



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

13 March 2020

It's show time! And to quote one of the major hit numbers of *Legally Blonde* - "Omigod!" Without wanting to spoil it for anyone going to this evening's final performance, all I can say is that this has certainly been yet another complete triumph across the board! But, enough from me, and allow me to make this slightly unusual juncture by handing over to Mrs Bellamy who has worked so tirelessly with Miss Blackwell and 'the team' these past few months to put the show together (and it defeats me how they can take one script, a cast and crew of over 160 schoolgirls from age 11 upwards and turn it into something that can only be described as completely flawless!):

"Miss Blackwell and I have been truly blown away by the performances this week in our school musical '*Legally Blonde*' - the sheer level of hard work and focus has been phenomenal, not to mention the exceptional talent on display within our cast. The girls have managed to convey convincing characters and capture the comedic moments through both their acting and singing, managing to really tell the full story - we are so proud of you and thank you for your outstanding commitment to making the show happen at such a level. I must also commend the assistant directors and stage crew, in the dressing rooms, side of stage and in the box, who have made this week happen in a slick and professional way. We couldn't ask for a more focused and calm team - the amount of time rehearsing scene changes, making and sourcing props, rehearsing the many mic changes (16 radio mics!) and countless other jobs has been huge - very well done, team!"

Again, my huge congratulations to Mrs Bellamy, Miss Blackwell, Mrs Leigh, Mrs Smith and the very many other members of staff who have orchestrated so many things to pull this stunning show together. Suffice to say, I can't wait for tonight and, for those of you who were lucky enough to buy tickets, I can only say that you are in for a huge treat!

On to the week's news ...





World Book Day – competition results!

Last week's World Book Day encouraged students to get involved with several reading-related competitions. The results are now in!

On Monday, the winning entry for the World Book Day door competition was announced. After detailed note-taking, intent discussion and some passionate debate, the Head Girl Team awarded the winning prize to Lower 5N, who created a stunning interpretation of the Rainbow Magic series. Not only was their door interactive and colourful, it also incorporated a number of Maynard-specific details, blending the books and the school with great fun. Whilst it was immensely difficult to choose other winners, highly commended prizes went to Upper 4P's inventive and beautiful 'The Sword in the Stone' door, Lower 4N's detailed and edgy 'Frozen Charlotte' door and Upper 5N's carefully crafted version of 'Five Feet Apart'. It's safe to say that the range and ingenuity of decorations this year were highly enjoyable and impressive, and were even commented on by some of the authors themselves via Twitter.

Equally, the winners of the Get Caught Reading photo competition are as follows:

Junior School and Pre-Prep – Ella (Year 6P) and Charlotte (Year 4)

Senior School – Emma (Lower 4P) and Ruby (Upper 3N)

Voted favourite photo by students and staff – Harleigh (Lower 4Q)

Mrs Bean and Mrs Hourihan were very impressed by all of the photos submitted, and it looks like a lot of fun was had when taking them! Thank you to everyone who sent a photo.

Finally, students attempted to identify staff members hidden behind books in the 'Who's Behind the Book?' competition. This clearly proved a tough challenge, as there were over fifty entries and only four correct answer slips. The winner (drawn from a hat) was Dorothy in Lower 4P.

For the final event of our World Book Day celebrations, it was a pleasure to welcome back the Crediton Community Bookshop schools' team to host their World Book Day book fair. Girls from Year 5 and above flocked to the library to snap up some lovely books from their 20 Top Reads for children, plus a few choices just for us! We also added some great books to our library collection. It was wonderful to hear girls saying they were buying not just for themselves, but for little brothers and even their mums! We hope everyone enjoys their new books and we, too, are very happy to have supported a local community bookshop – it's well worth a visit the next time you are in Crediton!

