

Next week, our whole school ethos theme will be: We are working hard to achieve our own dreams and goals

Dear Parents

Well, it's been a great week in school, culminating in a fantastic drama afternoon as part of our arts festival. I must say, the children were absolutely amazing!

In English, the children have been busy working on SPAG activities, focusing on improving their spelling, punctuation and grammar skills. This week they have been concentrating on colons and commas. Additionally, they have been practising their comprehension skills using classic texts. To enhance their vocabulary, we have introduced a week-long vocabulary challenge. I cannot stress enough the importance of reading for expanding vocabulary. Without a wide range of words, comprehension exercises can be quite difficult to tackle. The children have also continued to develop their newspaper writing skills by crafting their own newspaper stories.

In Maths, the children have been working on Statistics, in particular, drawing and interpreting line graphs. They have also been introduced to the concept of ratio, exploring its applications in various scenarios. To reinforce their learning, the children have been actively engaged in retrieval practice exercises.

In Science, the children have been fascinated by the life cycles of amphibians. They have been comparing and contrasting these life cycles, as well as exploring the life cycles of mammals. It's been a hands-on and interactive learning experience for them.

History lessons this week have been particularly riveting as the children have been studying the Black Death, a devastating pandemic that swept through Europe in the 1300s. They have explored its causes, impact, and the measures taken to combat the disease. This topic has truly captured their interest and sparked insightful discussions.

Our recommended read for this week is: 'Pirates of Darksea' by Catherine Doyle. This award-winning author, known for 'The Storm Keeper's Island' series, brings another fantastic magical adventure to life. The book is filled with strong characters, challenging quests, and difficult moral choices. Amidst the thrilling piratical swashbuckling, readers will also find profound themes such as sibling rivalry, loyalty, responsibility, and the impact of illness on a family. The author skilfully weaves in questions of attachment and affection, creating a truly immersive reading experience. Join Pirate King Captain O'Malley as he seeks help in saving the secret kingdom of Darksea from a fearsome monster determined to destroy it. Meanwhile, in our world, Max is fighting his own battles. His big brother Christopher is seriously ill, and Max is desperate for a miracle to save him. Enter Squawk, an outrageously funny parrot

with a serious attitude, who appears one night and enlists Max's help in saving Darksea. In return, Squawk promises to provide the miracle Max needs for Christopher.

The writing in 'Pirates of Darksea' is absolutely immersive, with vivid descriptions that transport readers straight into the heart of the adventure. However, the author's real strength lies in her ability to create memorable characters, each with their own unique strengths and flaws. This ensures that readers deeply care about the dangers and predicaments faced by the characters. Overall, 'Pirates of Darksea' is a fantastic page-turner, offering a compulsive and highly enjoyable read for all.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to another productive week ahead!

We hope you and your children have a wonderful weekend filled with adventure and learning.

Best wishes, Laura Hazell and Valentina Kalaj

| March | | |
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| Mon 25 | Spring Festival - Singing 1.30pm | |
| Tues 26 | FPTA Bags2School Collection | |
| Wed 27 | Spring Festival - Instruments 9.30am | |
| Thurs 28 | Spring Festival - Piano 9.30am | |
| | House General Knowledge Quiz | |
| | Term Ends 3.30pm (No HAC or Clubs) | |