

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends

Happy New Year to you all. It was great to welcome everybody back to school last week with a staff training day taking place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the cast of Lord of the Flies coming in to rehearse for the production at the beginning of February, then all the pupils returning on the 4<sup>th</sup>. I hope everybody had a good festive break and that batteries have been fully recharged for the term ahead.



I am sure you saw the fabulous photographs of our ski trip just before Christmas when we were lucky enough to have lots of snow, unlike some of the European resorts we have seen recently! It was a change of venue for us this year in Italy, so things were slightly different, but overall everybody seemed to enjoy the trip and it was just nice to have the opportunity to do it following all the COVID restrictions. I would particularly like to thank all the parents who attended, who were a pleasure to have with us. My thanks also go to the staff who gave up a week of their holiday to supervise the pupils; Mrs Allen; Mr Farnsworth; Mr Pugh; Mrs Van der Sande and Mr Daniel (Jnr). Finally, my thanks to Madam Thiebeaux for the excellent organisation as usual. For those of you who don't know, Madam Thiebeaux has retired from the school twice, once as a French Teacher and then again as a Cover Supervisor and First Aider, but she still comes in on a voluntary basis virtually every day to listen to children read, help out wherever she can, organise the ski trip and attend the Montpellier trip as a helper. Having Madam Thiebeaux still wanting to be involved in school life, together with parents wanting to come on school trips, speaks volumes to me about what our school is all about, a caring, inclusive, family-orientated community, which values the home-school relationship and its staff members. We are a unique school and I am very proud to play a part in it, particularly so when I receive praise about the pupils' absolute impeccable behaviour on the ski trip, so a big thank you to all those who attended, you were a delight to take.

Thank you also to everybody who sent in Christmas cards containing kind words about the support the school gives your child. They are greatly appreciated by us all and underline the reason why teaching is such a worthwhile profession.



facebook



Instagram

Before the holiday we sent out a survey regarding marketing, which will help to form plans going forward as we embrace the digital age and I would like to thank those who have completed it for your comments, which are very helpful and interesting and formed part of my presentation on Staff Training Day. We shall endeavour to make sure our social networking feeds provide more varied content. We have always prided ourselves on communication and try to provide key information in good time, obviously from time to time arrangements do alter at the last minute, and in those cases emails or texts will be issued on Engage. Please do inform a member of the senior leadership team if you feel communication is not forthcoming from any department. We operate an open door policy and can only deal with your concerns if we are informed.



Whilst I am on the subject of communication, I know WhatsApp has its uses, but please do remember WhatsApp is not a reliable source for any information pertaining to the School, as it is usually hearsay and can be outdated news, misinterpreted or irrelevant. If you need to know anything please telephone our Receptionists, Gina or Anna, who are best placed to provide information to you, alternatively email the relevant member of staff. WhatsApp is best kept for social arrangements between parents on behalf of their children and we hope you respect our view on this matter. It is also wise to not allow children to view group WhatsApp message relating to the School. Rest assured; we always communicate directly any relevant information at the earliest opportunity.

For a number of years, we have been using the Girls on Board approach which helps girls, understand the complexities and dynamics of girl friendships. The language, methods and ideas empower girls to solve their own problems and recognises that they are usually the only ones who can. Girls on Board sessions are designed to raise empathy that fuels the search for harmony and resolution. By empowering girls to find their own solutions, we can focus more on the curriculum and the girls learn more effectively because they are happier. Various methods are used with the Girls on Board initiative, such as Year 7 working on short drama pieces recently.



Creative talents have been put to good use in cross-curricular activities over the past week or so, with Wulf from Year 10 creating some excellent props for the Drama Department's upcoming production, together with the Year 6 geographers making Wonderful World models to support in-class projects and presentations. I would also like to congratulate Alex in Year 8 who made a replica of the World Cup and received a Principal's Award. Many people complain that the creative subjects are being lost in an ever-increasing curriculum, but our creative departments have excellent reputations, achieving strong GCSE and A-level results over many years, not to mention ISA Awards, so we know just how beneficial subjects such as art, design and photography are to our pupils, which makes me pleased to see our pupils taking pride in their creations.



## Junior Stars of the week

| Class              | w/c 28 <sup>th</sup> November | w/c 5 <sup>th</sup> December | w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> January          |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Forest (Reception) | Whole Class                   | Finley Kelly                 | Ari Ubhi                             |
| 1M (Meadow)        | <b>Megh Muralidharan</b>      | Olivia Canning               | Whole Class                          |
| 2C (Clover)        | Hugo Acquah                   | Connor Bannan                | Jade Michael                         |
| 3E (Emerald)       | Simba Hwata                   | Ali Babjide                  | Simba Hwata                          |
| 3W (Willow)        | Eloisa Di-Stazio              | Natasha Turpie               | Scarlett Muniu and<br>Natasha Turpie |
| 4J (Jade)          | Whole Class                   | Olivia Ruthven-Murray        | Kian Howard and James<br>Warne       |
| 4S (Sage)          | Asad Hasan                    | Whole Class                  | Oso Twomey                           |
| 5W (Woodland)      | Lili Oliva-Pugh               | Whole class                  | Ethen Canning                        |
| 5P (Pine)          | Vedh Muralidharan             | Sewa Owolabi                 | Georgina Warne                       |
| 6J (Juniper)       | Oliver Lees                   | Isabella Diffey              | Amelia Carvalho-<br>Dunington        |
| 6F (Fern)          | Sebastian Rooke               |                              |                                      |
| 6L (Laurel)        | Evie Martin                   |                              | Alex Barker                          |

## Nursery News

At the end of last term, we said farewell to a member of staff, Kusum, who has been with us for 12 years. She is moving to Wolverhampton with her family and we wish her well. Her last day was 'Kusum' day and the 'playdough Queen' lived up to her name and made lots of lovely playdough for the children. Nursery ended the year with a very seasonal snow day and the children enjoyed making snowballs!



