

Dear All,

January came and we were off to a flying start with both Holly and Willow visiting Bristol. Visiting the city was an excellent way to begin the topic and enabled the children to gain first-hand experience. Despite the cold weather, the children and staff returned back enthusiastic and keen to share all their new information.

The first week also saw Maple visiting Rendezvous. All the children were keen to share their written work with some of the Rendezvous regulars. The children had written about their favourite Christmas presents.

Maple and Cherry class also launched their new topic, 'Pirates' with an exciting day of pirate related activities. The children were all on the hunt for Black Beard who, allegedly, had been seen in the village.

One of the highlights of the month for me was the hockey tournament. The year 5/6 children played extremely well as a team and won all six matches finishing up winners of the tournament. I was particularly impressed with the amazing sportsmanship shown by all of our players. Next stop district finals on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

FoDS met on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January. They have lots of exciting plans for the year. The two main events of the year, to put in your diary, are a **quiz night** with Thai food being served on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April. The second event being the **summer fete** which will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May (Royal Wedding Day) from 11.00am -2.00pm. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

I again met with Dan Knott, the Chair of Governors. We had the opportunity to discuss a number of different issues including the Governor Annual Safeguarding Audit. Dan and a number of governors have recently completed training in areas such as Premises Management, Health and Safety and the Role of the Safeguarding Governor.

Our staff have also continued to benefit from regular training; these include Hannah Mascall undertaking both STC (Somerset Total Communication) and Theraplay training; Chloe Mason has completed her ILA training (Independent Learning Assistant) and both Chloe Mason and Nicki Green completed a course called 'Precision Teaching'.

Willow Class have begun practising for their role in Ansford Academy's performance of High School Musical. It already sounds like a lot of fun. They will be going up to Ansford and performing some of the songs they have been learning on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Just to let you know Ann Cooper, our school cook, is off sick at the moment. I know you will all join with me in wishing her a speedy recovery. So many children

greet her at the beginning of each day as they walk up the school path, so I know she is already missed. This may also mean that you may see new faces serving the food.

Finally, it was with disappointment that we have to say goodbye to Emma Bone, our school cleaner. Emma has worked for the school for two years and has often stepped in to help when staff have been away. We are delighted that another parent, Trudy Stevens has agreed to take on the role.

Let's hope we see a little less rain, a little more sunshine and a few spring flowers emerging as we enter February.

Thank you as ever for your continued support.

Richard