



Parent Newsletter

Friday 13th May 2022

Huge congratulations to Year 6 for the way they conducted themselves during the SATs this week. They nearly all worked hard and sensibly with such a great attitude*. My thanks to teachers and teaching assistants who prepared them so well and to those who helped supervise. Particular thanks to parent Mrs Martindale, who acted as monitor of our exam conditions and rule following. We were also visited by the Local Authority who checked our protocols and left very positive about the way tests were being conducted. Huge thanks to Mrs Carlton whose meticulous eye to detail left no room for error.

*Occasionally the stress came to the fore in a few pupils who found the tension of an exam a little much but fortunately they were able to work separately in as supportive an environment as we could manage.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today I shared a short extract from the Spark! Book *Uma and the Answer to Absolutely Everything*. It is by Sam Copeland who also has a popular series starting with Charlie changes in a Chicken, which is also very funny. The reading from the book got a very good response from pupils - which is great news as **Sam Copeland is visiting the school next Friday afternoon**. We have a number of his books to order on [ParentPay](#) (at a slightly cheaper cost) **which he will sign for pupils next week**. They have been provided sale or return by our friends at The Regency Bookshop in Surbiton and I know that some parents will be keen to purchase one or more. I had initially planned for Sam to talk to Years 4-6 but Year 3 staff have lobbied hard to be included - such is his popularity, so we will include their classes too.

Today was also an historic occasion - for the school. After two years and two and a half months, we held our first WHOLE SCHOOL Assembly. A return to normal! I don't know if the pupils were as thrilled as I was but maybe they were focusing on the round of applause we gave Year 6 as they entered the hall after the way they conducted themselves during the Year 6 Tests. The hall will be kept as ventilated as possible but I really felt that this was the right time to return.

I also chose the poem opposite to read in assembly - it was written by Lily T. in Year 6 and I was genuinely speechless when I first read it. I have been teaching now for a lot of years, as you know, but there are still times when I am moved by the beauty of a piece of a child's writing and Lily's poem blew me away.

What we call IT

**IT is a strong multi-coloured rainbow,
Or a bucket of diamonds thrown
across the sky,
Or a glimmering heart pumping into
blood.**

**IT is everything, everywhere, anywhere
Laughing, cheering, swirling, twirling.
It has no sound, nor look, no true
meaning, nothing.
But it's there, everywhere.**

**We call it something mysterious,
exciting, enticing.**

**We call it:
Hope.**

Year 6 enjoyed a picnic on the field today as part of their post-SATs celebration as well as the SATS breakfast each morning which brought them in enthusiastically and ready to get the morning's tests out of the way. Huge thanks to the PTA who provided such delicious food for the children and served it up too!

This afternoon we suspended the timetable for an hour - pupils had the chance to play but also I held an additional year-based assembly where we looked at the Spark! 6-11 picture books and children had a chance to vote on which they liked best. With the usual timetable suspended for the SATs, it was the best way to ensure that class teachers could be given the time to prepare for the coming week.

In the spirit of openness, I should tell you about one incident that shocked and alarmed me this week but which thankfully has been resolved without disaster. A neighbour has been throwing what appears to be rat poison onto our grounds. It was in our Outdoor Learning Area very near the adjoining fence in an area that I assume they thought was completely overgrown. It was spotted and dealt with - I have written to the neighbours and the police have also been involved. Such reckless foolishness beggars belief but, fortunately, thanks to the prompt response of the teachers who spotted it and our site team, no one was harmed.

Despite this potential crisis, Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed all the activities during their Outdoor Learning Days and my thanks to 4BC who vacated their classroom for the week to facilitate the SATs.

