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Friday 11th January

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Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas break and an enjoyable New Year. It has been lovely to see the enthusiastic and eager expressions on the children's faces as each class begins their new topics. While the displays and excitement related to Around the World in 80 Days has finished, it has been replaced by a calm level of focus and interest in lessons.

Many year groups have spent the week doing half-yearly assessments that were put off from the end of the Autumn term due to the busy-ness of our various productions. As a result there has been a pleasant hush over the school and some determined faces as children have undertaken their tests.

As we've started a new term, so we have begun to explore a new theme in Meeting for Worship, this time of "consideration." Central to this has been the idea of an awareness of those around them and putting others first; whether that be by simple manners or through looking out for those around us.

On Monday I challenged the children to set themselves some resolutions; one a challenge for themselves, the other, something they can do to make the school an even more harmonious place. The children's resolutions should go on display in the coming week's (as footballs in the main corridor) and I hope they can all achieve their aims.

It has been great to see that so many children have been practising what they've written about in the large amount of children who have returned their Good Deeds Advent Calendars. I am looking forward to giving out a little something to all of them to say "well done" after Year 4's Celebration Meeting later.

## **Music Examinations**

Congratulations to Tabitha, Year 6 for achieving a Merit in her Grade 3 ABRSM Piano Examination.

## **Head of Junior School Awards**

Oscar N - Year 2  
Florin - Year 1  
Henry F - Year 6

## **Celebration Certificates**

Wilf - Year 1/2  
Monty - Year 3  
Whole Class - Years 4MA and 4KS for taking part in Celebration Meeting

Kezia - Year 5  
Mila - Year 6NH  
Tom N - Years 6AP

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

In friendship

**Edward Rossiter**  
**Head of Junior School**  
**Sibford School**

Ps. Did you know that in some cultures black eyed peas, ham, and cabbage are considered good luck if you eat them on New Year's Eve or Day because it is believed they will bring you money, whereas lobster and chicken are considered bad luck because lobsters can move backward and chickens can scratch in reverse, so it is thought these foods could bring a reversal of fortune?

## Foundation and Reception

Early Years have had a 'blast' this week. As part of our new topic on space we have been planning our trip to the moon. We thought about what we might pack. This included food, water, clothing and other essentials, such as rubber ducks and dinosaur bones. On the big day, we made ourselves some 'Baby Bear Honey Sandwiches', checked our boarding passes, put on our helmets and jumped into our rocket. We counted down from 20 and blasted into space.

We had a ball on the moon: having a picnic, moon walking and riding moon buggies. When we came back in the children were very concerned that we had to get back into the rocket to go back to school. You will be pleased to know that the rubber ducks got their very own space rocket - Whatever Next? Can you guess what book we have been reading?



## Year 1 and 2

A new term and luckily for Year 1 and 2, the week started with them tasting chocolate for their new topic 'Chocolate: From Bean to Bar'. After taking suggestions about where chocolate comes from, a factory or Willy Wonka, they discovered that it starts off as a cacao bean grown in rainforests! They learnt that there can be lots of different types of chocolate and tasted different types, recording the smell, look, texture and most importantly taste! This also helped them to

understand that there haven't always been certain types of food when creating a food timeline. The children were quite surprised to find out that salt was used to preserve food, that people kept livestock in order to have milk and only rich people could afford chocolate in the Victorian times.



Starting to understand that food doesn't all come from England, they looked at how the world is like a jigsaw and focused on the different continents of the world, so if you're ever in the KS1 cloakroom, take the opportunity to quiz the children on their knowledge! This then led them to Central America where their art this term will be focusing on traditional Bark Art, which uses everyday life, nature and animals as starting points for their creations. To top it off, they managed to find time to look at riddles in their English and how they can use similes to help the reader guess what the object is!



