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April Newsletter 2022

Dear Parents and carers

What a month March was in terms of enrichment experiences for our children! Here are some pictures to celebrate many inspiring moments.

Science Week

It was such an inspirational week of science we had at the start of the month – I'm sure you have seen many pictures on Class Dojo. We had a scientist; teachers and lecturers from Southampton University and The Petersfield School, Luke Delahuntley (an Invictus Games athlete) and Mr McAll from Portsmouth Grammar School all inspiring, entertaining



and teaching our children in such motivational ways. Thank you to all staff inc. Miss Barnett, Mrs Boyden and Mr Banham who made it such a great week.

The children learnt about Light; Sound; Crystals and molecular structure, sports science and also the Bernoulli Effect!



Ross Welford (author) – Roving Books – Parents Evening – FODS café.



Ross Welford wowed the children with amazing magic tricks, humour and stories about his work. He stayed all day and signed many books. Thank you to all the children and parents for spending over £1200 at the bookshop as this gave us nearly £250 in commission to buy books for the school library.

FODS also served teas, coffee and cakes and almost 93% of you attended face-to-face meetings; received a mid-year report and celebrated your child's work. Well done everyone concerned!

Spring Dig Day

I am delighted to say we achieved everything we wished for on our Spring Dig Day. The wildlife area is complete and children already use it as a quiet, contemplative space. It has a pathway all the way through it inc. three bug hotels, surrounded by native wildflowers. We repurposed some old school kitchen pots and created a pond of ponds! The tree / shrub corridor is fully planted. Jonathan Dean from the South Downs National Park taught all and sundry about the National Park and Mick Giles was again, awesome with woodwork activities for the children. Sheds were painted, plants and shrubs planted and much pizza and cake eaten! 45 people turned up bringing lots of blue sky and sunshine. Thank you to all of you including, Steve Muscat and his digger; Catherine Eldred (Governor) and Flo with cakes; Mel Lush and daughter for an amazing pizza laden lunch; Vanessa McAll and Mr Vardy (staff) and all you parents who grafted all day. You have made a positive change for our school and the children – I hope you had fun – Luna did!



Memorial Service – South Downs Way



You may have seen on BBC South Today this week, six children (one from each class) their parents and myself, attended a moving Service of Dedication and Remembrance for a new WW2 Memorial Stone on the South Downs Way.

Each child took their turn to read out the names of the Servicemen who lost their lives in a plane crash, April 4th 1944, whilst on manoeuvres in preparation for D-Day.

The Service was a prestigious and poignant event, attended by high ranking members of the Royal Air Force; Royal Australian Airforce, Royal Army Medical Corps, Glider Pilot Regiment; King's Own Scottish Borderers; Parachute Regiment – Airborne Forces; Members of Parliament; local dignitaries, members of the local community and the very dedicated and hardworking Father Tony. Our children were a credit to the school; spoke beautifully on what was a nervous and chilly occasion and were commended by all!



[BBC iPlayer South Today Lunchtime News 05 04 2022 - YouTube](#)

Ukrainian families and Red Cross charity fundraising



I recently contacted the Local Authority regarding supporting Ukrainian families and their children. The information I received back is that if there are any host families in our community who have children in Year groups where we have spaces then we can potentially help. This is currently in our existing Year 3s and more than likely next year's Year 3s, as you will know already. If we can help then we will.

Our recent support Ukraine fundraising week raised an incredible £1680.04 which we then applied for match funding through Aviva Insurance and therefore doubled this to make £3360.08!!!

FODS Easter Fair

Friday was such fun, the culmination of lots of hardwork by many. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents in school and the children had an amazing time raising over £1700 for FODS to pay for enrichment activities in the forthcoming year. Well done and thank you!





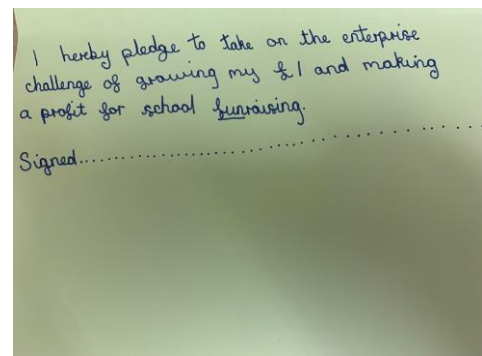
Spring is here! Grow a Pound – Enterprise Project

This week we are launching 'Grow a Pound' which I have already talked to the children about in assemblies recently. The children are tasked with turning the £1 they are given into a profit. In the past this has become a fantastic opportunity to show how the children use all their 'Skills for Learning' (Creativity, Tenacity, Collaboration and Curiosity) in many enterprising and inventive ways.

Their profits will be used to pay for many new enrichment opportunities and resources to enjoy themselves, including: the Young Shakespeare Theatre Company returning in January; author visits; new chromebooks; Den Building equipment and paying for artists and musicians to visit us.



Closing
date for
this is
Monday
13th June



And finally - We hope the Year 4s and staff are having great fun on their residential! We will find out soon I am sure. Have a great Easter holiday everyone and thank you for all your support.

Best wishes

Matthew Dampier

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

Vision: 'Equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to navigate life successfully'.