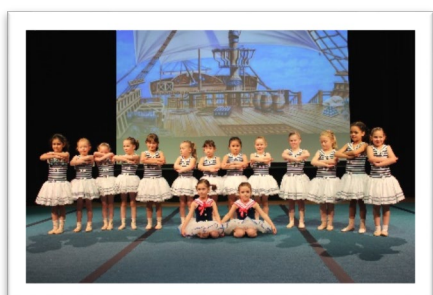
Ballet & Modern Dance Showcase

On Monday, our much anticipated Pre-Prep and Junior School Ballet and Modern Dance Showcase was held to a packed audience in the Performing Arts Centre, all eager to see the choreographed pieces that the girls have been working towards in their Ballet and Modern dance clubs.

Due to the growth of the Junior and Pre-Prep departments we have had to re-scale the previously held Gym and Dance Show as we are no longer able to fit everyone in the performance space! So this was an opportunity for the younger members of the Junior School to perform on stage, along with those who continue to take ballet up the school. Years 3 - 6 will be working towards their version of the event with our gymnast groups in the Autumn Term.

With all the excitement and experience that a costumed show brings, the 60+ girls performing were beaming with smiles, adorned with sequins and danced to lots of oohs and aahs and rapturous applause! It was so lovely to see some of our older Pre-Prep girls leading the younger Reception dancers around the stage with such confidence and poise. And we were all treated to a wonderful solo performance from the supremely talented Hayley in Year 6 - Hayley is a Junior Associate with the Royal Ballet and currently auditioning for a place at full time ballet schools next year; she closed the show with her Exeter Festival piece to a remixed version of The Nutcracker and the younger girls in the audience were all spellbound by her!

Our thanks extend to our dance teachers, Mrs Barlow (Ballet) and Mrs Connor (Modern), for their choreography and wonderful work with the girls, and also the Pre-Prep team who had their work cut out backstage with so many swift costume changes for such excited little people! A big thank you also to the audience who raised a fantastic £167 for SOS Africa in the retiring collection.



Best ever Devon Performing Arts results - A report from Mrs Leonard



The Maynard girls did brilliantly at the recent Devon Performing Arts Festival, and I was so proud of them all. I don't think I have ever seen so many Honours awarded!

Catherine (Year 3R) won the Verse Speaking 7 years and Molly (also Year 3R) was second, both with Honours.

Amelia, Charlotte and Bella (Year 4) were joint third in Verse Speaking 8 years, all with Honours.

Iris (Year 5) gained Honours and third place for Verse Speaking 9 years.

Tia (Year 6) gained Honours and second place for Verse Speaking 10 years. She also gained Distinction for her Original Poem.

Hannah (Upper 3) won the Verse Speaking 11 years and Rose was second, both with Honours.

India (Lower 4) won the Verse Speaking 12 years whilst Hannah Sophia and Susanna were joint second and Kristina and Zoe finished in joint third, all with Honours.

Eleanor Cumbley (Lower 5) won the Verse speaking 13/14 years with Honours. Marianna Clarkson gained second.

Hannah & Rosie and Claudia & Rose (all Upper 3) were joint second in the Duologue Acting Class 11 & Under with Honours.

Kristina & Honey (Lower 4) won the Duologue Acting Class 12/13 years and Hannah Sophia & India were second, all with Honours.

Fantastic results and congratulations to them all!



