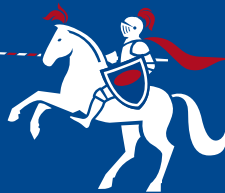


ISSUE 18
April 23

KNIGHT'S TALES



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD

It is with the greatest pleasure that I am able to say that for the third year running our entire Year 6 cohort has received offers from their chosen Senior Schools. The schools include many highly selective Senior Schools across Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Berkshire. In addition, 40% of the cohort also received an award or scholarship. The scholarships include Academic, Art, Drama, English, Maths, Music, Sport, Reasoning and Interviews. In an unprecedented first for the school, every boy who applied to Abingdon School achieved an award.

I am very proud of both our Year 6 children and our staff who provided workshops, interview practice and tailor-made teaching. Together they produced some fantastic results.

We know that finding the right senior school for each child is so important. The process starts in Year 4 when we begin the dialogue with your children’s teachers and it continues into Years 5 and 6 when we meet with parents as often as required to help you make decisions about your child’s next steps.

We pride ourselves on offering a broad curriculum and a huge variety of extra-curricular opportunities that allow our children to thrive and excel. We ensure that they are both challenged and inspired which is shown in the breadth of scholarships awarded. This edition of Knight’s Tales is a testament to that fact and will give you further insight into an exciting and productive term.

I wish you all a very happy holiday.

Christine Cook
Head



EASTER

Easter is always fun at Chandlings Prep. Nursery make their traditional Easter Bonnets ready for their parade and the whole school gets the chance to hunt for Easter Eggs in different places throughout the school grounds.



WORLD BOOK DAY/WEEK

We LOVE World Book Day at Chandlings. From a Squash and a Squeeze (a hilarious pantomime performed by Staff) to Rainbow Fish to Smeds and Smoos. We had them all.

We were also lucky enough to have four different authors come and visit us.

Michael Mann spoke about how he owes the idea for his novel, Ghostcloud, to a lifelong love of cloudspotting. You can read an interview with him and Owen B. on page 22.

Valerie Bloom, the writer and performance poet, also entertained Chandlings as part of World Book Week. Valerie, who received an MBE for her services to poetry, performed her poems to the whole school from Nursery to Year 6. Valerie's writing is heavily influenced by her Jamaican background, and we were fascinated to hear how Jamaican Patois evolved, and to learn some of the words which feature in Valerie's Patois poems. Everyone joined in enthusiastically with her 'Pinda Cake' song, and Mrs Branch asked for the recipe (essentially, peanuts and brown sugar). Valerie's 'Mega Star Rap' was a hit with the older children who burst into spontaneous applause at the end. It was a memorable day that inspired and enthralled teachers and children alike.

AF Harrold also performed his poetry. He read from one of his Fizzlebert Stump novels and inspired the children to write poems of their own. We were warned that he 'does things that aren't always entirely normal' which turned out to be true and made for a funny and engaging morning.

Finally, Iszi Lawrence gave us a very entertaining morning talking about suffragette's doing jiu jitsu, super spitfire flying women, girls seeking revenge against the evil Blackbeard and inspiring the children to create their own WW1 story.



Y3/Y4 PLAY THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

Wow! What a fantastic performance the Year 3 & 4 children gave us of Roald Dahl's Three Little Pigs. The show started with a fabulously rousing rendition of 'Now Listen Everybody', which described what the musical was going to be about. The audience could hear every word as the diction from every single child was so clear. During the show we met various 'cowboy' builders whose houses were not strong enough to stand up to the evil wolf who gobbled up each pig with various slurping and burping noises returning with a tiny tail! We enjoyed various 'news features' and a very amusing 'hair salon' scene with all the gossip that the venue provides! Finally Little Red Riding Hood saved the day and stood up strong to the Wicked Wolf. As with all Roald Dahl's plays the lyrics were very funny and the children delivered them with great panache and timing. Thank you to Mrs Belcher and Miss Sharp who continue to deliver such uplifting and professional performances from every year group and this one is no exception.



