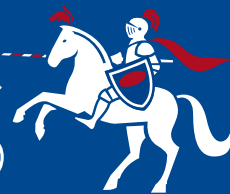


ISSUE 14
Jan 22

KNIGHT'S TALES



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD



Reading through this edition of Knight's Tales, it is wonderful to see how many events and experiences have taken place this term. The dark cloud of Covid constantly hovered over us, and it is testament to the enthusiasm and resilience of our children, parents and staff that we have maintained business as usual. It was so good to resume, among other things, assemblies, sports fixtures, visits out of school, music concerts and ensembles.

Towards the end of the term, the spirit of Christmas shone through and the children were thrilled to arrive at school on a Monday morning to find the school ablaze with illuminations and festooned with Christmas decorations as well as the traditional Nativity grotto. A huge thank you to the staff who came in on Sunday afternoon to arrange the surprise.

It was good to be able to host the Trustees in their inaugural meeting as Prep Schools Trust. Our new function suite was an excellent venue for such an occasion.

Congratulations to Miss Wells who is getting married on 29 December and also for being successfully nominated for the EdTech50 this year. This is a magazine published once a year with the topmost influential 50 people, products and organisations shaping the use of education technology across the UK. A terrific achievement indeed!

We remember in this edition our friend and colleague Barbora Freitas, who passed away in September. The sadness affected us all, and at such times we are grateful for the support of our close community.

Year 6 have been preparing for the first round of senior school entrance examinations. We are delighted by the offers and awards that they have already received and wish them the best of luck as they continue with this next term.

In the meantime, it is time for rest and relaxation. I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday.

Christine Cook

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY NURSERY AND RECEPTION

Every year we are astounded at the confidence of all our children when they take to the stage in the Nativities. We were delighted to be able to welcome parents to this very special occasion. Congratulations to all the children and all the staff who work very hard behind the scenes to make these magical events come to life!



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2



CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

It was a joy to see so many families come and join the children for carol singing around the Christmas tree. We were so lucky with the weather (again) and glad that we could enjoy this wonderful tradition.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



The tradition of Christmas Celebrations is always a magical and exciting time at Chandlings Prep. The Prep children have a crazy time in the main hall with their House competitions which include; building and decorating a Christmas tree; wrapping as many boxes as you can; designing a Christmassy jumper and building (out of playdough) a Christmas scene. The Pre-Prep children then come and have a parade in the hall looking at all the final creations.

Throughout the day each year group visits the Entrance Hall to sing carols in front of the fire and Christmas tree. This culminates in a snow flurry outside and a visit from a certain bearded person, arriving on his festive buggy, dressed in red and white! As you can imagine there was huge excitement and it was a fantastic way to finish off the term.



INFORMAL MUSIC CONCERTS

Every term we hold an Informal Tea Time Concert for each year group. This is a chance for pupils who are having instrument, voice and LAMDA lessons to perform to an audience of parents and staff in an informal and enjoyable setting. We had some amazing performances and it was wonderful to listen to live music and drama.



WE REMEMBER

BARBORA FREITAS 1980 - 2021

It is with great sadness that we received the news on Saturday 18 September that Mrs Barbora Freitas passed away peacefully, with her family at her side, in the Czech Republic.

She had been fighting illness with extraordinary courage for over a year. She remained strong and optimistic throughout, reflecting her approach to life.

Barbora taught Art to our Pre-Prep and Year 3 children since 2008. She was a wonderful teacher, colleague and friend. Barbora was passionate about teaching art and inspired creativity in all her pupils who were very fortunate to have had such an amazing role model.

We will remember Barbora as a kind, caring colleague with a lovely sense of humour. She did not want our sympathy or sorrow; she loved life and being outdoors immersed in nature.

She will be sorely missed.

In remembrance of Barbora and her annual pumpkin carving workshops, the children brought in their carved pumpkins which we displayed outside. We will also be planting a rose garden, her favourite flower, in her memory and holding a short ceremony to pay our respects.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family: her husband Albie and her daughter Ellie.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year as part of Harvest Festival assembly the Prep and Pre-Prep children created two videos which focussed on what we have to be thankful for. These ranged from picnics to team-mates to the outside and even to the library. We had an amazing response to our appeal and the tables in the Year 2 courtyard were piled up with gifts for Asylum Welcome and The Abingdon Food Bank. The Year 6 children helped load up two full car-loads of produce. A huge thank you to all the Chandlings Prep community for their generosity.



