High Notes

Primary High Notes 16th February 2024

Dear Parents

This week I have had the privilege of immersing myself in discussions and exchanges of ideas at York St John University alongside fellow educators, delving deep into the pressing issues shaping our education landscape today. It is always invigorating to step out of our familiar surroundings and engage with the broader educational community, gaining fresh perspectives and insights.

Returning to school today, I was greeted by an exciting sight: the ongoing transformation of our new dining facility, The Refectory. It is truly remarkable to witness the progress first-hand, with the scaffolding now down, unveiling the stunning exterior that seamlessly blends with the rest of our site. It is as if it has always belonged here!

In the photos below, you will see the interior progress, and I am sure you will agree it is looking wonderful as it nears completion.

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Vikki Walsh will be joining our Primary team as the new PA to the Head of Primary. Mrs Walsh brings with her a wealth of experience in education, making her an excellent fit for this important role. Mrs Walsh knows the school very well, as a parent of a daughter in Sixth Form. We look forward to welcoming her after half term.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 5 Mexican Day

Today was an exciting day for the Year 5 children as they immersed themselves in the vibrant culture of Mexico. Everyone was eager to participate in a range of enriching experiences that not only broadened their cultural understanding but also sparked their creativity and culinary skills.

One of the highlights of Mexican Day was the exploration of Mariachi music. The children delved into the rhythmic beats and lively melodies of traditional Mariachi tunes, learning about the instruments used and the cultural significance of this iconic Mexican music genre.
To culminate their Mexican Day experience, the pupils put their culinary skills to the test by creating their own tacos, which they had designed in Design and Technology (DT) lessons. Guided by their imagination and understanding of Mexican cuisine, they designed, assembled and ate their personalized tacos, experimenting with various ingredients and flavours. This hands-on activity not only provided a delicious finale to Mexican Day but also empowered the children to take pride in their culinary creations while celebrating the flavours of Mexico.

Year 1 Sense of Smell

This week the children in Year 1 have continued learning about the senses. This week the focus has been on 'smell'. The children closed their eyes before smelling a range of different food types such as curry paste, lemon, orange and hot chocolate. They were absolutely fantastic at guessing the smells and quickly decided that the hot chocolate smell was their favourite!

Year 2 Athletics

The Year 2 visit to Derby Arena for their first KS1 athletics competition was a resounding success. It featured six diverse events aimed at honing their skills in throwing, speed and accuracy. The competition encompassed a variety of activities including speed bounce, long jump and javelin, challenging the children's physical abilities and coordination. Each event provided a unique opportunity for the students to showcase their talents and enthusiasm for sports. Throughout the competition, the Year 2 students exhibited boundless energy and excitement, demonstrating exceptional behaviour and sportsmanship. A memorable and enjoyable experience for all involved.

Year 3 Athletics

Year 3 had a wonderful time this week on their first fixture. The whole year group went to Derby Arena and participated in various athletics field and track events.

Year 5 Boys Hockey and Girls Netball vs Denstone College

On Tuesday, all of Year 5 travelled to take part in some friendly fixtures against Denstone. The boys played in two hockey matches, and the girls played in two netball matches and it was really great to see all pupils giving their all and demonstrating their skills and learning from across the year. All of the games were played in a really positive spirit and the pupils never gave up. A huge well done to everyone who took part!

'Bee Ready' Competition

Our wonderful school caterers, Chartwells Independent, launched a competition recently, ‘Bee Ready’. Primary children were tasked with designing a colourful 3D flower garden for bumblebees to feast on when they come out of hibernation! Pupils really enjoyed this lovely project and the 4 winners, Sajjal-Fatima (Y4), Sinachi (Y1), Mahi (Y1) and Nourah (Y1) were given a ‘bee hotel’ and flower garden starter kit. Well done, everyone!

Swimming Success at Derbyshire ASA County Championships

Congratulations to our pupils who competed over the last two weekends at the Derbyshire ASA County Championships at Moorways Sports Village. Thank you for sending through your highlights from the two weekends.

Connie (Year 6) had a fantastic time competing in four events and was delighted to pick up the gold medal for the 200m butterfly. Connie also placed 4th for 100m butterfly, 6th for 200m breaststroke and 8th for the 200m backstroke.
Ollie (Year 6) reached the finals for the 50m backstroke and placed 5th, reached the finals for the 100m backstroke and placed 6th and came 13th in the 100m freestyle.

Congratulations Tabitha

Last Saturday evening, Tabitha (Year 5) attended the Meynell Pony Club Annual Presentation Evening. Tabitha was delighted to have been awarded the '10 years and Under Showjumper' trophy for all her achievements last year. Congratulations, Tabitha, what a fantastic achievement.

Primary House Music

We have enjoyed a super week of music making in our Primary school. All pupils in Years 1 – 6 have been learning the four songs from Sing! in their Music lessons.

In an exciting assembly yesterday afternoon, pupils performed the four songs to all primary staff. The House Captains then took the draw to see which House will sing which song in the Finals on House Music Day on Thursday 7th March.

St. Andrew – Sky full of stars
St. David – I still haven't found what I'm looking for
St. George – I'm still standing
St. Patrick – Could have been me

All pupils will have access to the House song backing tracks through Microsoft Teams. They need to enter their school email address and password to access this.

Costumes – Reminder

As the theme for our House song is Sing! we would like all pupils in Primary to come to school dressed as an animal from the film on Thursday March 7th. We will be recording the event so that families can watch together at home.

Primary Open Morning

Parents of Reception to Year 6 children;

Thank you to all the parents who have already responded to the HighPost regarding your child's availability to attend our Open Morning on Saturday 23rd March. If you have not had chance to repond, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Parents of Pre-School children;

We look forward to inviting you to our Primary Open Morning. Please do respond to the invitation on HighPost to confirm if you intend on joining us. Thank you.

Safeguarding Corner

Body Image

Body image is how we think and feel about our bodies. These thoughts and feelings can impact us throughout our lives and affect how accepting we are of our bodies and appearance, how much we value our bodies, and how we perceive our bodies in our environment.

There are many factors that can affect your child's body image – both positively and negatively. Such as:

Their thoughts and feelings towards their own body

- The media and social media
- Family members
- Peers, especially close friends
- Health conditions or disabilities
- Life changes that affect how our bodies look and function, like puberty
- Ethnicity and culture

If you are worried about your child, it is important to give the time and space at home to allow for conversations about how they are feeling and the concerns they have.

More information can be found here:

Body Image Guide for Parents and Caregivers (mentalhealth.org.uk)

Support & advice for parents on body image concerns: Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together (hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 26th February – return to school

Monday 26th February – Reception, Robins and Sparrows - Farmer Day

Thursday 29th February – Year 2 Trip

Thursday 29th February – Primary Tea Time Concert