The Pre-Show was very successful and enjoyed by all. Our Pre-school children made us proud as they serenaded us with their Christmas songs.

The nursery also had a fun filled Saturday morning with the Christmas Crafts Stay and Play session, which got everybody in the mood for Christmas.

So, we begin this term looking at snow and ice and the season of Winter. This week, the children made snowflakes and their own Ice Land with lots of blue colour and ice white fairy lights decorating the room.

## Sports News

I am delighted to announce that Miss Haymen has been appointed the new Head of Games at BGIS. You will receive an email from her soon outlining her visions for the school.

As part of our marketing survey, it appears that some people would like to see less sporting news on our social media feeds and would prefer a dedicated platform for sport. We will continue to share our successes across our branded media, but we are looking into setting up a sports specific account which keen sports enthusiasts will want to follow. More news will filter through from the sports department on this subject in due course.

A huge congratulations to Joseph Emms, Audrey Jones, Sophie Weston and Ollie Frame for their outstanding achievements at the ISA National Swimming competition that took place 3<sup>rd</sup> December. A special congratulations to Ollie for the third year running stepping onto the podium, this year he received a well-deserved bronze medal in the 200m Individual Medley and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100m Freestyle, both against national swimmers.



### Principal's Awards

Emily Thomson for excellent effort and application in maths.

Sacha Tilbury and Edward Hall, Oscar Quirke and Alex Timpau-Rat for art.

Tana Mahachi and Ellery Few-Wiegratz for assisting with directing Lord of the Flies, giving creative ideas, keeping detailed notes and standing in during absences.

Grace Constant for organising the Christmas quiz at Kimbolton Road on the last day of term.

Wulf Pottruff for making these fantastic pig props for Lord of the Flies at home.



### Personal Pursuits

We feel that praising our pupils out-of-school pursuits is important as it helps create more confidence for them and self-esteem by sharing their successes within their school community. This is an idea that many parents have liked over the years, so if you have any achievements your child would like to share with us please do email using [hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk](mailto:hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk). It is all about positive reinforcement, whether it is to do with the school day or not and we try to praise as much as possible.

We have a lot of pupils who are involved with Young Farmers and I think that is great. I have often gone along to their events with our School stand and I really enjoy seeing past and present families coming over to have a chat with us. I was pleased to hear that Archie had success at a recent event, with his bull receiving an award. Great news Archie!



Well done to Brandon who received The Lackman Award for Best ATC Cadet of the Year and was made a Corporal last month. Excellent achievement Brandon and you should be extremely proud.

Before Christmas, we sadly said goodbye to Mrs Simmonds, assistant business manager who has moved onto pastures new. On behalf of the governors, I would like to wish her well for the future.

### Dates for your diary

Flu vaccinations for Years 7 to 9 pupils on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at Shakespeare Road and Kimbolton Road.

Lord of the Flies show dates – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, refreshments in the dining room at Shakespeare Road site at 6.00 p.m. with performance at 6.30 p.m. Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February refreshments will be slightly earlier at 5.00 p.m. and the performance starts at 5.30 p.m. Tickets will be available to non-cast members via Wisepay from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

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Year 5 Matilda show dates – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, details will be sent out nearer the time.

Parents Council Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> February at 2 p.m. Please use the link on the letter previously sent out to join the meeting. Letters can be retrieved via Engage.

You will have heard news that the Prime Minister is considering introducing compulsory Mathematics up to and including Year 13 for all children. The view is that in a world where data is everywhere and statistics underpin every job, future jobs will require more analytical skills than ever before. The UK remains one of the only countries in the world not to require children to study some form of Maths up to the age of 18, including the majority of OECD countries, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Finland, Japan, Norway and the USA. I would personally hope that this means a two-year course of topics which will help children as they move into adult life, such as learning about budgeting, mortgage rates, etc. and key skills in data analysis, with those who wish to take A-level mathematics opting to do so. Nothing is particularly clear, but rest assured we shall tackle the implications should they be introduced. The Prime Minister recognises the practical challenges of his vision and knows reform on this scale will be difficult, but he will commit to starting the work of introducing maths to 18 in this Parliament and finishing it in the next, so it's some way off yet and further detail will be set out in due course, but the government is exploring existing routes, such as the Core Maths qualifications and T-Levels, as well as more innovative options. In the meantime, our Mathematics Department will continue to support our pupils to achieve their very best and we are very pleased with the most recent GCSE results, which saw an improvement on comparable data from 2019. I will keep you informed of any developments as we learn more.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I M Daniel'.

I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH  
**Principal**