NURSERY

AUTUMN DAYS

The Nursery children had so much fun in the Woodland on their special Autumn afternoon. The Nursery Woodland was full of spooky activities to stimulate their senses and get their imaginations flowing. They all arrived in their costumes and enjoyed making potions, hunting for snakes in jelly, counting the spiders in their webs, making and wearing their leaf crowns as well as decorating some spooky biscuits.



SEASONAL CHANGES FOR RECEPTION CHILDREN

Reception children are always out and about on nature walks or shape walks throughout the school grounds. This term they have been learning about seasonal changes and when they are outside they have been finding out what happens during the autumn and winter. At the start of term they saw all the apples falling off the trees and by the end of term they were finding out why lots of trees lose their leaves. They always enjoy visiting the goats and have learnt about what animals need to live, how to look after them and what they eat.



YEAR 1 DISCOVER DINOSAURS

At the start of term the Year 1 children were very lucky to have a visit from a mysterious animal. As they stomped through the grounds following a trail of footprints, they spotted a nest of exotic eggs on the mound. After much excitement, they waited patiently to discover they had hatched into baby dinosaurs. Throughout the course of the term they have enjoyed many cross-curricular learning experiences. The children loved making and baking delicious dinosaur biscuits with Mr Redman and developed their DT skills creating excellent dinosaur egg baskets with Mrs Hicks. The children were very fortunate to go on their first trip outside of school, as they ventured into Oxford to visit the Museum of Natural History to go behind the scenes as Dinosaur Detectives. They relished opportunities to handle real dinosaur fossils, role-play fossilisation and see the first fossil, of the first dinosaur ever discovered!



YEAR 2 SOAR WITH EAGLES

Year 2 were lucky enough to visit the Millets Falconry Centre before half term to meet some amazing birds. Firstly they were given a tour of the centre and met many other interesting animals including owls, vultures, hawks and even a noisy kookaburra.

The children each had the opportunity for some bird handling, and they were then treated to a flying show. It was a super day out with the good company of well-behaved and interested children who received many compliments.



YEAR 3 ENJOY A CORNISH CREAM TEA

The afternoon tea was inspired by the book Year 3 have been reading this half term, The Mousehole Cat by Antonia Barber. It is set in Cornwall (hence the Cornish afternoon tea!) and is about the legend of a fisherman called Tom and his cat called Mowzer (which is why the children brought in their cuddly toy cats.) They go out to sea in a storm, calm the storm and then bring back fish for the hungry villagers. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed the scones, jam, and clotted cream and were amazed by the incredible nautical table decorations.



YEAR 4 GET CREATIVE WITH THE OXFORD STORY MUSEUM

Year 4 spent a fantastic morning with Mags from The Oxford Story Museum exploring many wonderful and imaginative stories. There were lots of games and fun warm-up activities to begin with, followed by stories about sausage noses and monkeys! The children were then given the opportunity to plan a story about an animal with a dream - we had pigs in space, tigers in a band, and a penguin who wanted to climb a mountain! Next, the children worked brilliantly in teams and acted out their creative stories to the rest of the year group. We all felt inspired by the lively and informative workshop to go and write many more stories. Maggs's last piece of advice was to 'Keep telling stories' which we know Year 4 definitely will.



YEAR 5 LAND AND WAVE

What an action packed three days. The weather was sublime and we started straight from the off with Paddle boarding down in Swanage. The Pupils did half a session on the jumbo paddle boards where balance and games were aplenty followed by a go on the individual paddle boards. These are so much harder and core strength is the key. The sea was like a mill pond and with the sun reflecting off the water we really could have been in the Caribbean.

An evening set of sports and teamwork activities were completed as the sun slowly went down over the nearby Corfe Castle.

Day two was a mix of Catapult building, where knot tying and teamwork were needed, followed by Kayaking on the open sea. As there was no wind the waves were minimal and that made the activity so much more enjoyable. We played more games involving capsizing the boats, jumping in and switching positions in the boat which were all great fun.

On our second evening we had a huge campfire, with marshmallows, and we played a movie drama game which the pupils loved.

We have done many of these types of trips and this one really did top them. The weather, the pupils and the sleeping (we got about 8 hours each night!) were all fantastic. This has been a wonderful way to start their journey into Upper Prep. Friendships were formed and cemented.



