

# THE KING'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER!



Issue 19 - April 2022

## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

As you'll see when you read through the next 8 pages, it has been a busy and fun-filled term! There are so many opportunities for pupils to involve themselves in a variety of extra-curricular pursuits, whether in sport, music or other areas. Ultimately, what the children put into school life will determine what they get out, and it has been lovely to see so many of them developing their skills and growing in confidence. Thank you to all the staff, pupils and parents who have made this term so memorable.



## Instrumental Concert

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, the Primary and Secondary departments entertained us with their musical talent! Children from Years 0 to 10 performed a wonderful variety of musical pieces for piano, violin, drums, flute, saxophone and clarinet, with everyone who learns a musical instrument given the opportunity to participate. The Valiant Violinists from Year 1, Year 2 and Year 5 entertained us with two amazing pieces as well as playing individually. Well done to everyone who performed!

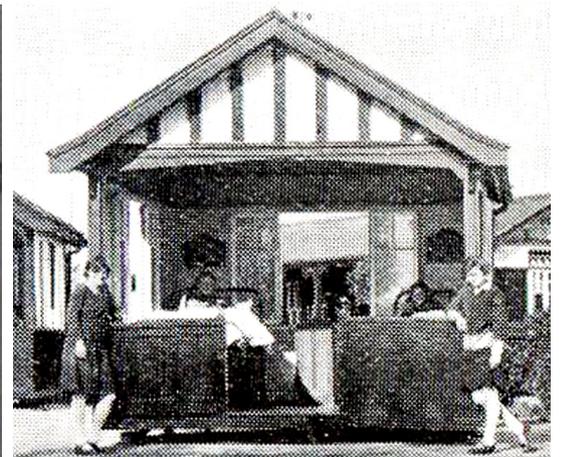
## Trip to the theatre

Foundation Class had a fantastic trip to the Eric Morecombe Theatre in Harpenden to see a show of the classic children's book 'Dear Zoo'. The children laughed, gasped and sang along to the brilliant performance and thoroughly enjoyed seeing one of their favourite books come to life on stage. It inspired them to put on their own performances of other books back in the classroom too!!



## Elmfield visitors

We often have calls and visits from people who have been patients or pupils at Elmfield during its history of over a hundred years, either as a TB hospital or the various schools it has been used for. During February half-term, Andy and Hazel Smith visited the site. They had been at the King's Bible College during 1988/89. It is wonderful to know that God has used Elmfield for good and for His glory throughout its history, and all the stories of people who visit us testify to this. The site is still owned by Action for Children (formerly National Children's Homes) and the photos below show an aerial view of the site when it was first built as a TB hospital, along with a photo of one of the swivelling convalescent huts which took advantage of the warmth of the sun all through the day.



## Sporting fixtures, tournaments & competitions during the Sprint Term

### ISA Tournaments

We are blessed to be a part of the Independent Schools Association (ISA). One of the benefits is access to a range of sports competitions throughout the year, with the main focus being on participation, meaning that having travelled a long way you know you are going to get plenty of games! The pupils have had a great time at these well run events, whether win or lose, and we are looking forward to the athletics events in the summer. January was a busy month as we hosted the regional table tennis (see separate report) and then headed off to Nottingham twice in a week for national festivals. The first was U14 & U16 football on 25<sup>th</sup> January, with our 6-a-side teams enjoying a day full of matches on the lovely grass pitches (pictured). Later that week Mr Jones took a full squad to Nottingham University for the ISA national table tennis champs. We have had success previously and this year was no different, with some brilliant performances resulting in Ryan



(Y5), Jonny (Y9) & Tope (Y10) being crowned national champions. Elina (Y5), Aaron (Y8) and Sam (Y10) finished runner-up and we also had some great results in the doubles that followed. The following week Mrs Norling took our Y7/8 girls to the ISA regional Netball in north-east London and they performed really well

throughout the day in a high level competition that serves as a national qualifier for our region. More recently, our Y4/5 teams took part in a well-run football & netball festival in Milton Keynes, with the footballers finishing runners up after winning most of their games. Well done to all involved for representing our school so well, both in performance but also attitude and behaviour.

### ISA London North Regional Table Tennis Championships *Hosted by The King's School, Harpenden*

553 games of table tennis were played by the pupils of ISA schools over the 3 competitions we hosted in mid-January, as they battled it out for the London North individual titles.