Yesterday, we held our Parent Council meeting and I am always grateful for this chance to hear from parents who give me a heads up on what we are doing right and what might be causing frustration

School trips was top of the list in the latter category. I know a number of parents have paid towards the Trps and Visitors Fund and must be wondering what has happened to that money. The fund is used for visitors as well as trips so that includes museums coming into school, speakers and theatre groups so some has already been spent. Some parent council members expressed surprise that such things had to be paid for - I explained that any money NOT used by year group leaders over the year follows the year group up the school so please be assured it does not go into some kind of slush fund. This year, we have been disappointed by the response to requests to pay into the Trips and Visitors Fund which was set up as what we felt was the only way we could avoid making a loss on trips but clearly this year, we need to review our practice. Contributions to the fund have been much lower than in previous years - as you can see below and as result, the trips year group leaders have been able to plan have been curtailed.

Year 3: 38% of parents contributed

Year 4: 35%

Year 5: 42%

Year 6: 28%

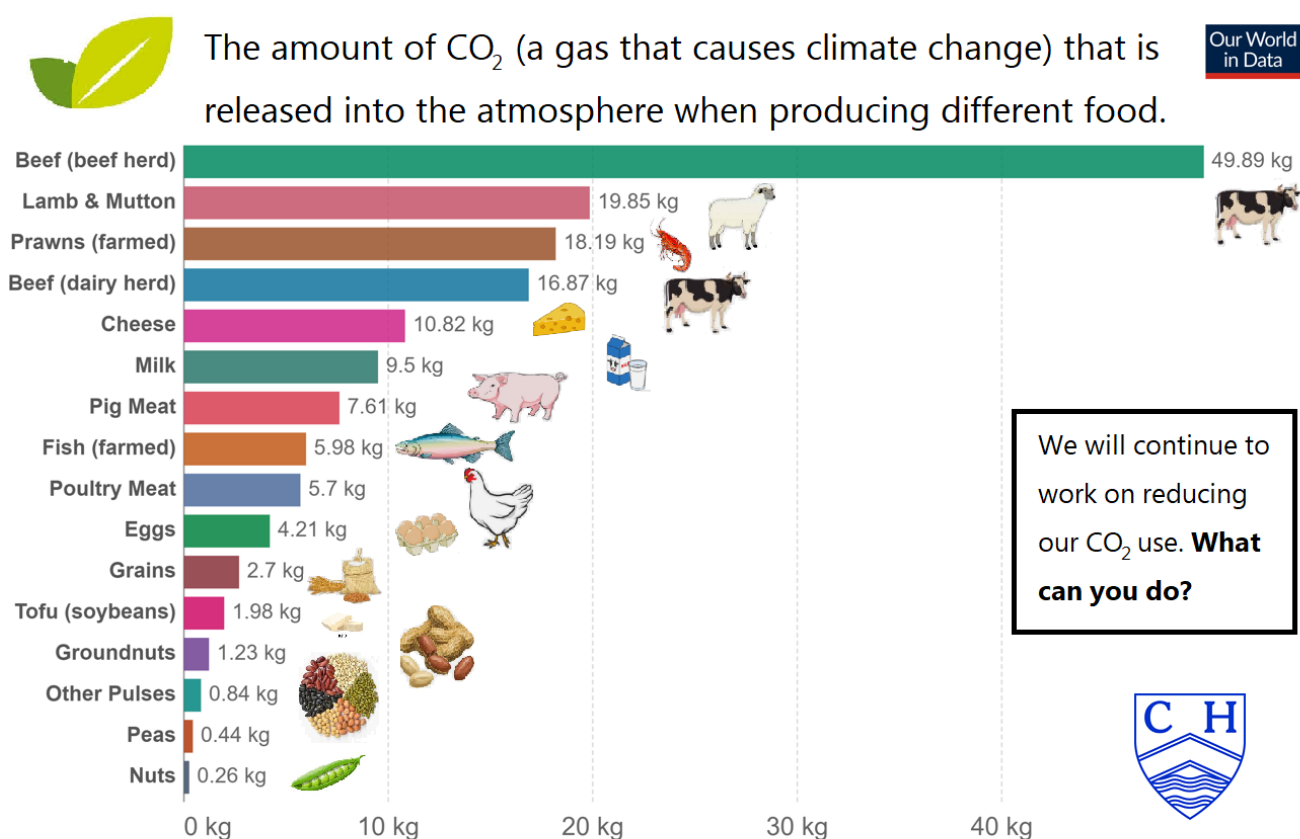
Nevertheless, with the help of the PTA and the ingenuity of year teams, some trips will happen this term and normal service resumed for 2022-23, I feel sure. Further details will follow. **It is not, of course, too late to make a donation to the Trips and Visitors Fund which can be found on Parent Pay.** The payment item does disappear if you have made a

contribution, I am told, but, at the suggestion of Parent Council members, we have set up an additional payment item for anyone who would like to 'pay forward'.