HOUSE MATCHES

House Hockey

The Girls' House Hockey matches were once again a fiercely contested affair. The teams from Richardson, Poltimore and Astley all displayed great competitive spirit whilst remaining encouraging to all those in their own house and beyond. In the Year 3 and Year 4 competition Poltimore were dominant winning all of their games whilst Richardson proved to be the most accomplished team in the Year 5 and Year 6 matches. Ultimately the combined results saw Poltimore taking the prize which sets the year up nicely for the remaining House sports fixtures.



House Rugby

The sports department were delighted this term to welcome parents back as spectators of Girls' Hockey and Boys' Rugby. There were fixtures every week against our local schools which were keenly contested. Yet, as is usual the most keenly contested matches were the House ones held in November.

In the morning it looked like it would be a wet afternoon but the showers held off and battle commenced on the astroturf and the fields. The Year 3 and 4 boys played games of tag rugby with Years 5 and 6 playing the contact game.

Richardson were victorious at Rugby.



ENGLISH CORAL POEMS

Year 6 poems inspired by Coral Reefs



PRE-PREP ART

Year 1 has been learning all about colour theory and dinosaurs. They focused on primary and secondary colours, learning how to colour mix along the way. While looking at different dinosaurs they had a go at turning themselves into prehistoric moths thinking about how to create a mirrored pattern.



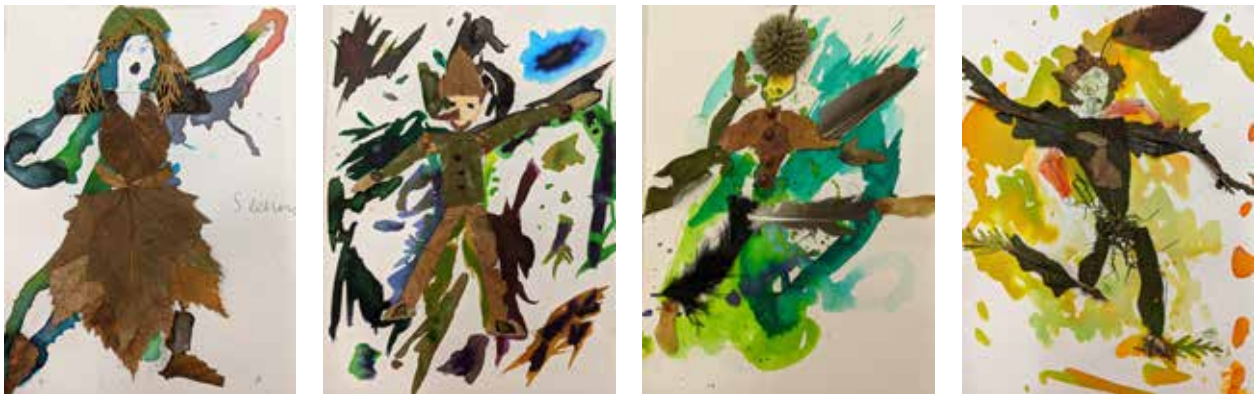
Year 2 have been focusing on the theme of Journeys this term and have used this as inspiration to create paper mache hot air balloons. They finished off their balloons by adding a paper woven basket underneath. Year 2 also looked at colour mixing, blending and collage to create wonderful sailing boat pictures.



Year 3 have been looking at the work of Frederique Hundertwasser, they then had a go at creating 'lollipop trees' in his style. They used oil pastels to create a vibrant background and card to create pop up trees adding a 3d element to their work.

PREP ART

The Year 4's wonderful mixed media collages of 'squashed fairy' illustrations are based on 'Lady Cottington's Pressed Fairy Book', written by Monty Python's Terry Jones, and illustrated by artist Brian Froud.



Year 5 used magazine cutouts to create these stunning collages of gardens. They then used a range of experimental watercolour techniques to paint the scenes.



Year 6 made this amazing installation in the hall, using all sorts of dried wildflowers, plants, and herbs, collected from the school grounds and children's gardens. They were inspired by the incredible installations by Rebecca Louise Law, whose work celebrates the beauty of nature and the environment.



GIRLS' SPORT

The Prep girls enjoyed a return to inter-school Hockey matches this term. In Years 5 & 6 the girls played against local schools such as Beachborough, Ashfold, Cranford House and Rupert House. They recorded some good results along the way and demonstrated a deepening understanding of the game itself. The U10 girls once again hosted the U10 Invitational Hockey Tournament and the U11s represented Chandlings at the St Edwards School Hockey Festival; both of which were highly valuable and enjoyable experiences.



