Dear Parents

Last Friday we were treated to a trip around the world by Saturn Class who focussed on their current topic ‘Our Wonderful World’ for their Class Assembly. We heard about continents and countries as well as seeing some stunning animal paintings and then we enjoyed a beautiful song complete with solos. As a special birthday treat for Mrs Thackray we also admired some excellent gymnastics to The Greatest Showman’s opening song and this concluded a splendid assembly full of well learnt lines and moves! Well done Saturn Class and thanks to Mrs Leyland and Mrs Chandler assisted by Mrs Richardson for this delightful assembly.

On Tuesday Year 1 enjoyed a special Forest School morning outside with Jay Bristow. The children’s enthusiasm was not dampened by the weather and they eagerly unearthed a range of mini-beasts before designing and making shelters for them to hide in.

On Wednesday the whole school gathered to hear the final performance of our magnificent Year 2 choir the day before the Music Festival. Every member of Staff from Nursery up commented upon the assured and stunning performances by every single child and there was not a dry eye in the house!

Year 2 led the way on Thursday at our 9th Annual Music Festival in the presence of the Mayor Councillor Neil Dallen. We were joined by 230 children from 8 schools for a fabulous concert featuring some spectacular singing and then invited all of our guests back to school for a delicious lunch. What a special day.

This week we say a large number of congratulations to our magical multiplication mathematicians this week. Well done to Elodie B for being the first Silver Star Award winner and congratulations to our Bronze Award winners: Lambert S, James W, Maya L, Arabella B, Annie S, Fraser W and Millar W. Congratulations to Lucy A who is this week’s Lunchtime Superstar for delighting the catering staff by enthusiastically enjoying a range of foods she was previously unable to eat. Well done Lucy!

Congratulations to Donaldson House for winning this week’s Housepoint challenge. Apologies for the number of Housepoints printed last week which were incorrect. The total Housepoints for Donaldson this week are 2257.

Annie Thackray, Headteacher

Philosophers of the Week
Zoe M, Freya C, Myles H and Isaac F

Thought for the Week
Is Life Important for Everyone?
**Nursery and Pre-Reception News**

Gruffalo Wood has arrived in the Nursery woodland garden, and the children helped to create the setting for the story of 'The Gruffalo' with Mrs Dye. Large ferns, a logpile house and an underground house for the snake and fox to live in have all added to the fun. We have heard some amazing story telling and the children have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Features of the ‘Stickman’ adventures are appearing in the garden, so another adventure is to be had there! Miss Rendall has been programming Beebots this week around Nursery Rhyme Land. The children have been learning simple coding to direct the beebot around the course. Hickory Dickory Dock is the rhyme of the week and Mrs Taylor has been making clocks with the children with varying degrees of success for ordering numbers to 12 is quite tricky. Show and Tell week has been a great success. The children really enjoy bringing in things from home and sharing their successes and memories. Gymnastic medals, tool kits, favourite teddies and, speaking different languages are just a few delights we saw this week. Thank you for your support with this. We are looking forward to seeing many grandparents next week and I will be opening the door at 9.00am to let them all in.

**RECEPTION**

In Reception we have been focussing on the book ‘Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish’ by Michael Foreman. It is a story of a man who leaves Earth and the mess he has made of it. The dinosaurs come back to life and tidy everything up! We looked at the illustrations in the book and discussed what the characters could be saying or thinking. We then wrote our ideas in a speech bubble. We thought of some wonderful ideas! Following on from our story, we looked at and investigated the term ‘Reduce, Reuse and Recycle’. We discovered what litter can do to our environment and how we sort our rubbish into different bins at home. We had fun sorting our (clean) rubbish into the correct groups. Also this week we enjoyed the expertise of our school Art Director – Mrs Degg! We used our painted and glazed clay birds that we had made earlier in the term to create an amazing Easter hat! We decorated our hats using ribbons and beads. They look amazing! We can wait to show you all at our Easter bonnet parade at the end of term. In maths we have been thinking about sharing amounts ‘equally’. We had great fun making sure that our teachers were sharing their amounts fairly! We practised this using small buttons and other objects. We continue to practise our cursive writing and are becoming very good at it! Please encourage your child to practise at home.

The Foundation Team

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- **Wednesday 20th March** 9am – Grandparents Morning (Ahlberg and Dahl).
- **Thursday 21st March** 9am – Grandparents Morning (Donaldson and Kemp).
- **Thursday 21st March** – Last Pre-Nursery Session.
- **Friday 22nd March** 9.15 – 10.30am – Open Morning for Prospective Parents – Please invite any friends or family.
- **Saturday 23rd March** 10am – 12 noon – Showcase Morning for Current and Prospective Parents – Year 2 performing – Do come along and give your child the opportunity to show you all the hard work they have been doing.

**THE SCHOOL COUNCIL’S WISH LIST:**

Items to be donated please so that the children can make a new ‘Bug Hotel’: Broken tiles, old carpet, bamboo, bricks with holes, pallets, straw, flowerpots and bark.

Please contact Mrs Kay if you can help.

We continue to be so pleased to see the positive response to our Kind Koala initiative. Well done to the following children for demonstrating acts of particular kindness this week: James N and Erin O.

**PLAYGROUND PANTHERS**

This week’s playground panthers are Sophia A, Saraya J, Sophie R and Emma S.

Mathletics: Congratulations to Charlie and George S, Joshua C and Arisa A for achieving Gold and to Elodie B and Elliza M for gaining their Silver Awards.

Please remember that you can now follow us on Twitter at StChrisEpsom for information and weekly highlights.