## Year 3

It's been an exciting first week back in the Year 3 classroom, as dinosaurs have stomped, stamped and crashed their way into the lessons with a roaring introduction! I'm not sure who's more excited, the pupils or Helen Arnold! Pupils found out about what the world would have been like when dinosaurs roamed the earth, as well as a little bit about the vast diversity present amongst the dinosaurs. They painted their own dinosaurs (which are now displayed among Year 3's Cretaceous landscape) and then discussed what they would like to learn during our dinosaur topic.



Dinosaurs have also made their way into Year 3's English lessons and have inspired some dramatic character descriptions on a colossal scale! They have been paying attention to the way in which dinosaurs might have moved as they have been making their writing interesting using adverbs: suspiciously, frantically and even gracefully were amongst some of my favourites.

In Maths, pupils have been speeding up their mental recall, and have also been identifying right angles. They went on a 'right angle hunt' around the school and found that they could see right angles all over the school, including around the adventure playground.



## Year 6

It has been a busy start to the term in Year 6 with the children tackling the Maths and English assessments this week. In between this, in true British fashion, they have been discussing the weather and why our country is typically wet and windy. Of more interest to the children was where any snow might come from. Sadly, so Year 6 thought, it does not look like the winds are coming from quite the right direction at the moment. Their fingers are crossed for some northerly winds in the forecast. In English the children have been studying the narrative poem "The Highwayman". They have enjoyed deciphering some of the trickier language and the imagery within the poem; more to come on this over the coming weeks. 6NH have also begun their pottery sessions for the year whilst 6AP have recently finished theirs. Both classes hope to have some of their work on show for the next open day in a few weeks. 6NH have also started learning about how the British parliament works as part of their PSHE for this term. They are getting to grips with the difference between parliament and government, they know that the Queen is the head of state but is not really in charge and understand how MPs are elected and Lords are selected. They will be working on their debating skills in the coming weeks, so watch out parents for more reasoned arguments on why bedtimes should be extended, and chocolate is a necessary part of a healthy diet!

### **Sibford School Ski Trip (Years 4-13) - Friday, 5th April to Saturday, 13th April 2019**

There are still a few spaces available on the above ski trip this Easter. If you would like your child to attend the above trip or require further information, please contact Lynne Singer [lsinger@sibfordschool.co.uk](mailto:lsinger@sibfordschool.co.uk) as soon as possible. This will be an excellent opportunity to ski in Rodeneck in the Italian Alps.

### **Rollright Stones - Sculpture Project**

In the Summer Term last years pupils in Years 3 and 4 took part in a sculpture project using art to fill the gaps in the King's men stone circle. The challenge was to respond creatively to the associations and folklore of this special place. In recognition of Years 3 and 4 excellent contribution the Rollright Trust has awarded the school £125.00 along with a Certificate of Contribution which is displayed on our outside notice board.

## News from PSFA

All parents are automatically members of PSFA. Our committee meetings are held twice a term and provide an opportunity to plan future events, talk about possible fund-raising ideas and consider applications from the school for financial support. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15 January in the school library starting at 6.30pm and we hope that as many parents and guardians as possible will be able to join us. Then on Friday 18 January we will be holding a Coffee & Catch Up immediately after drop off in the small dining room. This will be an opportunity to enjoy a hot drink and some tasty snacks, catch up with events happening in 2019 and to chat with other parents. We look forward to seeing you at one or both of the events.



## Lost Property

Orlando, Y5 has lost his tracksuit bottoms, Kaiya, Y4 has lost 1 sports sock and Mintian, Y5 has lost a sports top - all items are named. Please could everyone check their bags in case they have been picked up in error.

## Dates for the Diary

Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> January	PSFA Meeting, Senior School Library at 6.30pm
Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3/4 Horse Riding
Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> January	PSFA Coffee Morning, Small Dining Room at drop off EYFS Stay and Play session – 1030 to 1145am. Music Meeting, Main Hall at 3.40pm
Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	U11 Netball and Football v Cokethorpe – H
Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3/4 Horse Riding
Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Celebration Meeting – Holocaust Week, Oliver Studio at 3.40pm