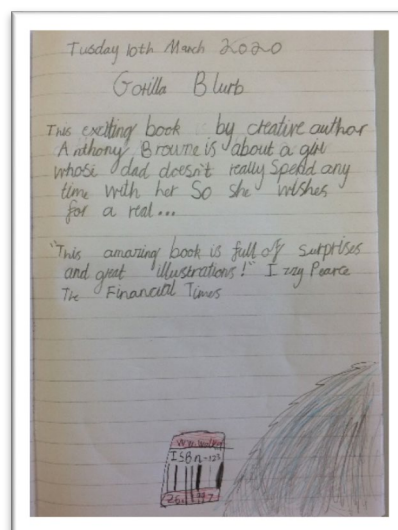
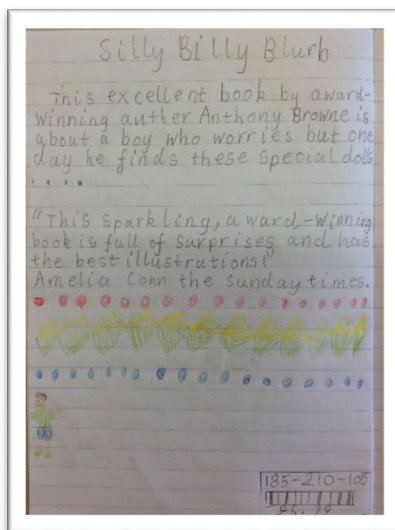
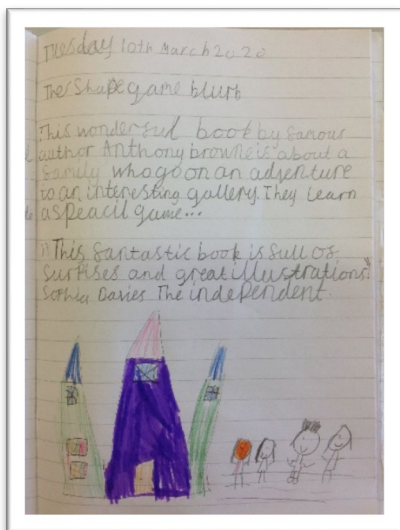
Reception always love a little frogspawn - From Mrs Riley



Reception class have been studying the frogspawn they collected from the school pond last week. It has grown into tadpoles already! The girls were intrigued to find out if tadpoles bite so we got the magnifying glass out to look closely at their mouths and I put my finger in the water to show that they would be interested in my finger but didn't have teeth to bite me. Most of the girls wanted to put their fingers in the water, too, just to double check! Hands all washed afterwards!

Authors for a day!

For World Book Week, Year 2 have been immersing themselves in the wonderful books of Anthony Browne. The girls chose their favourite Anthony Browne book and wrote their own blurb for the back cover.



Springtime at Forest School



Year 3R have been having fun in Forest School, talking about the life of a Celt and taking turns lighting the fire in their 'roundhouse'. Instead of Celtic culinary delights they enjoyed toasted marshmallows with melted chocolate...

It was a beautiful sunny morning, with Spring in the air and Mrs Davey scooped up some frog spawn from our school pond, much to the delight of the girls! It was lovely to see such enthusiasm and joy on the girls' faces and a great way to finish our week.

Engineering in Year 4

Year 4 have put their engineering skills to good use this week in Forest School designing and making dens to withstand 'Storm Davey'. Our 'den'gineers did really well working in small teams looking for natural resources to add to the one plastic sheet that was provided for them. All dens managed to keep the girls dry when Storm Davey arrived, although we suspect that a few of the cross winds caused some issues for those without side protection!



A Mathematical Feast for the Lower 5s



A group of Lower 5 mathematicians went to the Met Office last Friday to compete in a Mathematical Feast of Problem Solving. They competed against 17 other schools from around the region in four rounds. Many of the rounds involved material that the girls have yet to come across and they coped admirably. One of the rounds involves the girls having just three minutes to look at a poster regarding a topic that is studied as an option in Further Mathematics A-Level and then answer a series of questions. This they did successfully dropping just one mark - they are now skilled in Linear Programming and can use it to solve a realistic problem found in the world of work.

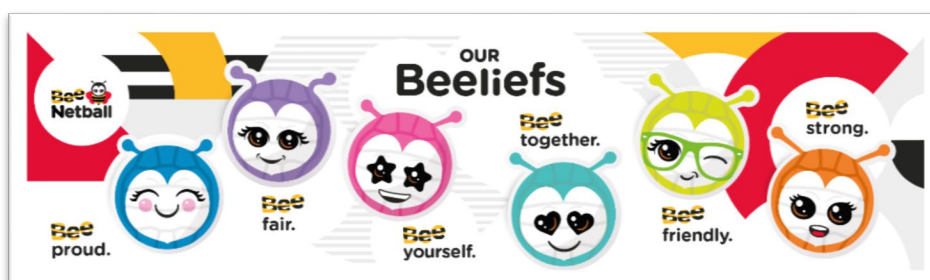
The girls thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and the tour of the fascinating Met Office afterwards. Well done, girls!

