



This isn't exactly the end of term that we were hoping for, but even so we can still celebrate all the wonderful things that have taken place since the beginning of term and the huge achievements that the children have made.

There has been a big focus on our charitable work this term with some of our Year 6 children taking a lead on fundraising for our Prep School Charity 'WE'. Pupils in Years 3-6 enjoyed a highly successful Toy Sale in Glyn House Hall raising £230. Additionally, a Prep school mufti day raised £300 for the Rainbow Trust.

Children have taken part in both an inter-schools general knowledge quiz and a debating competition held at Epsom College, which was won by three of our own Year 5 children! A great accomplishment, particularly as they were up against some much larger schools.

The Key Stage 1 (KS1) show was delightful, as it always is, and the children performed with amazing confidence. It is always a time when we can see the children flourish in so many ways beyond the classroom. Higher up the School, pupils from Years 3-6 performed as part of a whole School ensemble in the performance of Alexander L'Estrange's *'Zimbe!'* and it is wonderful to see the School community coming together in this way. The performing arts is a huge part of our School and the Pre-Prep enjoyed a very entertaining visit from the Hobgoblin Travelling Theatre whilst Year 5 performed a brilliant collection of poems, dances, songs and music in their 'Words and Music' event.

Our book day celebration saw a great number of very inventive costumes across the School – these seem to get bigger and better every year and the children were engaged in a number of book activities over the course of the week resulting in some brilliant writing from the children themselves.

I know we would all rather be at school for the Summer Term and I hope that we can return soon. In the meantime, try to enjoy some fresh air and sunshine and being with each other as a family. Show each other kindness, respect and tolerance. How we are changed by this experience is in our hands. I look forward to seeing you all very soon, but thought I would leave you with a few comments from children in Year 2 about home-learning

"I do enjoy home schooling, but I like school better."

"My only complaint is when I'm doing a maths question sometimes my brother shouts the answer which I don't like!"

"I like learning from the teachers' videos."

"I don't like home schooling because I don't get to see my friends and teachers."

Wishing you a safe and happy Easter.

Ms Sian Bradshaw
Head of Preparatory School



Public Speaking Competition Win!

Ewell Castle entered their first Prep School Public Speaking competition, taking a team of Year 5 children, consisting of Lucas, Alexander and Bella. Lucas was the Chairperson who introduced their speech all entitled *Inequalities in our World*, Alexander took the position of Main Speaker and Bella closed the speech as the Vote of Thanks. The children delivered their speech in a highly engaging manner and were eventually awarded Best Team! The School continue to be incredibly proud of their confidence and maturity and we look to the Year 4 children for next year's competition!

Miss K Garrod

Year 5 Words Dance and Music

On the 4th of March, Year 5 performed their annual Words, Dance and Music review. Based loosely on a theme of Musical Theatre, with class poems from TS Eliot's iconic work 'Cats', the evening was a celebration of the talents of the whole year group.

Pupils were encouraged to create groups on their own, showing leadership and resilience, and rehearsed with the support of their teachers. The evening included comedy about Health and Safety ('It's far too dangerous to play with a REAL bat and ball') to performances from shows with bands put together especially for the event, and semi-choreographed scenes from such iconic musicals as 'Matilda', 'Annie' and the animated feature film 'Trolls'.

The evening culminated with the prize-winning performance from the Year 5 Public Speaking team and then finally with an 'Aladdin' medley that was conducted by a pupil who has made significant progress during the Year 5 conducting module in their class music lessons. It was a thrill to see our pupils step out and take risks and we look forward to seeing what this talented year group will go on to do in the future!

Mr T Fairhead

Zimbe! Come Sing the Songs of Africa

This year featured the Music Department's most ambitious concert to date. The first half of the concert featured African-inspired Gospel music, featuring the Senior School's Acapella Choir and the Prep Festival and Chamber Choirs, backed by Alexander L'Estrange's phenomenal jazz band. Songs that had featured at previous concerts were given new life when backed by musicians well versed in the gospel genres. Soloists who had been nervous prior to the concert, discovered their confidence.

This was only a prelude to the main event, where every choir of the School, including an ad hoc Parent/Alumni choir, joined to perform Alexander L'Estrange's 'Zimbe!' backed by the composer and the 'Call Me A Quintet'. Confidently performing in up to six parts, the choirs sang, danced and clapped their hearts out with around a hundred singers on the stage, and received a well-deserved standing ovation at the end. The entire concert programme was a rousing success and only leaves the question... how will they top it next year?

Mr T Fairhead

Trip to the Horniman Museum Year 1

On the 7th February, Year 1 set off to The Horniman Museum to support their science and topic learning, focussing on animals and habitats. All the children were very excited and the coach journey was filled with happy chatter.



Once we arrived, we went to the 'hands-on' table where the children had the chance to handle a range of interesting objects, including a giant egg and fossils. The children shared some lovely ideas about which animal could have laid the egg and where the fossil might have been found.

