



Friday 30th November 2018

Dear Reform Club,

As predicted, the typhoon did hit and our chances looked treacherous for a couple of days. Under order of the captain, we had to trim the sails and so, when the storm finally abated, we had lost half a day. This almost proved significant as we only just arrived in Hong Kong in time to catch the steamer bound for Yokohama.

A brief sojourn in Japan followed, where we took in some of the sights while searching for Princess Aouda's relatives. A rather esoteric chap, a certain Mr Ball, seems to have accompanied us all the way from Suez and is now on board as we travel towards America. Passepartout is particularly suspicious of the poor fellow, but I can only think that he is travelling to meet family as he has explained. Come to think of it though, it is rather a convoluted route to travel.

I will write further upon our arrival in San Francisco.

Yours sincerely,

Phileas Fogg

Dear Parents,

The excitement this week has been steadily building towards the crescendo of this afternoon's Christmas Fayre. Lynne Singer's office has rapidly run out of flat surfaces as a panoply of interesting jars have arrived. It has been wonderful to see the very creative designs produced and the children are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to find out what's inside.

Of course, there is more to the Christmas Fayre than the Mystery Jars - many of the children will, of course, be looking forward to visiting a certain gentleman in red as well as perusing the stalls and games in the Oliver Studio. Perhaps of more interest to parents will be the stalls in the Main Hall - some ideal Christmas gift ideas for anyone still thinking! Can I take this opportunity of recommending a visit to Ellis and James' stall - they've set it up to raise money for two charities as part of their Discovery Awards. Well done boys!

Elsewhere, we've been busy rehearsing for our two productions and it is pleasing to hear small groups of children wandering around humming snatches of the various songs or huddled together poring over their scripts! Rehearsals begin in earnest in the Oliver Studio and Dining Room next week and we are looking forward to them treading the boards. Behind the scenes props and costumes are being worked upon and I know that letters about the latter will soon be going home. Thank you in advance for your support with these.

Elsewhere the children should have come home with their "Good Deeds Advent Calendars." This will be the fourth year we have run this, and each year has seen an increase in the number

of children taking part. I have challenged the children to keep this trend going and hope that they can spread a bit of peace, goodwill and happiness in their own way through their actions.

Foundation and Reception

The children in Foundation have been learning about the Arctic this week and all things cold have been filling the classroom. At the start of the week, frozen arctic animals were found inside the malleable tray and the children watched and waited for the animals to be exposed. This theme was then repeated when the children had the opportunity to paint with frozen lollipops which they thoroughly enjoyed.



"The Snow Bear" has been the book of the week which is a lovely story about how a polar bear cub explores his new surroundings. The children then used cotton wool to make their own polar bear faces.

In Maths the children have been learning about 2D shapes. At the start of the week, the children went on a shape hunt around the school finding all the different shapes in the furniture and walls. Later in the week they have been making shape repeated patterns.



Year 1 and 2

South America was the destination for Year 1 and 2 this week. They jetted off to look at the Amazon rainforest, where it's located and what it's like, finding out about all the different animals that might live there. They learnt that some tribes live deep in the rainforest and are not used to the modern technology or everyday items that we're used to. This helped them to get into character when experiencing things for the very first time. Learning that George Stephenson was a pioneer of locomotives and his interest in engineering as a result of problems that faced miners. They wrote some lovely passages about their first every train ride, zooming through the British countryside at speeds they've never experienced before. Unfortunately, they discovered that Father Christmas had a bit of a problem too! His reindeers were ill which stopped him from delivering his last present to Harvey Slumfenburger. They shared the story, looking at all the different ways he travelled to Roly Poly mountain and worked on imagining what present Harvey Slumfenburger might be getting. There were some great ideas, particularly that he might be getting some skis this Christmas!

Year 3

Year 3 reached new heights at the beginning of this week, as they made some light yet strong hot-air balloons to demonstrate how hot air rises. They were quite thrown aback at the force with which the paper balloons catapulted into the air when placed above a hairdryer! They also explored the science behind this and learned that hot air weighs much less than air at a typical temperature (around 7g less per cubic foot), since the particles are spread much further apart.



In English, pupils have been learning about the Indian folktale 'The Tiger Child', and have been writing their own versions which, just like every other version, are slightly altered after each re-telling. This story 'teaches' us of how it came to be that people keep cats as pets and how tigers now need to eat their food raw (although the pupils have their suspicions about this). I'm sure that the Year 3 pupils will be able to explain this logic to you.

Exciting advancements have been taking place in DT, as pupils have moved onto designing, and some even making their money containers with a sewn pattern using any combination of four stitches. Finally, they have been sharpening up on their mental maths abilities, as they have been adding, taking away and finding number bonds for 2 digit numbers by partitioning (mainly) in their heads! This should come in handy in the coming weeks when pupils may be able to buy mince pies, candy canes or even Christmas presents, by working out the coins and change that they might need on their own.