Bee Netball for Year 4

It's end of season tournament time for many of our netball squads and, despite some pretty chilly and wet conditions yesterday, our Year 4 team were brilliant at their Bee Netball tournament at Exeter School. These tournaments have been held to promote the values of respect, excellence and determination along with the England Bee Netball principles of Bee Proud, Bee Fair, Bee Strong, Bee Friendly, Bee Yourself and Bee Together.

Our team showed all of these characteristics throughout the afternoon, and I was so pleased to see them helping each other and also the girls on the other teams, playing fairly and trying their best. The staff at the tournament were asked to nominate a player for the Sportsmanship Award, which was given to one of our team - Milly W in Year 4, on account of how she had been very considerate and kind to a player from another team when they had bumped into each other.

We look forward to the Year 6 equivalent tournament this afternoon and more senior age groups to follow next week, too.



Swimming success for Lydia

A huge well done to Lydia in Year 6 who was picked as a member of the Exeter City Swimming Club to compete in the relay team last weekend at the Devon County ASA Championship.

The team finished third in both the Individual Medley and the Freestyle Relay, breaking the Devon record by 15 seconds and seven seconds respectively.

Final Netball game for First Team

The First team played a poignant match against West Buckland on Tuesday, clocking a good 20-20 draw after some super fast and accurate play by both teams. For four girls it was their last match in the Maynard Pink dress as we wave Ruby, Faye, Anna and Annie off to pastures new at the end of this academic year. They have been fantastic ambassadors for the school and we will miss them very much!

Park Running on International Women's Day



The Girls School Association (GSA) has set a challenge to all its member schools to encourage as many girls in Year 9 (aged 14) and above, and staff, to take part in at least one parkrun event during the month of March.

As a school we are hoping to support all of our local parkrun events (Exeter Riverside, Killerton House, Haldon Forest, Parke House and Exmouth) and can report that two of our intrepid Sixth Form, along with two staff members, managed to complete the first Saturday run at Killerton last weekend. So well done to Olivia and Anna, Miss Gwynne and Mrs Holt for sloshing and sliding their way around the rather muddy course!



Equally, four lovely Year 10 girls joined Elizabeth Bowden down at the Quay in Exeter for their parkrun last weekend. They joined many other girls from GSA schools from across the country on this initiative, all showing brilliant displays of friendship and resilience to mark International Women's Day.

We also hope to see some more of our school community out for the next two runs. Tomorrow will see us supporting

all the local runs again and next Saturday we are hoping to encourage as many students and staff (and possibly parents.....) to attend Exeter Riverside.

Parkrun is a 5km run which takes place every Saturday at 0900 in each location (although there are briefings just before which should be attended). If you wish to take part and have a time recorded for your efforts then you will need to register on the Parkrun website and print out your individual barcode; if you just wish to take part then you are always welcome to turn up to any event.

Do remember that although it says parkRUN there is no expectation of a whole cohort of whippets – there are all ages and abilities who attend these events which are designed to be inclusive. So don't be scared, come along and have some fun!

Maynard's Got Talent – tickets are now on sale!
Thursday 19 March 2020
Performing Arts Centre at 7pm

Don't miss out! The brilliant Maynard's Got Talent saw unprecedented demand for tickets last year and sold out so quickly that it even caught us by surprise. So, if you are planning to join us for an incredible night of awesome talent mixed with moments of hilarity and sheer madness, please don't delay! Tickets are on sale in our School Reception at £5/adult and £3/student.

Join us for pre-show drinks and cakes from 6.15pm onwards and enjoy a great night out to raise money for little Raynick, the South African girl whose entire education we are sponsoring through this brilliantly fun venture!



In the meantime, have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