The children then had time to look at the different galleries, with a focus on Natural History. The children remembered their learning about animal groups and explained how they knew which group an animal belonged to. We were very impressed with their understanding!

After lunch, it was time for our animal workshop. Our museum guide had four different stations set up focussing on different habitats. The children were taught how to handle the exhibits safely and gently and were then allowed to visit each workstation in groups. At each area, there was a practical quiz to be solved by handling and looking at the objects. Highlights included a shark jaw with the rows of sharp teeth and coral from the Great Barrier Reef. The workshop was highly informative and enjoyable for the children and finished our trip perfectly!

Mrs L Patel



Once Upon A Happily Ever After Years 1 & 2



Just before half term, the children in Years 1 & 2 put on a fabulous production for their parents. Two teenage babysitters had their hopes of a relaxed evening dashed when little Bobby insisted they make up a bedtime story for him. With creativity and action in mind, they launched us into an adventure full of all their favourite fairy tale characters.....

Poor Rapunzel had been stuck up in the tower for so long, she had lost all hope of being rescued. But all was not lost.....a young prince arrived to save the day and plead for her hand in marriage. Rapunzel had unfortunately cut off her own hair just moments before and was at a loss as to how to get down. With the Big Bad Wolf on the prowl, time was of the essence and although she wasn't ready to get married, it certainly seemed a better option than being the main course for dinner!



With the 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' theme tune in his head, Prince Ben called on dozens of friends to help him in his rescue attempt. All were willing but alas, nobody seemed able to help.

There was fortunately a happy ever after when the wolf killed himself by blowing down the tall tower. Prince Ben found himself another princess to marry and Rapunzel celebrated her escape from prison and a hapless husband!

A huge well done to the entire cast and a special thank you to Mr Fairhead for writing the music to go with my lyrics and script.

Mrs S Fowler



General Knowledge Quiz

We entered two teams of children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 into an interschool competition for General Knowledge. The questions were incredibly tricky, but all the children made us proud with their impressive knowledge and maturity at the event, representing our school beautifully. Well done!

Miss K Garrod

Rugby Review

U8

The U8s thoroughly enjoyed their first season of tag rugby. They were enthusiastic participants in the training sessions, and they took this attitude into the competitive games where they had some good results and showed tremendous effort. In their first matches of the season, the boys did so well against both Homefield and Reigate St. Mary's. They scored plenty of tries and after a high scoring draw with Homefield, they managed to pip Reigate 5-4. After some strong performances from both teams at the Aberdour Festival, the boys secured another high scoring draw with Chinthurst but unfortunately were beaten by strong Micklefield and Caterham sides in subsequent weeks. Unfortunately, the weather then intervened cancelling the game with Aberdour. The team contained some elusive runners but at times the children did play as individuals rather than as a team. I would like to have seen further interplay between the team members and would encourage them to move the ball down the line to create space and gaps to run into. Individual mentions go to Harshan, Finnian and Felipe for their excellent performances this season and I know that this age group are looking forward to some contact rugby next year in the U9 age group.



U9

I was delighted with the attitude and commitment shown by this age group throughout the season. It was however unfortunate that many of the games were affected by the weather - three games were cancelled! In the games that were played, Ewell Castle started off the season with a tremendous victory against Homefield and a very narrow defeat in the 'B' fixture. Subsequent games against Chinthurst and Micklefield ended in narrow defeats but nonetheless the boys showed spirit and enjoyment to the end. Individual mentions go to Joe, Marco and Zach for their strong running and tackling and I am only sorry that this group of children did not get to fully complete their season.

10

As the term progressed, the U10s displayed significant improvement. The 'B' team started off the season with a hard-fought draw against Aberdour and followed this up with good performances against Chinthurst and Micklefield. The 'A' team found the early fixtures with Aberdour, Chinthurst and Micklefield a challenge but nonetheless kept up their spirits in training and approached the fixtures with excitement and eagerness. I was so delighted that against Caterham, the boys hard work and commitment paid off and they scored a thrilling 7-7 draw with Ewell Castle very unlucky not to achieve a deserved victory. As the team moves forward, I am hoping for continued improvement and to further display the fantastic togetherness that was clearly evident from both teams in the final fixture.

U11

As always, this age group trained with energy and vigour and were committed and wholehearted on the field of play. The tackling and rucking were strong and there was a noticeable improvement in the distribution skills throughout the season.



Unfortunately, in the early part of the season results did not go their way but nonetheless in the Aberdour Festival the U11s deservedly picked up a victory against Banstead Prep. Following this, they then drew their final game against Chinthurst. The wet weather and the early curtailment of school meant that significant chunks of the season were lost, and it was a shame not to have the continuity with this year group. Moving forward, I hope that many of this year group continue to develop their rugby both at Senior Schools and with their clubs.

Mr N Andrade

Hockey Review

What a crazy term it has been with many fixtures cancelled. I feel that Thursday's were particularly jinxed with the poor weather and then having to finish the term abruptly. Nevertheless, the girls have shown resilience, great sportsmanship, teamwork and skill and have learnt to improve their hockey skills both with their sticks and tactically in the game.