Year 4

This week the children in 4MA continued to work on our Creative Curriculum 'Around the World in 80 days'. In Geography they used information cards to find facts about the 7 continents. They discovered the longest river in Africa is the Nile while the longest river in Europe is the Volga. They went on to discover the tallest mountain in Africa is Mount Kilimanjaro and the tallest mountain in Asia is Mount Everest. Their English Information texts continued with lots of good questions, titles and subtitles as they explored different habitats.

On a wild, wet and windy afternoon 4KS got into the festive spirit in forest school. Sheltering in the bird hide, they learnt how to safely drill holes into their tree cookies, enabling them to transform them into fantastic jingling, jangling tree decorations. Back in the classroom, they have been exploring traditional African Ananse stories - looking at the messages and morals found in them, as well as comparing different types of stories. They have used a story map to pull all their ideas and hard work together to help them to plan their very own Ananse tale - I look forward to reading them next week!

Year 5

In Science this week we continued to explore how transport works and looked into how air resistance helps a parachute land more slowly and safely. The children got into pairs and designed 3 of their own parachutes, deciding each time which variable to change (size, material, weight of "cargo" etc.) so that they could test each parachute against each other in a fair test. Whilst considering our own health and safety, we had great fun under our own parachute at the top of the Y5 stairs as you can see.



Year 6

Despite coming and going to rehearsals and singing practise all this week, Year 6 have been very busy continuing on the 80 Days topic. After identifying some of the top tourist destinations around the world, and arguing about whether the Statue of Liberty or the White House should symbolise the USA, the children thought about some of the problems mass tourism can cause. They were shocked to see the huge amounts of rubbish that can be found on the ascent to Mount Everest and were rather dubious that climbers were cleaning up after themselves on the way down (climbers are fined if they don't bring 8kg of rubbish down with them, in addition to their own rubbish). Year 6 learnt the sad fact that from base camp upwards, the mountain is littered with food wrappers, climbing equipment, and empty gas and oxygen cylinders.

Year 6 have shown themselves to be a very environmentally focused group as they have written poems on the topic of plastic pollution and thought how we could cut down on our own plastic usage. 6NH worked out that if every pupil and member of staff used a disposable plastic cup each day at lunch, by the end of the year we would have used around 80,000. Isn't that a shocking amount for one school to get through in just one year? Do you see what we did there? Using emotive language, facts, and asking rhetorical questions is part of the persuasive writing that the children have also been working on this week. They have big plans on cutting down on paper and printing to save both paper and energy across the whole school. Watch out Ed Rossiter and Toby Spence - Year 6 hope to have a persuasive letter or two with you soon!

In Maths, NH's group have been helping Nick Hadley to make his Cyber Monday purchases by working out the percentage discounts he should receive on a variety of goods (this was carefully disguised as a page from the text book). Meanwhile, AP's group have been making 3D shapes and identifying their features, which did lead to a healthy debate about whether the join between a curved face (or surface) and a flat face, such as on a cylinder, should be known as an edge or a join. We did all agree that the dodecahedron is the most fun to say of the 3D shapes, but the torus is the tastiest.

Plastic Pollution

Everyone asks "What's the solution?"

The problem is disgusting plastic pollution.

All your favourite supermarket features,

End up in the sea, hurting innocent creatures.

The sea is turning into a poisonous soup made of plastic,

A world without pollution is absolutely fantastic!

All the beautiful animals are slowly and painfully choking,

Even on cigarettes after someone's been smoking.

If everyone made a promise to stop polluting,

We will be able to hear the seagulls hooting.

Plastic is a monster, trying to kill,

Because it can get stuck in a fish's gill!

Plastic pollution really needs to stop,

Everything can affect it - even a tiny bottle top.

By Max, Y6

Next week is looking extremely busy. As if play rehearsals weren't a focus enough, we also have our transport themed STEM workshops on Monday, followed by our Indian Dance workshops on Tuesday. Throwing into the mix a cross-country final and cycling proficiency tests, not to mention the Junior School disco, prompts me to think we need a Hermione style time-turner! Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the beginning of advent (don't forget to get the children to complete their good deeds charts)!

Head of Junior School stickers:

- Eliza, Y2
- Evie F, Y3
- Tobin, Y4
- Will, Y5
- Max, Y6

In friendship

Edward Rossiter
Head of Junior School
Sibford School

Ps. Did you know that the first known advent calendar was made in 1851? This was a handmade wooden model, with the first printed version appearing in the early 20th Century.

Sports Fixtures

Last week was a busy week of matches for Y5/6 Girls. On Tuesday, both our U10 and U11 Netball teams played against Windrush. The U11 played a closely fought match which led to a draw at half time. In the second half, there were many shooting opportunities for both teams. Audrey, Emma and Rosie worked tirelessly in defence and Lily played exceptionally well as C, delivering the ball to our attacking players. Lara put in a fantastic performance as GA which resulted in an overall win for Sibford. Player of the Match - Lara. In the U10 match, it was very encouraging to see how the team worked together - looking for passing opportunities and holding their positions on the court. Our defence players did an excellent job of marking against a strong opposition. While the Sibford girls fought hard to regain possession, shooting opportunities were limited resulting in a win for Windrush. Nevertheless, the girls should be very proud of their performance. Player of the Match - Erin.