First up on Wednesdays 12<sup>th</sup> January were the U13s, with Aaron (Y8) and Abigail (Y7) both winning the bronze medal for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The next day 5 schools came together for the Primary (U11)



close final, with Elina (Y5) finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>. We then went one better in the boys' competition when Ryan (Y5) took a high standard final 2-1 against Habeeb from Holland House.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January saw the completion of the series with 6 schools meeting up for the U16 competition. Tope (Y10) lost the Girl's final to come runner-up with Lisa (King's) in 3<sup>rd</sup>. The boys was the biggest draw of the week, with 24 players in 4 groups of 6, leading to a very high standard of play in the semi-finals and beyond. Reigning champion Nathan (Y11) lost in the final and a very close play-off saw Jonny (Y9) win a bronze medal.



## Sporting fixtures etc continued...

In addition to the ISA competitions we've taken part in this term, we have had fixtures in a variety of sports. The results are shown below, along with pictures of the Y10/11 Basketball at Northbridge House School.

### SPORTS RESULTS SPRING 2022

Date	Years	Activity	Opponents	Result	Score	Scorers
10-Jan	7-8	NETBALL	SHERRARD SWOOD	W	18:16	
10-Jan	7-8	FOOTBALL	SHERRARD SWOOD	W	9:4	Elisha (4) Tatenda (3) Nathan Toyo
21-Jan	10-11	BASKETBALL	NORTHBRIDGE HOUSE	L	28:30	Jefferey (11) Tobi (8) Timi (4) Nathan (2) Oscar (2) Kingsley (1)
26-Jan	7-8	NETBALL	THE GROVE	W	6:4	
26-Jan	7-8	FOOTBALL	THE GROVE	W	5:1	Elisha Nathariel Tyler Nathan Nahum
27-Jan	3-4	NETBALL	St Hilda's	W	7:3	
23-Feb	7,8,9	TEAM TABLE TENNIS	SHERRARD SWOOD	W	29:9	Aaron, Ethan M, Louis, Tatenda, Nahum, Matthew, Toyo, Megan Y, Elisha, Nathan Reid, Abigail M, George
24-Feb	3-4	NETBALL	St Hilda's	W	6:0	
02-Mar	7-8	NETBALL	NORMANHURST	W		
02-Mar	7-8	FOOTBALL	NORMANHURST	L	1:8	Toyo
03-Mar	5-6	FOOTBALL	KING ALFRED	W	7:4	
03-Mar	5-6	NETBALL	KING ALFRED	D	4:4	



## Year 4 & 5 Netball Festival

On Thursday 17 March, netball players from Years 4 and 5 went to Akeley Wood Junior School for an all-day netball festival! The team played 8 matches – we won 3, we lost 4 and we drew 1.

We left the school at 9:30, taking a minibus to our destination. There were no seats to spare, so it was easy to find someone to talk to. The journey was long, 50 minutes. Mrs Norling and Mr Jones were in the front listening to the radio whilst we were in the back talking and looking out of the window. We drove past a lake on the way which looked pretty nice in the sunshine – which made you want to get out when you were hot in the back of the bus!

When we arrived, we adjusted to the cool air in the shade and got ready for our first match. There was a snack break and a lunch break in between the matches we played.

The King's School shooters were amazing, often shooting goals from long distances. Our defenders tried hard to stop the opposing teams shooting and were successful on many occasions.

At the end of the matches, we packed up to go home. Mrs Norling awarded Elina de Jong (Year 5) with a medal for the best shooting. The journey back felt longer as we were all hot in the bus. We arrived back and were disappointed to see a long queue of cars waiting to pick up, but Mrs Norling allowed us to get out and walk back with Mr Jones across to the field to school.

We arrived back at 3:30, packed up quickly, and headed home



By Eliya Cox

## Ninja Warrior!

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March the whole Secondary school crammed into the Hall to cheer on their classmates and see who could 'beat the rope'! Girls & boys from across all 5 year groups took part, with the furthest-fastest 15 reaching the final. 8 pupils finished the course completely as part of this qualification stage. Three weeks later and we were back in the Hall for the grand final. An enthusiastic crowd encouraged the 15 finalists as they tried to master the more challenging course set for the final (pictured). Only 4 pupils made it to the end without being 'fouled out', the first being Timi from Y10. His time was beaten by Alice (Y11) who beat the existing girls' record with a great time of 1 minute 55 seconds. In the most dramatic final to date, we then had a dead heat between Jakub (Y10) and Mayowa (Y11), both finishing just outside the record in 1 minute 32 seconds. We did a re-run and Jakub was lightning quick, but didn't have the energy left to get across the final rope challenge. Mayowa, on the other hand, destroyed the course in an amazing display of agility, and reached the tag at the end in a blistering new record of 1 minute 18 seconds. Well done to all who took part!



