

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been one of those classic Michaelmas weeks. It's been full of events, visits and activities all whilst dodging intermittent rain showers! We're talking about Strictly and Bakeoff in the staff room and Christmas planning has started already.

Nursery

This week, we've been busy trying foods beginning with 'P'. We've also made apple crumble - delicious! We've enjoyed doing our yoga and tap stick sessions and we've been exploring the school grounds to find different colours and shapes of leaves. The children have made leaf printed owl pictures using autumnal coloured tissue paper. We've been practising writing and recognising the numbers 1 and 10, learning which set has more and less.

Everyone enjoyed dressing up in their animal costumes and cozying up with some story telling. On the **10th of October**, it's Scarecrow Day; the children who attend on Mondays can come dressed as a scarecrow and bring a small donation of fruit or vegetables to contribute to the local Food Bank. Do check out our Sunnylands Facebook page, we have pictures going live from Monday at 10am.

Individual and Class Photos

On Tuesday, we welcomed Bentley Photographic into school to take individual, class and team photos. The Hub was turned into a photo booth with stands, lights and backdrops, and children came in small groups to have their pictures taken. We don't have copies of the photographs and we haven't had the proofs - everything is done through Bentley Photographic. Please don't contact our School Office with enquiries, you must contact and order from the company directly. It's a logistical challenge to get everyone looking the right way with a smile at the same time, especially the younger pupils, but I hope you'll have a nice memento of your child in school.

Stamford Rugby and Hockey Festival

Our Year 5 and 6 rugby and hockey teams had their first games this week and they were brilliant. Playing prep schools from across the East Midlands including Brooke, Bilton Grange, Laxton, Spratton, Witham, Leicester Grammar and Copthill, the competition was tough. We will be taking part in lots more sports throughout the term and we hope that everyone from Year 3 to Year 6 will get to represent the school, at a fixture, at some point. We have Kettering Rugby Club Tag Rugby Festival later in the term and we'll also be travelling to other prep schools to showdown on the sports field. This really is the best way to improve at a sport - game time is important and we thank all of the parents who come and support us when possible. We also visited Kettering Town Football Club this week with a small but fierce Year 3 and 4 football team - c'mon you Blues!

Rutland Water Cross Country

It was good to be back at the Brooke Priory Cross Country today. 16 runners competed against nearly 300 pupils from other schools, running 2km around the shore of Rutland Water, an impressive backdrop. It was lovely to have some spectators cheering on the children. Despite the inclement weather, everyone had a great time. We have another cross country event later in the term against Kettering schools so hope this practice helped.

Student Elections

The School Council elections were this week and the hustings were fierce. There are manifesto posters around school and every child from Reception to Year 6 got the opportunity to vote. The Year 6s did a brilliant job of poll clerking. The results are close, very close, and the children will find out who's representing them on the School Council and Eco Committee on Monday when they receive their new badges (from Deputy Mayor and School Councillor, Emily). Everyone who presented their ideas, made a poster or presentation should be congratulated.

Uniform

Please make sure that your child has all of the correct uniform and equipment in school. Why not leave blue socks, gum shields and shin pads in your child's bag? Uniforms are available to order through ParentMail. Children will be much more comfortable in a uniform that fits them properly. Thank you for your support.

Harvest Donations

It's that time of year again. A week on Monday evening (10th October) is the Lower School Harvest Supper. The whole school is accepting donations for the local food bank. Please raid your cupboards and pantries and donate cans, tins and packets of food. These can be given to the class teacher any day next week. We'll collect them all together and take them to the Kettering Food Bank. Thank you in advance for any offerings you can spare.

Next week is World Space Week, the start of Black History Month, the football squad are heading to Tresham College for the small schools county qualifier and we've even got some golfers playing at Dixie Grammar School. For the less sporty, we're busy rehearsing music for Wintry events. Wish them all luck.

Have a lovely weekend.

Regards,

Mr Thomas

Headteacher