INFORMAL MUSIC CONCERTS

Throughout the term every year group from Year 1 up has had the opportunity to perform in an informal concert. They are a wonderful opportunity for the children to show what they have been learning within their one to one lessons either in or outside of school. This includes both musical instruments and acting. For many, it might be their premiere performance in front of a supportive audience of family, friends and staff.



LAMDA

A huge congratulations to all our LAMDA students who took their exams this term. 17 children took a variety of exams including group acting, speaking verse and prose, solo performances, Shakespeare and musical theatre. Every single child received a Distinction which is absolutely phenomenal.

NURSERY PIRATES

Nursery 2 have been learning the sound 'P' for Pirates! As part of their learning they had a pirate day. They all made pirate hats and went searching around the school grounds for a treasure box with gold coins in it.



RECEPTION VISIT ROVES FARM

What better way to celebrate the arrival of Spring than to visit a farm and that is exactly what Reception did. They had the most wonderfully educational and enjoyable day at Roves Farm. They enjoyed a very bumpy tractor ride, petted some baby goats and lambs and even stroked a piglet. They also built mouse houses out of natural materials and watched The Hungry Caterpillar puppet show. We want to say a very big thank you to Roves Farm for the most fantastic day out!



YEAR 1 VR HEADSET EXPERIENCE

Year 1 had an exciting morning in space and on the International Space Station using state of the art Meta Quest 2 VR headsets. They found themselves floating past Mars and doing missions on the ISS. They also used our own VR headsets and Chandlings tech ambassadors came along to help.



YEAR 2 PUT OUT THE FLAMES WITH THE ABINGDON FIRE SERVICE

Year 2 children were very fortunate to have a visit from the Abingdon Fire Service. First they talked about the role of a firefighter and we learnt that it is not only to fight fires, but there are also many other types of rescues that they are involved in. We also learnt about how to keep ourselves and our families safe with at least 2 smoke alarms in our homes. All the children learned the most important message; if there is ever a fire they must remember to; Get out! Stay Out! Call 999! Then we went to explore the fire engine and saw lots of pieces of equipment that are carried on this vehicle. Finally, we saw the fire engine's flashing lights and heard the sirens! A fabulous way to end our topic work about The Great Fire of London!



YEAR 3 VISIT THE CORINIUM MUSEUM

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed exploring the modern galleries during our trip to the Corinium Museum in Cirencester.

On arrival, we split into two groups, with one group starting the day in The Lifelong Learning Centre where the children enjoyed taking part in a workshop. They moved around a selection of fun activities including dressing up in Roman outfits and discovering more about the foods and games available at that time. The other group was able to start looking around the museum straightaway. With museum staff on hand to answer questions about the Roman soldiers and mosaics there was plenty of information available to find out more about Roman life.

After lunch everyone had the chance to explore the many objects on display in greater detail. The children worked enthusiastically in small groups as they searched amongst the artefacts so that they could find answers to the questions posed in their workbooks.

A fantastic trip and without a doubt we could have stayed there a lot longer!



YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 POETRY WALK

As part of our poetry focus for World Book Week, Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed a Poetry Walk, inspired by nature, throughout the school grounds. A variety of poems, relating to various locations within the school, were discovered by the pupils. The children read and discussed the poems, the poetic devices within them and selected their favourite line.

The poems the children found included one about bees by the beehives, a poem on birds at the bird hide, a poem on ducks by the pond and a poem about climbing trees in the Nursery Woodland. The children finished with a deliciously warming hot chocolate!

Outdoor learning is a large part of life at Chandlings Prep and the walk drew together the focus on poetry and the importance of nature at our school. It also inspired the children to write their own poems as part of a whole school initiative.



YEAR 5 TAKE US ON A JOURNEY THROUGH TUDOR TIMES

This term, Year 5 have been reading 'The Devil and His Boy,' a historical novel set in Tudor times by Anthony Horowitz. With this as a backdrop they have written both prose and poetry inspired by both the book and a film called Pudding Lane which led them down the dark alleyways of Tudor London. They also created a 3D model of Shakespeare's Globe theatre which was built during this period.



