



March 2019 Bulletin

Dear Parents,

It's the end of a fantastic term in a fantastic school and the children and staff have all worked incredibly hard. Everyone deserves a well-earned rest over Easter.

One of the many things I love about working at the Hope is the feeling of teamwork and collaboration with the terrific adults here; both teaching and support staff. If you are ever in any doubt, I can reassure you that they all work incredibly hard for your children. What's even more impressive is the way members of the community, especially the parents, help the children to succeed. The recent fundraising efforts by the parents have been nothing short of remarkable. We have had cake sales, table top sales, sponsored runs and even a very successful (and enjoyable) gin night! All this, coupled with the support from our Parent Council, has meant that the trips for P6/7 next term are far more affordable. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank anyone who has organised, participated in or donated to these events.

I love the way the children here are able to participate in such a wide variety of activities during their school day. Only this week, Lindsey from RSPB visited our P4/5 class to dissect owl pellets... perhaps not the most appealing of tasks, but the results were fascinating. We have seen Lindsey a few times recently and we are excited to be accompanying her on a trip to the Fourth Barrier Beach on the 26th April to help set up a nesting area for the visiting Little Terns who are currently travelling all the way from the west coast of Africa! It's so important for our children to feel connected to their natural environment.

Speaking of our natural environment, we have successfully planted 132 trees this month! Mrs Simpson ordered them from the Woodland Trust and I spent two days planting with the children. Thank you to the parents who joined us. Who knows, in years to come, maybe our football pitch will have an effective windbreak!

World Book Day was a terrific success earlier this term and the kids really enjoyed decorating the wooden spoons. The costumes were brilliant! My sincere thanks to Mrs Peace who co-ordinated the day and the rest of the team for running such a terrific event.

One of my favourite things to do when I feel chained to my desk is to get up and visit the Nursery. Trust me, they help to put things into perspective. I think our Nursery is amazing and the children get to experience a huge variety of activities. Last week they visited the fire station and enjoyed sitting in the truck and squirting the hose. This week the Nursery hosted an egg-cellent Easter tea party. If you are a Nursery parent, I encourage you to sign up to one of our 'Stay and Play' sessions. It really is a fantastic place to be.

I wonder if your children have been telling you about our mystery boxes this week? We had some strange deliveries from mysterious people that prompted plenty of discussion and creative thinking. This is just the beginning of our efforts to build more creativity and child-led discussion into our curriculum. I'm hoping that you will start to see your children become more independent and resourceful as we continue to involve them in these unusual and thought-provoking tasks.