In Years 3 & 4, girls continued to develop their basic technical skills for passing, dribbling and tackling. They all enjoyed learning more about the game and for many this term provided their first experience of hosting and attending fixtures with other schools. The coaching team were extremely impressed with how the girls acquitted themselves, whether playing in mixed Year 3 & 4 matches or within their own age groups.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

In the latter part of the term the girls made the switch to Football for the first time. In three introductory weeks of sessions they developed their passing, dribbling and shooting skills whilst also learning more about the game through match play. Girls Football is a new addition to the Girls' Games Program. This term we hosted St Hughs, SHSK, Beachborough and Ashfold school in our first ever Girls Football Festival. The event was designed as a friendly afternoon of mixed ability matches in which the girls could grow their knowledge and experience of the game. Although the afternoon began under the backdrop of a beautiful double rainbow, soon the icy rain and winds descended and threatened to halt the afternoon's play. Not to be deterred, all the girls showed tremendous resilience to not only continue playing but to do so with smiles on their faces. Throughout the afternoon lots of progress was made by all schools and the players thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A huge thank you to the visiting schools for approaching the fixture with the right spirit and we look forward to hosting the Festival again next year.



BOYS' SPORT

IAPS U11A BOY'S RUGBY

The U11 rugby season ended for Year 6 boys with their final games for Chandlings being played in the IAPS Festival hosted by Stroud School in Eastleigh. They got off to a flying start winning their first 3 games against Seaford College (2 - 1), Lambrook (3 - 1) and Salisbury Cathedral (3 - 0). They then came across Princes Meade and Hawthorns and conceded 8 tries without reply which left them 3rd in their group of 6.

In the playoff game for 5th and 6th place they let Embery Prep in for the first score but showed great resilience to come fighting back to go ahead 2 - 1 and finish the game off with a try in the dying seconds. 5th place overall from 12 schools was a satisfying result in a festival of real talent.



YEARS 3 - 6

BOYS' SPORT

For many of the boys and their parents in Years 3 and 4 this was the first opportunity to be together at sports fixtures. Many came to watch and the boys responded with some terrific performances in at least 5 or more matches. Year 6 played an IAPS rugby festival whilst Year 5 travelled into the city for a rugby festival at St Edwards. As is the case with RFU protocols there are no finals at a festival but it is fair to say the boys played really well winning more games than they lost. Both Year 3 and Year 4 managed to equate themselves equally well at the Abingdon festival.

The FA are less strict with tournament organisation so pride of place goes to the Year 3 football team who won the Summer Fields U8 tournament from a field of 22 teams. It was a nail biting affair with the scores being equal at full time and so it was decided on penalties. Chandlings held their nerve and were victorious by 4 penalties to 1 over Caldicott.

HOUSE SINGING COMPETITION

Children and staff alike were all very excited about the inaugural House Singing competition which took place this term.

Each house chose three different songs which they then shared with Miss Sharpe, the Head of Music who helped them pick the final song they would sing at the competition.

The children spent many weeks rehearsing adding moves, harmony and working on their diction and tuning.

The day arrived and the three judges took their seats in anticipation. Mrs Davis was looking for tuning, Mrs Siriwardene wanted to be entertained and Miss Sharp was keen to make sure the diction was crisp.

Astley began with an uplifting version of 'High Hopes' which had some wonderful changes between year groups and a great crescendo at the end. Poltimore followed with a very dramatic and emotional rendition of 'Do You Hear the People Sing?' from the musical Les Miserables. It brought the odd tear to the audience's eyes! Richardson finished the competition with a rousing performance of Elton John's 'I'm Still Standing' which contained some fantastic air guitar moves.

The judges deliberated and it was a very tough decision. However, the winners were Poltimore.

When asked if they wanted to do the House singing competition next year the whole room put up their hands. We're already looking forward to it!



OUTDOOR LEARNING

Outdoor learning has always been an important part of life at Chandlings and as well as all the usual outdoor activities, we have dedicated weekly Outdoor Classroom lessons as part of our curriculum which are taught by Miss Papp.

This term's topic was trees, leaves and habitats.

The children looked at structures of trees and identified trees in autumn and winter. They worked both in groups and independently. All the activities linked with the curriculum and were based on children's knowledge from their classroom settings.

They also had a great time with their 'Leaf Throwing Championships' which you might have seen on our social media!



FEEL GOOD FRIDAY

As part of our Wellbeing programme at Chandlings Prep we have Feel Good Friday. At each session a different year group in Prep takes part in an all dance and exercise extravaganza getting the heart rate pumping and the endorphins flowing. They are often inspired by a theme. This term we have had the 80s and Spiderman and the children feel energised (and so do the staff!) ready to start the day.