Ninja Warrior final course



Ninja Warrior champion Mayowa (Y11) grabbing the tag to complete his record time.

## International week

The Primary school celebrated our International Week from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March. This involved each class learning all about a different country – the food they eat, the geography of the land, languages spoken, wildlife, history, flags – you name it, they researched it! On the Friday we had a very colourful dressing up day, when the pupils came in the national dress of a country of choice. We finished the week with our International Food & Quiz Evening. Questions were set by the pupils themselves, based on their studies during the week, along with an 'international idioms' round, guessing country outlines, and two rounds of our world famous lego scramble game. It was all great fun and the food, bring & share international cuisine, was delicious (pictured).



## Ukraine

We recently made contact with some Christian schools close to the Ukrainian border. They are doing a lot to support refugee families as they flee the conflict and so we offered the opportunity for the pupils to raise funds for us to send across. We were overwhelmed by the generous response and are pleased to have been able to send £1229 to support their work

## Drama and 'The Globe'

Thank you to Mrs Williams who organised two trips into London recently. Firstly, Year 10, accompanied by Mr Case & Mrs Hart, travelled in on the train on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March to see 'The Merchant of Venice', a Shakespeare play that they have been studying for GCSE English Literature. The play was preceded by a tour of the world famous Globe Theatre and some workshops.

The trip was then repeated by Year 11, along with Mrs Williams & Mr Reeves, on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>

## Life Skills Day

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March the Year 11 class went to the globe theatre in London. We got a tour of the theatre and participated in a workshop on *The Merchant of Venice*, a play we are currently studying for GCSE.

After that we enjoyed the experience of watching a modern take on the classic Shakespeare play. *By lfe*



## Work Day

We were thankful to have an army of volunteers for Work Day on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March. We were also very blessed to have beautiful sunshine for our morning outside. Teams repainted fences, benches and play equipment. Others re-felted sheds and weeded flower beds. The gardening club area was cleared ready for planting next term, and the rest were busy down in 'The Dell'.

This area of woodland, nettles and brambles, on your left as you come up the school drive, has been intentionally left to the wildlife throughout our time on the Elmfield site. We don't want to evict its inhabitants, but we would like to benefit from exploring there too and discovering much more about nature in a real and tangible way.

Thanks to the help of our team, we have cleared and lined a path through the area, that will facilitate outdoor learning, 'forest school' activities and much more as the years go on. We are very excited by this development and how it will enhance our curriculum across so many areas of our school. Finally, thank you to Mrs Hughes who cooked up a lovely BBQ spread to re-fuel weary bodies at the end of the morning.



## The Legend of Troy

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March saw the performance of 'The Legend of Troy' by Years 6-11. This musical theatre production was written by our very own Mr Burrett, who not only scripted the play but also composed all the music, and wrote the lyrics for the amazing songs too! This was our 10<sup>th</sup> Secondary school production in recent history, which also included pupils from Year 6, following on from the likes of Fiddler on the Roof, Oliver!, Annie, My Fair Lady, The Sound of Music and Joseph.

The cast (pictured below) have worked tirelessly over the last 6 months to get ready for 'show week' and they should be really proud of their efforts. Feedback from the performances has been so positive, with the audience clearly entertained throughout.

Our thanks go to Forest Town Church for hosting us, the PTC for help with ticketing & refreshments, for those who helped on the night in any way, and to our costume & prop preparers, namely Karen Winbow for her sewing skills and Mr Edwards and his Year 7 class for great work on the shields and Trojan horse.

Final thanks goes to the amazing production team, whose efforts at lunchtimes and after school supported the pupils in creating such a great show: Mr Burrett, Miss Cracknell, Mrs Matthews, Mrs McEachran, Mrs Ottaway & Mrs Williams.

Thank you all!



