



FLORA NEWS

Head's Blog

Having been involved in Education for over 25 years, I have been a witness to many 1000's of children moving onto the next stage of their learning, be that transition from EYFs to KS1, KS1 to KS2, the move from primary to secondary school and of course the move from secondary school to University or work. I was sure that I had seen and witnessed it all, but how poorly prepared I was when that final stage of transition, A levels to University, took place with my daughter last weekend!

It seems like only yesterday that I was bringing her home from hospital, seeing her take her first steps, teething, talking (and she hasn't stopped since she uttered her first words), riding her bike, etc. I remember fondly the school plays and sports days, I remember (not so fondly) the SATs days and examination results days that seem ever increasing with ever changing goal posts.

It is only now that I really look back at the amazing times we have had and the joy that all children bring us as parents. If I could have my time again I would appreciate those times more, I would do more to support her and I would do even more to appreciate the wonderful gift that our children should be to us all.

It reminded me to re-read the poem by C Day-Lewis:

Walking Away

*It is eighteen years ago, almost to the day –
A sunny day with leaves just turning,
The touch-lines new-ruled – since I watched you play
Your first game of football, then, like a satellite
Wrenched from its orbit, go drifting away
Behind a scatter of boys. I can see
You walking away from me towards the school
With the pathos of a half-fledged thing set free
Into a wilderness, the gait of one
Who finds no path where the path should be.
That hesitant figure, eddying away
Like a winged seed loosened from its parent stem,
Has something I never quite grasp to convey
About nature's give-and-take – the small, the scorching
Ordeals which fire one's irresolute clay.
I have had worse partings, but none that so
Gnaws at my mind still. Perhaps it is roughly
Saying what God alone could perfectly show –
How selfhood begins with a walking away,
And love is proved in the letting go.*

To take my mind off my daughter going to University, I travelled down to Nethercott on Sunday to visit the Y6's and Y5's on their residential stay with Farms for City Children. What a fantastic time the children are having and to see the enjoyment, discovery and learning taking place early was very special. A massive thanks to Mrs Brand, Mr Finney, Mr Jones and Miss Woodcock for taking this trip. 6.30 starts each morning, hard graft on the farm and 10pm nights - that is commitment for you! I am sure plenty of pictures and stories will return with the Farmers on Friday.

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Head's Blog continued...

Whilst in Nethercott I made an amazing scientific discovery. Meet Bernard, the turkey.....



In Bernard's roost the children found an egg! As you have guessed Bernard is a male and lives on his own! Now in these times of 'gender neutral' school uniforms and growing gender dysphoria rumours spread. However, the farmer assured us that Bernard was not the first reproductive gobbler, but in fact one of the children had planted the egg! Mystery solved....



Thursday 28th Sept - Special assembly at 9.10am!

We have been shortlisted for a Skipton Building Society Grassroots Giving award of funding from over 700 applications from community groups, clubs and organisations across the UK. They are really impressed with the work we do here at the school, especially in the wildlife garden. We have the opportunity to receive a £500 award and this is all based upon votes, with the top 164 groups receiving an award. Voting is now open and will close on 13th October 2017.

To vote for us please click on the link below, selecting the London area and you will find Flora Gardens listed here:
<https://www.skiptongrg.co.uk/apply-for-funding/2017-shortlisted-groups/>

PTA Macmillan Coffee Morning

*Friday 29th September
 at 9.15am in the Library*

Everyone is welcome! New parents are especially encouraged to attend as it's the perfect opportunity to meet our PTA and parent community, whilst enjoying some delicious cake and raising money for a great cause.

Term Dates

Attached to this email you will find our term dates. Please take note of the change to the date that pupils return after the Christmas break, which is now Tuesday 9th January, as we have added one more inset day.

ATTENDANCE

Monday 11th – Friday 25th September 2017	
Class	Attendance
Nursery	96.1%
Reception	96.8%
Year 1	87.4%
Year 2	90.4%
Year 3	91.4%
Year 4	97.7%
Year 5F	94.7%
Year 6F	99.5%
Year 6G	90.4%
Totals	92.8%

Room for improvement in Year 1 and well done to Year 6F!

Superstars!

- Nursery – Deeqa**
- Reception – Kye-Michael**
- Year 1 – Ilyas**
- Year 2 – Eloise**
- Year 3 – Xela**
- Year 4 – Engracia**
- Year 5 – Auguste**
- Year 6F – Leo**
- Year 6G – Marwa**

Well done!