Elizabethan London
*Narrow fog-choked alleyways.
 Leaded grime-consumed windows.
 The creak of ever-moving carts.
 Castles stand, banners unstrung.
 Church spires scrape the sky.*

*A hangman's noose stands alone.
 Butchers' shops boast hunks of meat.
 Fowl frothing sewage runs down
 the cobbles.
 A moss-green graveyard rots away.
 The filthy water of the wharf splashes
 onto feet.*

*Old chimneys belch out smoke.
 White-hot braziers flame silently.
 People bustle each other constantly.
 Buildings hang over, decrepit
 and ancient.
 Red crosses where the plague
 has been.
 By Joshua C.*

YEAR 6 SKILLS WEEK

A lot of our focus in the last three months has been on our secondary school process. Exams, interviews, scholarships and awards have been at the forefront of our mind. We now start to look forward to learning different skills and life beyond Chandlings Prep. The pupils completed a bikeability style course with an emphasis on safety and maintenance. They learnt about IED machines and basic first aid skills as well as water safety and personal survival in the pool. Our outdoor learning day was a slightly damp affair but with a rotation of low ropes, firebuilding/kelly kettles and den building, pupils were having too much fun to care.

Interspersed during the week has been our Young Enterprise initiative where product design, budgeting and the requisite pitch to the Dragons has been all important. Thank you to Mr Wahid, Miss Patel and Mrs Jones for being brilliant dragons.

Finally some basic life skills of tying a tie, making a bed and some computer skills have rounded off a great week for our Year 6 children in preparation for life after Chandlings Prep. Thank you to all the staff and parents who were involved in this fantastic week.



ART RECEPTION

EASTER BASKETS & CARDS

This term, as a part of the STEM curriculum, the children in Reception have been learning how to weave using paper. They created an A4 size weaved page which was curled into a basket shape, complete with handle, ready for the Easter Egg hunt at the end of the term. They chose their own colours and worked independently to create their own fabulous designs.

Reception also created some lovely Easter cards this term. They did their own cutting and decorating before creating an interesting composition of the chick and the egg.

MOTHER'S DAY CARDS

For Mother's Day, this term, the children learnt how to create origami petals, which they then linked together to make a flower. The children chose their own pastel colours and then developed compositions complete with a flower and some feathers to decorate.

YEAR 1

Year 1 have been learning about Space, and in Art they have been looking at the design process for making rockets or satellites. The children have been practising their drawing skills using basic shapes to draw their vessels as inspiration for their own designs. In pairs, they created a Lego prototype of their own design - with modifications - which they are now creating into a 3D model, using junk modelling.

YEAR 2

Year 2 have been looking at dragons, inspired by the book 'Tell Me Dragon' by Jackie Morris. They have all studied a range of dragon designs and illustrations to help them understand where dragon artist's get their ideas from. They have then designed their own dragons in their sketchbooks, complete with annotations describing their influences albeit real or imaginative. The children have been developing their drawing skills by understanding proportion more, pattern in details, as well as improving on their drawing skills using basic shapes. They are now in the process of creating a mixed media painting of their own dragon.

PRE-PREP ART CLUB

During this term's Pre-Prep Art Club the children have been creating their own origami cranes and cubes.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have been creating these wonderful illustrations of British birds. They have also modelled 3D birds using clay which will be glazed and finished next term.



YEAR 4

Year 4 have been learning about mixing tertiary colours. They will add more colour and pattern to these paintings to create animal illustrations inspired by the children's book illustrator Poonam Mistry.



YEAR 5

Year 5 have been studying botanical illustrations. These beautiful chalk pastel drawings are inspired by the paintings of the Victorian explorer Marianne North, who has her own gallery in Kew Gardens.