INTERVIEW WITH MIKE CLARKE DIRECTOR OF ACTIVITIES



What inspired you to work at Chandlings?

I wanted to move out of London and a friend of mine was already working at Chandlings. When I was offered a job here too, I loved it and jumped at the chance! So, my friend inspired me to work at Chandlings.

What is your favourite part of Chandlings so far?

I like the 'family feel' of Chandlings. It's always been like a family to me.

What's your favourite sport?

Golf and darts.

What are two of your favourite countries?

Italy because of the skiing and South Africa because of the weather and Biltong!

When is your birthday?

In August- a summer birthday

What did you teach before you came to Chandlings?

I used to teach sports at my old school. I was Head of Junior Sports there.

How many years have you worked at Chandlings?

12 years. Since before any of you were born!

Why did you run the marathon?

I ran for my best friend's son who has Muscular Dystrophy. It was to raise money for him.

(The day itself was a lot of fun but the 4 months training beforehand was definitely not fun!)

What is your favourite subject to teach?

Cricket or football

What school did you teach at before you came to Chandlings?

Eaton House The Manor School in Clapham, South London.

Where do you live and how long have you lived there for?

In Kingston Bagpuize, near to Millet's Farm. I have lived there for over 5 years.

What's your favourite hobby?

Gardening, golf and darts

What is your favourite Science topic?

Body Systems because I think that the human body is the most magnificent creation ever!

What is your favourite Christmas song?

'Dominick The Donkey' by Lou Monte. In December, I listen to it in the car on the way to work everyday. My sons love the song, too!

What is the best song you have ever had in your form version of Desert Island discs?

'Ain't No Mountain' By Marvin Gaye or 'Mr Blue Sky' by The ELO (Electric Light Orchestra)

What is your favourite food?

Steak, chips and asparagus (home-grown from my allotment- the best time to eat it is in May, it's the best!)

Where did you grow up?

In South West London in Tooting and Wimbledon (Where the Wombles are from!)

Where is your favourite place to be?

At home with my family.

Do you like cheese?

Yes! My favourite is a soft cheese from Devon called Tintern (made with chives and shallots wrapped in wax)

When did you first get into sport?

I have always loved it. When I was 5 or 6, I started playing football for my local club.

Do you support COP 26?

Yes I am a supporter of what they do - making everyone aware of climate change and looking after the planet.

Where do you play golf?

At Radley Golf Club

What did you do for your A levels?

PE, Biology and Media Studies. I even directed my own short film as part of my Media studies course.

Would you rather have feet as hands or hands as feet?!

I'd rather have hands as feet because our thumbs are very important- you can't do anything without your thumbs!

If you could run any extra-curricular club, what would it be?

Gardening Club or Lego Builder's Club

CHARITIES

Our chosen charity this year is Helen & Douglas House and the inaugural Santa Fun Run organised by PATCH donated a whopping £515 towards our charity, which was fantastic. What a great turn out on a bitterly cold day. It was great to see so many Santas running (and walking) about and there was even a bearded lady Santa guiding them through the grounds... we wonder who that was (Ms Cook?!) It might become an annual event so you better start training for next year!

The MacMillan Coffee morning is always a great social occasion and took place in the new function suite in the Main House. As always the cakes, cookies and biscuits were delicious and £425 was raised for MacMillan Cancer Care.

Over £1000 was also raised for the two VIP parking spaces as well.

Finally our Christmas Jumpers raised £168.88.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in these events and for your generous support.



PATCH

As always our parent body in the form of PATCH (Parents and Teachers at Chandlings) have been immensely busy with events and fundraising. As you can see from the Charities page they have raised an amazing amount for Helen & Douglas house and also for MacMillan Cancer Support.

However, in addition to this, we cannot thank them enough for organising the amazing Gifts for Grownups (G4G) day. This is a really magical event for all the children who get to choose their own gifts for their loved ones. PATCH collects gifts throughout the year - many are regifted or recycled - and the children design their own paper bags to take their surprise presents home. It brought around a lot of nostalgia for our alumni parent body who saw it on our social media commenting "Fond memories of a special time. Lovely to see it's still going." and "I still use my red champagne glasses James gave me circa 2006! A lovely tradition."

PATCH is looking for a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. These can be shared roles. If you think you might be up for the job but would like a little more information about what might be involved, please contact Caroline Mullick at patch@chandlingspst.org. It's not as onerous as you might think and very rewarding!





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