Considering hockey was a completely new game for most U8s, the girls quickly learnt to control the ball and use their stick effectively. They picked up the simplified rules well and were soon playing as a team. The girls did well in their match against Chinthurst in mid-February with one team winning 3-2. Well done to Bella and Emilia who were the 'Players of the Match'.

The U9 teams have improved their game skilfully this term. Many of the girls have impressed me with their ability and increasing speed. Their first game against Chinthurst was tough with a 1-1 draw and a 4-1 loss. Later in the term they played at the Banstead Prep Hockey Festival with some very good results, winning two, drawing one and losing one. Well done to Sam and Eliza for receiving 'Players of the Festival'.



The U10s have learnt how to take short corners and some of the girls have experienced being a fully padded goalkeeper. At the end of January, they played Chinthurst at home at the fantastic full-sized hockey astro (Epsom Sports Club). They won 4-0 and lost 0-5. Mid-February, they played against Aberdour winning one game 3-2. Against Banstead Prep they drew 1-1. Special mentions to Georgia, Isobel, Adrienne and Darcy.

The U11s have put so much effort in this team, displaying such great teamwork and sportsmanship representing Ewell Castle. Against Chinthurst, one team won 1-0. At the Banstead Prep Hockey Festival, the girls played hard winning one, drawing one and losing two, Charlotte and Raiya were presented with 'Players of the Festival'. Against Aberdour, the girls drew and lost their games and they also lost in a friendly against Banstead Prep. In addition, the girls had a fun day at the very friendly Weston Green Tournament. The girls gave it their all and came in 5th Place. In the afternoon the girls then won on penalties in the play offs against Gateway School. Well done to our fab GK Neve!

Mrs C Cope



Book Week 2020 - 'Sail Across a Sea of Words'



During the week beginning 2nd March, the whole of the Prep School participated in Book Week 2020. This year the theme selected for the week was 'Sail Across a Sea of Words,' inspired by the book 'I am a Child of Books' by author-illustrator Oliver Jeffers and fine artist Sam Winston.

The book chosen was a picture book which inspired readers of all ages to create, to question, to explore and to imagine. A whole host of lovely activities took place during the week including a fantastic dressing up day and costume parade, book trail, writing adventure stories for peers and book art.



At the Prep School, the children enjoyed guessing which books were the teachers' favourites when they were children. Book Bingo was also launched to encourage the children to explore different types of stories as well as a 500-word story writing competition which will both be extended into the Summer Term.



We hope that the children enjoyed taking part in all the different activities Book Week 2020 had to offer and that the children were able to embed their love for reading even further.

Miss E Lloyd and Mrs L Patel

Mini Beast Hunt



The Nursery children went on a 'Mini-Beast Hunt' at School. They were excited with their finds and enjoyed taking a close-up view of everything.

New Pastoral & Wellbeing pages on website & My School Portal



We have recently launched our new Pastoral and Wellbeing page on the Ewell Castle website and within My School Portal.

In these current times of uncertainty, everyone can have moments of worry and you will find information here to help your children if they need it.

Topics include how to talk about COVID-19 and your children's concerns, self-care tips and useful helplines are all available.



Learning in new ways - The Ewell Castle Prep Channel on YouTube



With the recent change in circumstances, we have begun to use the Ewell Castle YouTube Channels more. Do take a look at our two channels and please subscribe to them:

- Ewell Castle School
- Ewell Castle Prep

Parents will be sent the links to new videos as they go live as they are not available to the general public.



How Ewell Castle School has helped others during the coronavirus outbreak



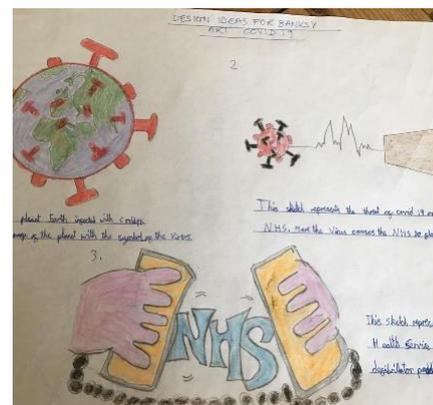
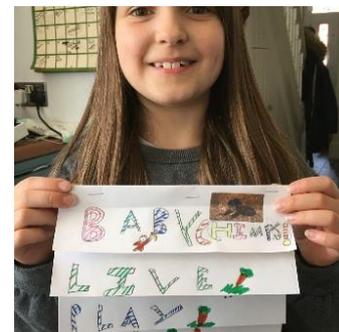
Mrs Narayanan organised the delivery of our Science goggles to St Georges Trust where they were very much demand in the A&E and ICU departments.



We're thrilled to have been able to help by working in tandem with several school DT departments across the country; printing PPE full face masks with laser cut Perspex visors, to donate to the NHS.

Successful home learning

During this unprecedented time, with children learning at home, we have been thrilled to see the fantastic job the children have been doing. Pupils have been working diligently as well as having fun!



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