SCIENCE MODELS COMPETITION

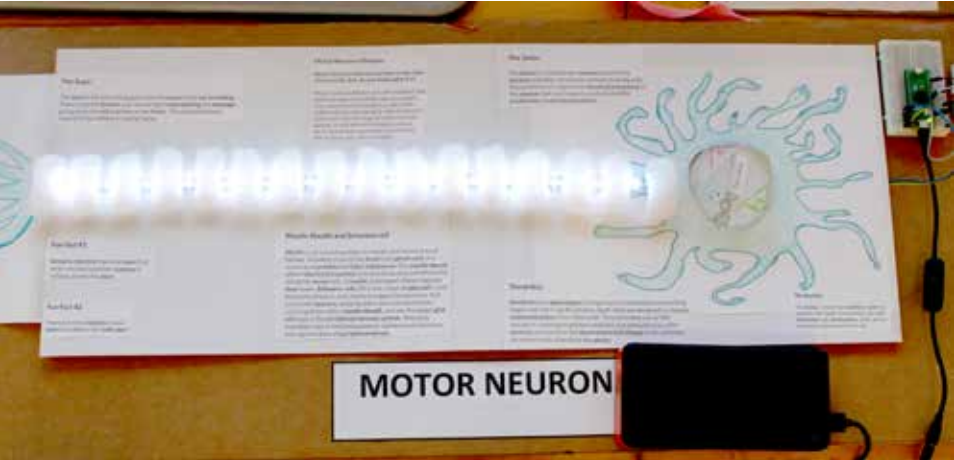
The children in Year 6 were tasked with making a model of a cell (plant, animal, bacteria, or virus) for a house competition, in order to support and cement their understanding of their Science and Engineering topic, Cells and Microbes. They had to choose their materials, label the parts of the cell, and include a description for each part.

There was a huge variety of fantastic models made out of a wide range of materials. The judging proved tricky due to the extremely high standard but we managed, after much deliberation, to decide upon the winners.

Each entry was awarded a house point with further points given for the runners-up, highly commended, and winners. The winning house was Poltimore.



Science Winners	Livia C. Luisa K.
Runners Up	Raphy L. Alexander A.
Highly commended	Kacy S.
Engineering Winners	Daniel M. Nellie M.
Eco Winner	Talia A.
STEM Winner	Hanbo L.
STEM Runner Up	Artie C.



INTERNATIONAL DAY

The children travelled the world during International Day, a celebration of the different languages and cultures at Chandlings. They dressed up and experienced a wide range of activities including Samba dancing, Japanese ceramic art, African music, Flamenco, and much more. Thank you to all the parents who represented 17 countries and helped and supported the event by organising a stall. The Lantern Hall was transformed into a fantastic carnival of colours and sounds. What an amazing atmosphere!



LA GALETTE DES ROIS

On January 6th, also known as Epiphany or Twelfth Night, the French celebrate “la Fête des Rois”. Here, at Chandlings Prep we also enjoyed welcoming the French New Year in a very special way celebrating La Fête des Rois.

Like most French festivals, it has its very own traditional food, in this case a special cake called “la Galette des Rois”.

There is a ceremony when eating the cake. The youngest child goes under the table where they direct the distribution of the pieces of cake. The cake is eaten — carefully — because there is a fève (or charm—a small china figurine) hidden inside one piece. The lucky person to find the fève becomes King or Queen and gets to wear the paper crown throughout the day.



INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL MANN

Michael Mann spoke about how he owes the idea for his novel, Ghostcloud, to a lifelong love of cloudspotting, and to his coal-mining grandad who, like his main character, was also called Luke. Michael’s grandad died when Michael was seven. He remembers looking for him in the sky, wondering if when he saw a shape in the clouds, it was him, somehow, watching. You can read an interview with him and Owen B. below.



What inspired you to write your first book, Ghostcloud?
My grandfather used to shovel coal and he was called Luke.

Why did you want to be an author?
It started as a hobby and I got better and I began to wonder if I could turn it into a job.

How did you find a publisher?
First I found an agent on the Internet.

Who publishes your books?
Hachette - the country’s second biggest publisher.

