



FLORA NEWS



Head's Blog

We have had a lot of new pupils join this week which is great news and I hope you have a wonderful time at Flora Gardens.

You might have heard about Marcus Hutchins who helped shut down the cyber-attack virus that threatened the NHS computer system earlier this year. The detail seized upon by the press was that this young man had failed his GCSE IT when at school.

This is part of what is becoming a sub-genre of the narrative around exams, where details of famously successful people who failed their exams are published, seemingly with the aim of making anxious students feel better. Examples range from Jeremy Clarkson's twitter boast last summer: 'If your A level results aren't joyous take comfort from the fact I got a C and two Us. And I have a Mercedes Benz' to the revelation that Robbie Williams failed all his exams 'really badly.' And then there's the ubiquitous – but untrue - tale of Einstein failing maths at school.

Any teacher will tell you that schools nowadays are acutely aware of the need to promote the message that achievement in exams is only one part of the skillset young people need to acquire if they are to prepare for success in the world of work and adulthood.

Nevertheless, for good or ill, we have a system of end-loaded public examinations in this country. There is a real danger that, by trying to reassure students – in simplistic, clickbait terms - that there is more to life than exams, we run the risk of diminishing the efforts of young people and of marginalising their achievements. The exams for which children study throughout their education, revised for and sweated over are important. Let's not denigrate their hard work and commitment –nor, indeed, that of their teachers – by insisting that they mean very little.

I had the pleasure of meeting Oliver Knight, the new Head at Phoenix this week. He visited to talk about the whole scale changes that he has made since taking over as Head this term; a completely new Senior Leadership Team, 19 new teachers and the behaviour of pupils very high up on the agenda. Clearly improving academic results is in his sights as well. This was a follow up from the secondary transfer talks that we had at the school on Tuesday. I know that it can be a worrying time sorting out your child's secondary school and my advice is to visit the schools, speak with the children - they know what the school is like - and ask the questions that you want to the Head teachers. Phoenix is running open mornings every Friday and leaflets are available in the school office. As a parent I never went on hear-say or rumours; it is so important to visit the schools and have a look at them yourself. We are planning on holding a session to guide you on filling in the forms for secondary transfer and details will follow in the next week or so.

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



Friday 29th September at 9.15am in the Library

We need donations of cakes! Please bring your homemade or shop bought cakes (biscuits and doughnuts are also welcome) to the school library on either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. We will be selling cakes at a very reasonable price and every penny that you spend will be donated to those who really need support.

**'LAUGHING.
YUMMY CUPCAKES.
GETTING TOGETHER...
AND HELPING FAMILIES
AFFECTED BY CANCER.'**

If you are unable to attend next Friday but would still like to donate, you can simply text the word MOBILE to 70550 to make a single donation of £5.



We have decided to change the time of our special National Poetry Day assembly and prize giving to **2.45pm on the same day as scheduled (Thursday 28th Sept).**

This change comes as we have been offered some free workshops for our KS2 classes in the morning that day and they sounded too good to turn down!

On Monday 2nd October, Mrs Asserati will be running an Assessment and Data workshop for KS1 parents, in which our own school assessment system will be explained and you will be given information on the Y1 phonics screening and Y2 SATs. This session will be from 3.45pm in the ICT Suite.

Our Breakfast Club is extremely popular; we know that this service really helps working parents. This is just a reminder that the club is open to pupils from Reception to Y6.

Mondays singing assembly led by Sara Feldmann Brummer, Vocal Provision Manager from the Tri Borough Music Hub, who will be running it every week from now and will also be running our choir which is for Y4 & Y5 pupils.



KS1 classes took part in a very exciting drama workshop on Thursday

ATTENDANCE

Monday 11th – Friday 25th September 2017

Class	Attendance
Nursery	83.8%
Reception	92%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	90.1%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	94.5%
Year 5F	96.9%
Year 6F	97.2%
Year 6G	100%
Totals	94%

Well done Y6G, this is really impressive!
Y2, your attendance figure is a bit worrying, don't forget you have your SATs this year.

Superstars!

- Nursery – Sipara
- Reception – Ebony
- Year 1 – Kevin
- Year 2 – Emese
- Year 3 – Deka
- Year 4 – Dafina
- Year 5 – Emad
- Year 6F – Ignacio
- Year 6G – Thurrayia

Well done!