## The Queen's Green Canopy



We have bought a plaque, made by war veterans, to commemorate the Queen's platinum jubilee and the 'Queen's Green Canopy' project. This seeks to encourage the planting of trees as a gift to the Queen to help increase and protect tree cover across the nation. Our beautiful white magnolia is pictured with Year 11 pupils from the 'sustainability' and 'well-being' student voice groups.



## Harpenden Society writing competition

The Harpenden Society recently ran a writing competition for local Secondary schools. We took part, along with pupils from Sir John Lawes, Katherine Warington School and Roundwood Park. Each age group was judged by writing professionals, who made encouraging comments about the standard of the pieces and language devices used. Thank you to Mr Hawkins for organising our school's entries. We had two prizes winners, Lilly (Y8) who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and Elisha (Y7) who came 3<sup>rd</sup>. Look out for the full report in The Harpenden Society's quarterly newsletter, which is also set to feature an article about our site, Elmfield, written by a nurse from back when it was a sanatorium.



Lilly, pictured with Chris Armitage & Ron Taylor from The Harpenden Society



Elisha, pictured with Phil Waters & Ron Taylor from The Harpenden Society

## Saturday's Spectacular Netball match

Years, 8, 9 and 10 students had a remarkable trip on Saturday 26th February—they got the opportunity to spectate Mavericks & Thunder Netball teams compete against one another. Our 8 Students and Mrs Norling left at 3:30pm (Mrs Norling was late due to unfortunate events on the M1). We attended a home game in Hatfield Sports Centre and, sad to say we missed the opening ceremony. Once we arrived at the Sports Village, we sprinted through the doors, took our designated seats and sat on the edges of our seats. Music was played and lights were flashing, creating a mesmerising atmosphere for the audience. The match began!

The first two quarters were incredible. The passes were inhumanly accurate. The athleticism of Centre, Wing Attack and Goal Attack were immaculate (they were practically flying). By half-time, our Year 9 star shooter, Gracelynn, took part in an inter-school penalty shoot-out. She was victorious against the opposing schools. However, a small child ultimately won by crying, which cheated Gracelynn out of her prize (a free netball)! There was a fun Mexican wave for the excited crowd to partake in, while a few of our Year 9s were out buying themselves Starbucks.

By the end of the match, Thunder won by 3 incredible goals in the fourth quarter. The final score was 59-56 to Thunder. To end the fun-filled day, Mrs Norling treated the students to KFC for our sensible behaviour.

Overall, it was a successful trip and a lovely experience that was worthwhile.

*Reported by Ivana, Gracelynn & Zoe*

## Prayer Group blessings to our wonderful Year 11s

The children in Year 2 were delighted to be invited by parents and carers from the prayer group to write a Bible verse, decorate a bag and put a lovely surprise in for our Year 11 pupils.



Year 2 were so excited about being able to visit the Senior Block and Year 11 were equally excited about Year 2's visit! Year 2 had also written a prayer which we shared together, before handing out the rather delicious gift of a chocolate bunny, along with beautifully written Bible verses.

It was wonderful to see one of the many joys of being a school that goes across age ranges, as the pupils from Year 2 met those in Year 11 and shared a wonderful Easter celebration together. Year 2 were also treated to a chocolate bunny.

We are so blessed to be supported by such a wonderful school community who provided the gifts, bags, labels and beautiful cards to write the Bible verses.

Easter blessings to all.

### KEY DATES - 1<sup>st</sup> HALF OF SUMMER TERM

Wed	20-Apr	<b>First day of the Summer term</b> Summer or winter uniform may be worn according to weather
Thurs	21-Apr	Staff Twilight INSET afternoon (3:45pm)
Fri	22-Apr	Year 9 Reports issued
Mon	25-Apr	<b>Trustees Meeting (7:30pm)</b>
Thurs	28-Apr	Year 9 Options Evening (7:15pm)
Mon	2-May	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Tues-Thurs	3-5 May	Secondary Arts Festival
Thurs	5-May	PTC Meeting (7:30pm)
Fri	6-May	Year 11 Leavers' Day with Garden Party
Mon-Thurs	9-12 May	Year 9 Outdoor Pursuits Trip
Mon	23-May	<b>Trustees Meeting (7:30pm)</b>
Fri	27-May	The King's School celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Mon	30-May	<b>Start of the half-term break</b> Remember: there are two bank holidays during the break on Thursday and Friday (not Monday) with celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

### The King's School Way



Kindness

Integrity

Commitment

Togetherness

Growth

Thankfulness

Faith



*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*