Who do you think you are most like in your books?
A mix of Luke and Jess.

Have you always been an author?
I became an author in my early 30s.

What made you write a story about ghosts and not any other mythical creatures?
I think ghosts are cool because they can be spooky and you want to know their past.

Did you think your book was going to get published?
No - not until my agent replies.



GIRLS' SPORT

The girls in the Prep department hit the ground running with Netball matches straight after the Christmas break. Showing tremendous resilience throughout the term they played in cold and wet conditions against a number of schools following the BEE Netball format. The U8 and U9 girls took on OPS, Beachborough, The Manor and Pinewood, experiencing both the 4 aside and 5 aside format.

In the second half of term, our focus switched to Football which for the first time in Chandlings Prep's history formed a part of the girls games curriculum. Our U8 and U9 girls led the way by hosting The Dragon, Oxford High, OPS and Ashfold for matches which saw them greatly improve their knowledge of the game and basic skills.

Chandlings played host to the West Oxford Primary School Festival and our own teams came runners up. For the second time we also hosted an U10 and U11 Prep Schools festival. This year we welcomed 7 schools and the afternoon saw over 170 girls playing football.



BOYS' SPORT

The football season ended at half term and for the remainder of the term the boys played in several competitive hockey fixtures. On the football field the Year 4 team remained unbeaten showing that they will be a force in the future. Following them were Year 3 who played as three teams winning more games than they lost. Their season culminated in great success at the Oratory tournament. The U8 A's reached the final only to lose by the odd goal. Meanwhile the U8B's were victorious beating the hosts by 2 - 0 in the final.

It was on the hockey pitch where the combined Year 5 and 6 Colts excelled. Their passing game proved too powerful for most of the opposition. Magdalen A team were dispatched 5 - 2 and in the final matches of the season Abingdon Prep were given a masterclass. Chandlings managed to draw the C and D fixtures 0 - 0 and 1 - 1 but at A and B standard they pulled away. The Bs which comprised mainly of Year 5 boys won 2 - 0 whilst the As cruised to another 5 - 2 victory.



HOUSE MATCHES

Our term culminated in Football House matches for the girls which we've added to the house competition program for the first time. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the events and they saw some of the most hotly contested matches of the year. The overall winners were Poltimore.

The boys were pitted against each other in their house hockey matches. It was very competitive and the overall winners this year were Poltimore.



