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Our vision
Working towards successful futures

Principal's message to families – 22 March 2024

Next weeks Lower school word of the week is - [guess](#)
The Upper school word of the week is – [justify](#)

What a week of fun and laughter this week! Just right for **International Happiness day** on Wednesday- which is all about raising awareness of the importance of happiness and wellbeing in the lives of people around the world. We talked about this in our assemblies on Monday, thinking about what makes us happy and talking about how being happy can help us achieve our goals and dreams and treat ourselves and others with kindness and respect. We know that no one is happy all of the time, and other feelings are ok, but if we can make feeling happy a priority we are more likely to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. We thought about what makes us happy and how we can help others to feel happy- a useful discussion for us all to have.

Yesterday, children in Lower School and KS3 enjoyed time in the **Wonderdome**- a kind of 'portable planetarium' where we looked up into the Solar System and heard lots of interesting facts about the planets. There was then **UV Dodgeball** event, which you really do have to see to believe. Have a look on our Facebook page and on the website.

Thank you to staff involved for putting on these events which were enjoyed by all.

Today's science based '**Investigate' House event** is still going now- the enjoyment is almost tangible. I can hear voices and laughter outside on the field in the sunshine, on the tennis court, in the science room (as they try to crack the code to escape), from the green screen room where there is digital recording of steps taken and breathing and I'm sure I can almost hear the excitement from Chimes as children and staff do the egg drop challenge! (ask your children and look on Facebook to see it all for yourselves!)

Orienteering- we've been lucky taking advantage of the weather this week and have had lots of outdoor learning with our new orienteering package. The children really enjoyed it. They have been working in small teams to solve geography based quizzes using their orienteering and navigation skills. They showed excellent communication and teamwork and enjoyed competition element of the activity.



Residential week- the girls group visited the local skatepark and outdoor gym for the first time this year and the "Foodie friends " group cooked amazing Lemon chicken with Greek yogurt and flatbreads.

There were the usual football activities, swimming and dance group and the garden/eco group created a pebble pool in the wildlife garden just in time for the frogs.

With what little time was left the young people played tennis in the hall, football on the field and chilling in front of the TV.

In other news...

Easter coffee and cake (Thursday 12-1pm) tickets will be on sale next week, please pop in and join us.

Parent payments for trips and Food Tech- thank you for these. Increasing costs mean that your contributions are essential in order that we can continue to provide exciting events both in and out of school for your children and that they can continue to bring you home some delights to eat. Look for the links on Weduc.

Mobile phone policy- a reminder that with new Government guidance, NOTHING CHANGES at Dawn House! Please remind your children of the expectation to hand their phones in at the start of the school day, whichever part of the school they are in, and that if they refuse, we will call parents to come in and take the phone home.

SI input for students- You may have seen the maternity cover post for OT advertised recently. This means that depending on our recruitment process, we may not have a sensory integration trained OT available after mid May 2024. As you can appreciate there is a national shortage of therapists but, in particular sensory integration trained therapists. We will do our best to recruit to this role with the SI specialism and will keep you posted. In the meantime, we will inform our local authorities of this.

Look out for a message coming your way asking you to let us know if you would be interested in your child joining an **activity day** or two if we are able to put something on over the holidays. Its just an initial idea at the moment, so no promises but I'd like to know what you think.

Enjoy your weekends,
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.