



Engage Develop Aspire Communicate
Our vision
Working towards successful futures

Principal's message to families – 19 April 2024

Next weeks Lower school word of the week is - Strong
The Upper school word of the week is – Accurate

We started our **Summer term** with assemblies across school with reminders about what makes **good communication** with our friends. We talked about all the different ways we communicate now and have done in the past and thought about how to make sure that how we talk to each other should be polite and respectful. Using respectful language with friends and staff will be a real focus this term and there will be calls home to parents where children continue not to follow staff guidance around this.

Children have arrived back to school in good spirits and without exception, when I've asked them if they're glad to be back at school they all said yes in some way or another! Granted, I didn't talk to everyone on Monday but a fair few!

Over the holiday our Sensory 'jungle' in the quad by the meeting room, has been transformed into a beautiful blank canvas of a '**Reading Garden**'. Have a look at our **Facebook page** for photos. It looks amazing. We have a small staff group starting to plan next steps for it, so keep a look out for requests for your input! Activities that raise funds through the Friends of Dawn House this term will all be raising money to furnish and flower the garden. Do pop in and have a look if you are in school.

We also took delivery this week of **18 bikes!** There were boxes and wheels everywhere, but the dedicated outdoor learning staff and pupil team led by Mr Winfield, soon put them all together and got them ready for use (another reason to look at our **Facebook page!**)

The **residential** children have had a week full of activities that have included "Foodie Friends" making pea pesto meatball pasta (another success!!); the Football group scored plenty of goals; the Music club hit all the right notes and the Dance club learnt a new routine. The residential garden is starting to look smart with the group planting vegetable and strawberry plants, while the swimming club continue to enjoy the pool.

When it stopped raining students have been on the field when the rain stopped and interacted well coming in to play board games each time it rained. A great week back.

The Friends of Dawn House group plan to meet next week to plan out Summer term activities, but as a starting point we have....



Bags for School Tuesday 14 May 2024 – Send all of your charity shop donations from any Spring clear-outs to us please, these are then collected and turned into cash!! Please see attachment of items accepted/not accepted.

In other **MAJOR** fundraising news...one of our parents Fiona Eady is running in the **London Marathon** this weekend for Speech and Language UK! Fiona has raised money in school with the very successful Easter coffee and cake stall and also has a JustGiving page where you can support her- please do if you can! **Wishing you the very best Fiona!**

<https://2024tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/fiona-eady>

Her number is 34583 if you want to follow her on Sunday- I know I will!

Makaton joins OT...

Miss Makepeace joined the OT team this week to share **Makaton** signs and games that will support lots of activities that the OTs do with our children. This starts the school 'You've been Maked' challenge where staff spotted by SLG using more Makaton than they usually do, will receive a prize and can leave a little early one day the following week!

Coming up....

Art assessment for KS4 on Tuesday/Wednesday next week- as a school we are trying to use the word 'assessment' instead of 'exam', as we saw very clearly last year that this really reduces our children's stress around a very stressful time of year. If you can please do the same at home that will really help. Our **SLT apprentice** has been doing some amazing work with a group of children about the skills they need for revision and managing assessments in school which has been really well received.

Jacques will be working Monday and Thursday this half-term providing **careers guidance** from next week. He will be having his 2nd meetings with Y12 and will start meeting with Y9.

Next Thursday we have **Speech and Language UKs graphic designer**, Lucy Upstill coming to work with children who have started to design our **50th Birthday logo** to perfect their ideas- what a great opportunity!

Our **PGL** staff team are meeting on Thursday to finalise plans for the residential trip the following week. We met with parents this week and it was lovely to hear how excited their children are and how much some parents were looking forward to some 'child-free' time!

Wishing you all a good weekend,



Jenny

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If your child leaves home in the morning a little unsettled and you want to quickly tell us, so we know to expect a tricky start to the day, a quick email (that we can follow up later) to the tutor and/or core team with '**Handle with Care**' in the email title will ensure that we are aware.