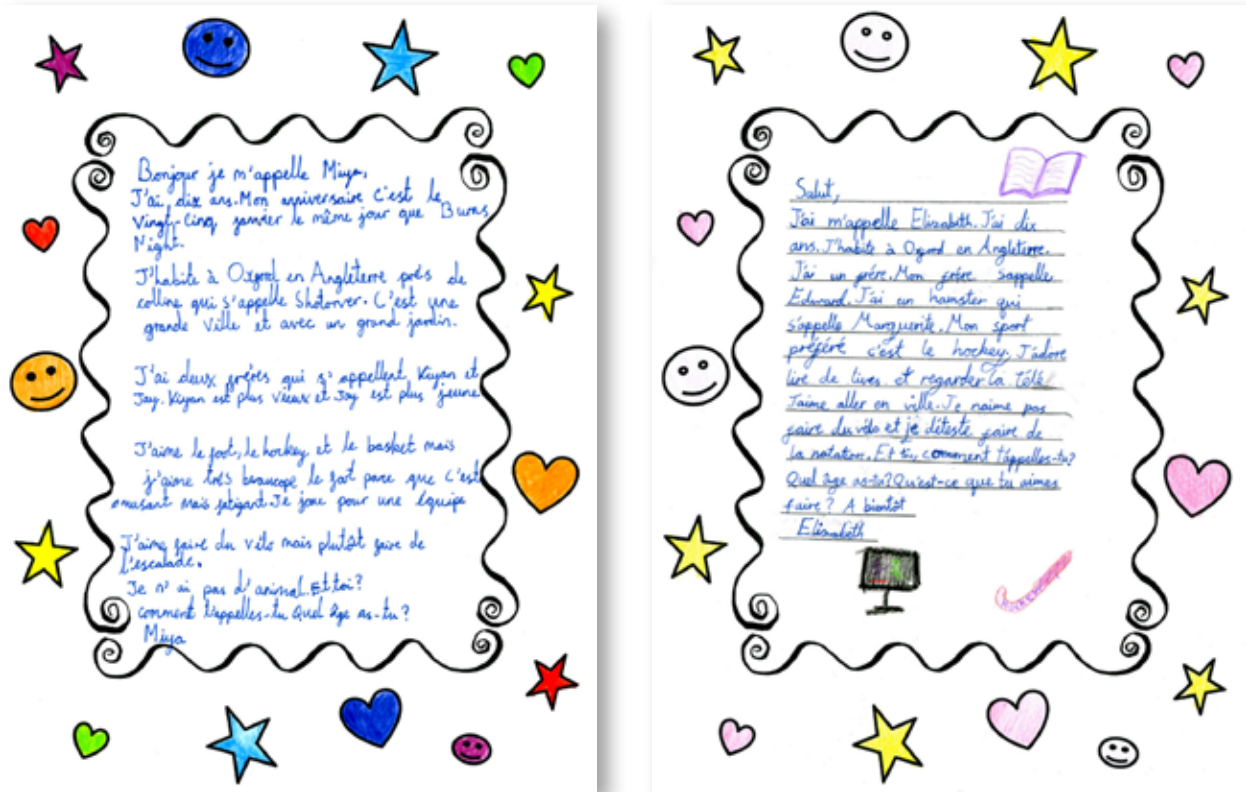
PANCAKE RACES

Chandlings Prep wouldn't be the same without the annual House Pancake Races. It might be noisy but it is a lot of fun. Each year group in Prep put forward a house team (including their teachers) which then had to race against each other whilst tossing the pancake (at least 3 times). Thanks to Mr Redman for making all the pancakes which sadly ended up mainly on the floor! The winning house this year was Poltimore.



FRENCH

Year 5 have been creating poster letters describing themselves and their hobbies.

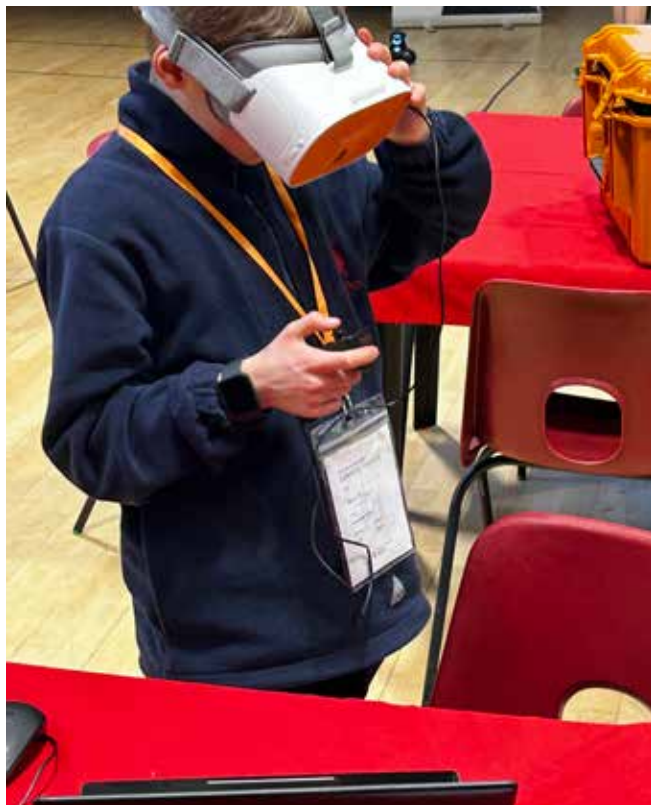


Year 6 have been preparing for their French trip to Rue in Picardie by writing letters to their pen pals with funny photos of themselves. They are very excited to visit their school "école de Verton" and meet their pen pals in person during the trip.