On Wednesday afternoon we hosted the annual Warriner Family Partnership U11 Swimming Gala. This was a fantastic and lively event with 7 schools competing for the top spot to qualify for the District Final. Both Sibford teams looked strong from the outset finishing first with a comfortable lead in the Medley relays. This continued throughout the gala with many individuals coming in first as well as securing personal bests. It was great to see how much they have all improved since September and the team spirit and sportsmanship throughout was exemplary. Both teams were victorious and have already started working hard in preparation for the finals next term.



On Thursday afternoon, the U11 Girls Hockey team headed to Cokethorpe for a hockey tournament. In very cold conditions, the team had a tough afternoon of back to back matches. With true Sibford spirit, the girls gave 100% throughout the afternoon, gaining confidence and improving their overall performance in each game. With a strong defence line, they were able to prevent many shooting opportunities by clearing the ball wide. However, we struggled to make the most of opportunities in attack which limited our own attempts on goal. After a full afternoon of play, the match tea and hot chocolate was enjoyed by all!

On Friday afternoon, the U11 Netball teams were back in action in a home fixture against St John's. Once again there was some fantastic netball on display with Sibford girls making the most of early passes and finding space on the court. The ball was accurately delivered to the circle on many occasions and great team work between Lara, Elena, Amber and Olivia in the attacking half resulted in an impressive win for the A team. In the B team match the Sibford girls, led by their captain Eva, played with determination - there were some impressive passes and all girls worked hard to think about their position on court and how to mark the opposition. Special mention goes to Penny and Emmeline who worked consistently throughout the afternoon and to Imogen for her work as GK. Overall, a fantastic afternoon of netball. Well done to all the Y6 girls.

Junior School Flu Vaccines for Reception and Years 1-5

As you are aware, on Thursday, 29th November we were visited by Oxford Health NHS Nurses who administered the Flu Vaccines for those of you who completed the consent forms. For anyone who missed this Oxford Health are holding a number of catch up clinics. Please contact Oxford Health on the numbers below to book an appointment if required.

4.12.18	Thame Cottage Hosp	15:00	01865 904225
4.12.18	St Edburgs School, Bicester	15:30	01869 604095
10.12.18	Abingdon Hosp, Out Patients Dept.	09:00	01865 904890
11.12.18	Wallingford Hosp, School Nurse Office	09:00	01865 904845
11.12.18	St Edburgs School, Bicester	15:30	01869 604095
12.12.18	Chipping Norton Hosp Clinic Room 1	15:00	01865 901295
12.12.18	Abingdon Hosp, Out Patients Dept.	15:30-17:00	01865 904890
12.12.18	Orchard Health Centre, Banbury	15:30	01865 904234
13.12.18	Wantage Health Centre, Mably Way	09:30	01865 901586
14.12.18	Didcot Health Centre	09:00	01235 515503
18.12.18	Witney Hosp Rm 7	15:30	01865 901295

Mystery Jars House Competition

Well done to Clark who returned the most Mystery Jars, results as follows:

Clark = 25

Fry = 17

Gillet = 14

Nansen = 14

Thank you to everyone for their support. Prizes for the most artistically decorated will be awarded next week.

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 3 rd December	Cycle Safety Training STEM Workshops – Y1-6
Tuesday, 4 th December	Indian Dance Workshops – Y1-6 Cycle Safety Road Test – 1.15pm
Thursday, 6 th December	Fry House – “Fry up” at 8.45am Junior School Christmas Disco – 4.30pm to 6.30pm
Friday, 7 th December	U8-9 TAG Rugby v New College – H Cross Country Partnership Finals – H
Monday, 10 th December	KS2 (Years 4-6) Christmas Production, Oliver Studio at 2.30pm
Tuesday, 11 th December	KS1 (including Year 3) Christmas Production, Dining Hall at 2.30pm KS2 (Years 4-6) Christmas Production, Oliver Studio at 6pm
Wednesday, 12 th December	KS1 (including Year 3) Christmas Production, Dining Hall at 2.30pm KS2 (Years 4-6) Christmas Production, Oliver Studio at 6pm
Thursday, 13 th December	End of Term Awards Meeting, Dining Hall at 9.15pm (Refreshments will be available from 8.45am in the Small Dining Room) followed by open classrooms, where parents are welcome to come and look around at the work the children have been doing. There will be no Year 3 and 4 Horse-Riding Class Parties and a visit by Father Christmas from 2.30pm Sibford School Christmas Carol Concert, Main Hall at 6.30pm
Friday, 14 th December	“Get your sparkle on” Casual Day in aid of NSPCC Christmas Appeal (minimum donation of £1) School Christmas Lunch Final Meeting, Main Hall at 3.40pm School closes at 4.15pm.