added, "We played a game in the indoor practice area. That was my favourite part of the day, playing a match with everyone."





As a school we are very proud to announce that we have been included in *the cricketer Schools Guide 2022*. Our inclusion as one of the top 50 junior and prep schools in the country recognises the school's commitment to the sport of cricket.

Football News

We have had further success with our girls' and boys' football teams this past week. Last Thursday we played league matches against Bishop Perrin School. The boys' team won their game 4-3 and the girls beat their opponents 3-2. Yesterday our boys' team played St Edmund's School and came away victorious with a 2-1 win. Our B team then played a friendly against the St Edmund's side and while they did not win, they played some excellent football making Mr Watson very proud. As it stands our boys' team are currently top of the league and our girls are in second place.



We are also delighted to report that our tag rugby team are sitting at the top of their league as we end this term. Congratulations to the players in all those teams.

Year 4 Firebird Dance Workshop

Last Thursday all Year 4 classes took part in Firebird Dance Workshops. They recreated the story of the *Firebird* through dance based on Saviour Pirotta's book. Elyanah from McQueen played the part of the Firebird, *"I took a ballerina ribbon and waved it round in the middle of six people and then*



pretended to grab an apple because the Firebird steals golden apples from the kingdom. Everyone had to gasp when I took the apple. It was very dramatic!" Elyanah went on to tell the story of Prince Ivan's attempt to capture the Firebird and the adventures he had along the way in order to gain some of his father's kingdom.



Gymnastics Club

Our gymnasts from Years 3 to 6 who have been attending Gym Club this term put on an impressive display for parents and carers this week. The skills they have learnt were choreographed into an exciting action-packed routine. Libbie from Shonibare said, "*It* was fun. We practised a lot and my grandad came to watch. I'm definitely going to do it again next term. I like using the equipment and learning new things. This term I learnt how to do a round off cartwheel. Next term I would like to learn how to drop into a bridge!"



Christmas Lunch



The children looked amazing in their Christmas jumpers on Wednesday. Our infants looked particularly festive wearing the crowns they had made at lunchtime. Our roast turkey and trimmings Christmas lunch was a popular choice although some of



our children were not so sure about the brussel sprouts! If you would like your child to enjoy our delicious hot school meals next term they simply need to let their teacher know during daily morning registration.

Dates for your diary

Thursday **16th December** - Last day of term Friday **17th December** - Promise Sports Multi-Activity Day - contact Mark Bitmead on 07710 658179 Monday **20th** - Friday **24th December** - Sport4Kids Multi-Activity Camp - <u>click here to book</u> Tuesday **4th January 2022** - Children return to school after the holidays Friday **7th January** - 9.30am & 1.30pm - Nursery and Reception Tours - **book at the infant office**