GOOGLE LEARNING TRIP

Five Year 6 children attended the Google Learning Festival at Tring School. They rotated around some fun Chromebook-based activities such as creating virtual reality environments to accompany a story, coding three-wheeled robots around an obstacle course and competing in interactive maths quizzes for Google Swag.



INTERVIEW WITH ROSS MARCHANT

Each term the School Council organises an interview with a different member of staff. They decide on the questions and then follow this up with a face to face interview.

What were your favourite cartoons?
I like the Simpsons. I used to watch that a lot, probably too much! I also like Tom & Jerry.

What was your dream job when you were younger?
I wanted to be a policeman, like most little boys I suppose. I liked the uniform - the hat etc

When did you start teaching?
I started as a Gap Year student in a Prep school in Dorset in 1996.

Have you ever taught in another school? If so, which one?
I've taught in lots of different schools. My last one was Henry Box School in Witney- I was there for 8 years. Then I came to Chandlings and I've been here for 10 years

How many subjects have you taught?
I have taught lots of subjects- Maths, Games, PE, Geography and I am a form teacher, too.

What's your favourite subject?
I am most passionate about Maths- if I could teach just one subject, it would be Maths

What is your favourite dance move? We'd like a demonstration!!!!
Mr Marchant said he would show us tonight in our Prep Disco!! The school council reps will report back on Mr Marchant's dance moves!!

What is your favourite food?
I love prawns! Preferably while sitting in the warm weather in Spain.

What is your hobby?
Walking up mountains and golfing when I have time. I love being outside.

What do you do in your freetime?
I try to get outside to have a walk. I don't like being indoors for too long.

Do you like cars or cheese more?
I like cars a bit more than cheese. Especially a Landrover defender 90 and the Audi RS5. Preferably a convertible! I can get in my car and drive to different parts of the world to try different cheeses.



What is your favourite sport?
Rugby to watch and Cricket to play (Cricket is a bit long to watch).

What is your favourite basketball team?
Miami Heat basketball team. I went to Miami for my honeymoon and went to watch the team play and I've loved them ever since.

What is your favourite book?
The Machine Gunners- it's a book about childhood. It is set during wartime and it's about a little boy who finds a shiny machine gun.

What is your favourite fruit?
Fresh raspberries

What is the favourite country you have visited?
Very hard decision, but definitely Mexico- I went there for my honeymoon, too! and I love it there.

Do you have a pet and if so what is its name? If you don't, what would be your dream pet?
I would love a dog. If I did have one, it would be a black labrador. I would call it Fenton. I hope I will get one!

What name would you change to if you could?
When I was 10 I wanted to change my name, I wanted to be called Scott.

What is the thing you most like about Chandlings?
The grounds, driving up every day. The children aren't bad either! Ha, ha! And the staff are great.

If you could have something that you don't have, what would it be?
A dog because I love walking!

CHARITIES

RED NOSE DAY

The school was dressed in Red for Comic Relief as the children and staff alike were adorned in crimson! Thank you to everyone who donated to our Red Nose Day collection which raised £315.



EXPRESS YOURSELF

In the Spring term we held an ‘express yourself’ day as part of our Wellbeing Week; children were invited to come dressed in home clothes and we raised over £1000 for Oxford Hospitals Charity.



PATCH

PREP DISCO AND PRE-PREP MOVIE NIGHT

Disco and Movie Night is one of the favourite events of the year for the children at Chandlings Prep. The Pre-Prep children snuggled down in their pyjamas enjoying their popcorn in front of the movie. Whereas the Prep children were strutting their stuff at the school disco with some pretty impressive moves! Thanks again to PATCH and the parents for organising these events.





Follow us on   

Chandlings Prep School
Bagley Wood, Nr Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5ND
office@chandlingspst.org
+44 (0)1865 730771
www.chandlingspst.org

Copyright ©2021 Prep Schools Trust. Registered Charity No. 309639. All rights reserved.