Swimming lessons were also raised at Parent Council. We ask for the donation to pay for an instructor (the PTA contributes to the maintenance of the pool). Lessons should be about 25 minutes in length for each child - they may have been shorter in the first week. Whole classes will not be penalised in the unlikely event of misbehaviour but some pupils may not be allowed to swim for a week or so if they are disrupting the lesson and not behaving in a sensible and safe manner. **At present we have received funding for swimming from 46% of parents, which will leave a big hole in the school finances if we do not get more contributions.**

Please do look out for the minutes of Parent Council which will provide more detail of all the things we discussed.

My thanks to our Junior and Infants Joint Governors Eco group who provided the following poster of how much CO₂, our eating habits currently cost the earth. It is on display to pupils and will explain why as new menus are produced we will be offering less and less beef and more vegetarian and vegan meals in the canteen.



Source: Poore, J., & Nemecek, T. (2018). Additional calculations by Our World in Data.
OurWorldInData.org/environmental-impacts-of-food • CC BY

Parents may be interested to know that we spent our INSET Day this week conducting a short audit of our curriculum to see where we need to continue to add links to reflect the huge range of races and religions and in our community. I was heartened by the progress we have made but even more so by the ideas and determination of teachers to take this further in the coming year.

Congratulations to the following pupils who won my Easter Egg-Travaganza competition: They were chosen by our wonderful office team (I couldn't decide) and are:

- Shregg (by Rozie in Year 4):
- Cle-gg-opatra and Caesar by Marsha (Year 6)
- Mr McGrEGGor's garden by Jessica (Year 6)
- The Egg at the Back of Class by Jasmine (Year 3)
- The House with Chicken L-Eggs by Heather (Year 6)

Well done to our runners up who received a limited edition Coombe Hill book mark: Fatima (y4), Thea (Yr 5), Zainab (Yr 6), Kitty (Yr4), Oliver (Yr 4), Sara (yr 6) and two anonymous Percy J- EGGson and The Valley of Lost Eggs.



Congratulations to our Learners of the Week who were nominated for the disposition: I am polite, kind and encourage others.

3P	Sharujan	5M	Mantas
3C	Luca Noli	5C	T-Jay
3R	Beth	5H	Christabel
4R	Tirishaan	6I	Daniel
4A	Sumin	6L	Lily M
4BC	Ronnel	6M	Yousif
4M	Aadit	6C	Charlie

And Well done to our Writers of the Week and Maths Mountaineers

Year 3 - Joshua for his enthusiasm and growth mindset in all Maths lessons	Year 4 - Sienna for having a growth mindset and sticking with challenges.	Year 5 - Inaayah for her fantastic work on angles using a protractor.	Year 6 - Leanne for persevering in the maths reasoning papers this week
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3R Sarah EF - for a great non-chronological report on the Isles of Scilly.	4M Emily - for an imaginative ending to the story 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters'	5C Danielle - for a brilliant letter written in character during a Book Study lesson of Tom's midnight garden.	6i - Evie J for her inventive informal letter this week
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Attendance for the week

The whole school attendance this week is 96% The class with the highest attendance was 6I , who achieved attendance of 100%. Well done.











Advice to parents/carers about sharing images of children on social media

We ask parents/carers not to share any of these pictures/videos on social media, where other people's children can be identified, as sharing images in this way could place some children and families at risk.

We ask that parents/carers who do want to share pictures/videos of their own children on social media to make sure they understand who else will be able to view these images. We suggest the use of privacy settings to make sure only friends can see your profile and photos, and that geo-location settings are not shared.