

From Mr Chappell: I cannot believe that we are nearly half-way through the school year. So much has been achieved and there is still so much to look forward to. This week, I've been reflecting on the many developments we've had in school so far this year - some of which you may be aware of, and some that take place quietly behind the scenes in class rooms. For example, our playground is almost unrecognisable from last year, thanks to the new equipment that Emma Gordon and FOSH have helped to put in place. There have also been several improvements within our classrooms, including new blinds in some rooms, visualisers in each class to allow teachers to give instant feedback by sharing children's work on the screen, and additional resources to support our early reading scheme. All these improvements contribute to creating an environment where your children have the best possible opportunities to thrive. You should also have received an email with some very exciting updates about another area in school, which will be improved further, again thanks to a significant grant secured by Emma - we are incredibly excited about this! Have a great weekend.

FOSH Disco update and AGM information:



A huge thank you to all who attended and those who helped at last week's disco - with ticket sales and snack donations from Morrisons, Tesco and Makro we raised £416 which is a fantastic amount for school. A huge thank you also to all the FOSH team and to the staff team who stayed late for these events. It is really appreciated by the FOSH team.

REMINDER that Sunday 8 February 7:30pm-8:30pm is the FOSH AGM online via teams. We do now have volunteers to stand as trustees but we need enough parents on the call to vote them in effectively. Please support us and ensure we can keep going with the fantastic momentum we've built up. Join using this link: <https://teams.live.com/joinmeeting/937581760429?p=A2Kso7sUM2jOKJ581n>
We look forward to seeing you there.

We also need to say a **HUGE thank you** to Claire Gregory Smith, who has stepped down from her roles within FOSH after an incredible seven years, including several years as Chair. During her time with FOSH, Claire worked tirelessly to ensure school events have run smoothly and played a key role in helping to raise vast amounts of money, all of which have gone directly back into supporting the school. Her dedication and commitment have made a lasting difference, and we are extremely grateful for everything she has done.

Curriculum Showcase: Date for the diaries - Wednesday 18th March:

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back into school for our annual **Curriculum Showcase on Wednesday 18th March**. On this day, children and their families will have the opportunity to share some of their work and take a look at their classes new curriculum corridor display. You will also have the opportunity to visit other classrooms, we actively encourage you to explore different year groups to see some of the fantastic work that has been achieved across the school. Just this week, I have been looking at writing books from across the school, and in many cases the progress that children have made has been remarkable.



Multiplication Facts: Those of you that have attended our Friday Celebration Assemblies, will know that, as we leave, we finish the week by asking each class to answer quick-fire multiplication questions. This has already had a really positive impact, with many children now stopping me in the cloakrooms, to ask me to 'fire' timetables questions at them at random times during the day, as well as at breaktimes and lunchtimes. I must emphasise that it is never too early to be learning multiplication facts, as they are such an important foundation for progress in maths. Our aspiration is that all children know their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4, when they will take part in their statutory assessment. Recently, we have seen a huge number of children in Year 3 who are already almost there - and even a couple of children in Year 1! These are fantastic achievements and shows the impact that regular practice can have! Over the

weekend, why not spend some time learning **square numbers** with your children - $2 \times 2 = 4$, $3 \times 3 = 9$, all the way to $12 \times 12 = 144$? This is great practice even for children in Year 1 and below!

Next week will be **Square Numbers Week** – anyone Mr Chappell meets in the corridors will be asked a square number question. Although that's a lot of children, the aim is to have these mastered as quickly as possible! I will be keeping a tally in my pocket of how many correct answers the children give and will share an update in a couple of weeks. I also hope to post a Dojo video of this in action!

Lockdown Information: Over the last month, we have been reviewing and updating our **lockdown policy** to reflect new statutory guidance. Over the next few weeks, we will be conducting a rehearsal for this. Despite what you may have seen in the media, there is nothing to worry about. The rehearsal will be explained to the children in an age appropriate way by staff to ensure that everyone feels safe and at ease. Please look out for a letter next week with more details about the rehearsal and the procedures that we have in place at school.

Winning House Points: Congratulations to Blenheim House, who received the most house points last term. They will get a treat of dressing in their own clothes (colour related and suitable attire for school) and extra afternoon break – next Friday.

Term 2

Blenheim 6,598 **Concorde** 6,492 **Britannia** 5,853 **Brabazon** 4,603



Well done to Year 5 and 6, who represented our school so brilliantly on their trips to Sevington this week to learn more about the Victorian period, as part of their Big Question: How fair was Victorian society?

Year 6 Chloe reflected on the experience: *I would prefer school nowadays because there is no 'back straightener' – called a backboard, which you had to put on your back if you did not sit up straight properly. Also if you chatted too much, you would need to wear a dunce's hat and hold a chatterbox sign and you would need to stand at the front of the class until the teacher said you could go back. There was also the cane for anybody who was misbehaving.*

Year 6 Bea: *It was fun, although very, very strict as we had to sit with our hands in our laps without touching any of the tables. The rooms were very small with everybody sat on benches. I would prefer school in the Victorian times because nobody has any electronics and we had to write on a blackboard slate.*

It was wonderful to see the children engaging so thoughtfully with history, and bringing their learning to life.

Key Dates:	
Parents / Carers Meetings: Year 1 – Year 6	Term 5: 28th and 30th April
Wednesday 18 th March	Curriculum Showcase – all classrooms open to all parent / carers.
Monday 15 th June Sports Day	KS1 9:15 am KS2 10:45 am (Reserve Day Tuesday 16 th June.
Tuesday 14 th July	Reports to Parent / Carers
Inset Days:	
Monday 23rd March	
20th July 21st July	
Key Statutory Dates – all pupils to undertake.	
Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATs assessments week
Monday 8th June – Friday 12th June	Year 1 Phonics Tests and Year 2 Phonics re-tests
Monday 1st June – Friday 12th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Well done to those children who were awarded a certificate last week and today:

Holly Class: Demi-Rose & Jacob F	Rueben & Frankie
Beech Class: Teddy & Theo	Arthur & Lucy
Oak Class: Reya-Mae & Roscoe	Emily & Luna H
Ash Class: Rocco & Tilley	Doohyun & Martha
Sycamore Class: Archie & Lizzie	James & Ronnie
Elm Class: Becky & Ruben	Isabelle & James Y
Mr Chappell's award: Bavisha (Y5) & Nihal (Y2) Bethany (Y4) & Nikita (Y3)	

