

GOODBYE FROM MR MOTTRAM

Summer Term

Issue 81



St EDWARD'S PREP
Reading

June 2015

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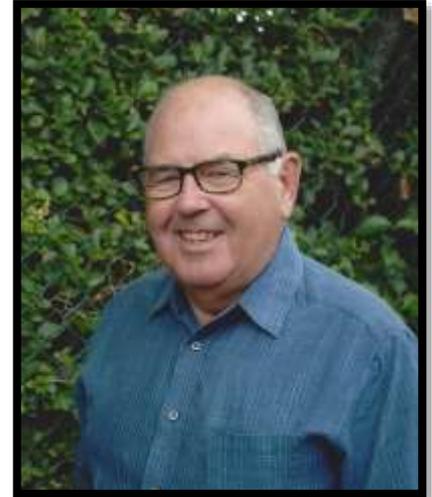
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For my final newsletter contribution it falls to me to not only say my own goodbyes but to say a sad farewell to Mrs Simpson who has, very ably, covered for Mrs Chapman during her pregnancy and maternity leave. Mrs Simpson stepped in and took over the reigns in the Maths department providing some much needed stability and focus for the boys in this core subject. Her calm, kind manner has filtered through the school and in a relatively short period of time she has made an indelible impression on us all. In the same paragraph, I must also advise you that Mrs Chapman has decided not to return after her maternity leave. We thank her for her contribution to St. Edward's and wish her and her family all the best for the future.

Bert Surtees is retiring and by the time you read this he will have collected his boys on the morning bus run for the last time. Bert has been negotiating the traffic on the St. Edward's bus run around Reading for the last six years and has supervised the boys at swimming for most of that time as well. Bert, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Chapman will be missed by us all and I would like to thank them all for their contribution to the school in their time with us.

Our Year 6 and Year 8 leavers are off to pastures new and we wish them well for this next stage in their academic careers. I'm sure that they will continue to realise their potential in their new schools and I am very proud of what they have all achieved in their time with us. As a small school, we will miss them all in so many ways. We hope they will pop in and see us when they happen to be passing as we enjoy hearing how everyone is getting on in their own endeavours and new schools.

I am sad to be leaving such a wonderful school but I am confident that under the new Headmaster, Mr Morgan-Nash, the fabulous place that is St. Edward's will continue to thrive and move from strength to strength.



Grant Mottram

PRE-PREP ENRICHMENT WEEK

Pre-prep had a fabulous week studying many aspects of London.

Reception were looking at the castles built by William the Conqueror, Year 1 were learning all about the Royal Family and Year 2 were looking at London Landmarks, particularly the Palace of Westminster and the Tower of London.

So....on Wednesday 3rd June 2015, we decided it would be an excellent idea (with the help of Colonel Jon Swift, who is a Fusilier) to visit the Tower of London and find out why it was so important.

The coach journey was a long one but the boys were fantastic, keeping themselves and each other amused.

On arriving in London, we had a little detour over the Tower Bridge which was truly spectacular. From there we could see the Shard, the River Thames, The London Eye and many boats along with several bridges and smaller landmarks. We drove past the Palace of Westminster and Big Ben which obligingly chimed for us as we went past. We saw Westminster Abbey looking stunning in the sunshine!

However, saving almost the best to last, we arrived at the White Tower. The weather was absolutely perfect and I think we really saw it at its best. In groups, we first went to see the Crown Jewels. They were housed in a dark, atmospheric vault. The splendour of the exhibits literally took our breath away... although I have to say, some boys were just as interested in the size of the vault door which closes at night to keep the jewels safe! The favourite was the St. Edward's Crown of course!

We then visited The Fusiliers Regimental Museum which traced the history of the regiment up to the present day. It was interesting to see how weapons and uniforms have changed over the years. The boys had a wonderful time trying on a bullet-proof helmet

(heavy) and trying to lift a Bergen, or regimental backpack (even heavier...great teamwork boys!!)

Scattered all around the Tower were cannons of every era which opened the boys' eyes to the power of warfare. Tracing the history of this arsenal was great fun!

On entering the White Tower we were greeted with armour for men and horses from the time of Henry VIII. The exhibits were incredible and ever changing...from Henry as a young man to the older king. The armour size changed correspondingly...i.e. got a lot bigger! One of our favourite displays was that of the armour of John of Gaunt who was of a legendary size....one of our top flight rugby forwards may have fitted into this armour well! ...and a small, beautifully decorated armour which may have been for Henry VIII's son, Edward VI when he was 4 or 5 years old. An amazing contrast!

We were all fascinated with the gifts to the Royal Family from around the world, such as a Samurai Warrior Armour with weapons and a Native American Indian headdress.

As we climbed back onto the coach to come home, we were all tired but knew that the long trip had been worth every minute.

We would recommend that anyone with a day to spare during the Summer holidays should spare time to visit the Tower where your son can act as a guide and show you all the historical wonders which are held in there! Just make sure the ravens are still flying before you go!

A big thank you to Miss Elwood for organising such an informative day.

R. Daley-Franks



**LOTS MORE
PICTURES ON
FACEBOOK**

SCIENCE AT THE ORATORY



On

Wednesday 3rd June twelve Year 6 Boys were selected to go to the Science Day at The Oratory School to experience a fun practice experience exploring the world of Science. The boys participated in a Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons taught by the Science Department at The Oratory. Here is what the boys had to say about the fun morning.

Rishabh on the Chemistry session: In Chemistry we learned about acids and alkalies and we boiled red cabbage and we put the solvent of the solution of the boiled red cabbage in other substances like milk, washing powder, soap and lemonade and found out how much pH was in each solution. It was really interesting.

Kit on the Physics session: At the Oratory we made a bridge out of newspaper and at the end, we put it together and it was really strong.

Anton on the Biology session: in Biology we built lungs with a cup and straws and a balloon and a bit of rubber; we pulled the bit of rubber and it inflated the balloons.

J. Mortimore



IT'S GOOD TO BE ME—5A ASSEMBLY

This was Year 5's final assembly of the year and the last assembly as Mrs Andrew's tutor group. Reflection was the name of the game and the boys set about identifying what they had done well and what they could have done better. They also discussed the various strategies they have used to cope with disappointments. And so it was an easy assembly to put together as the boys have developed a meaningful sense of self-awareness; a good understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. As friends, they readily praise and congratulate one another on successes and support and encourage those who are disappointed. They have learnt, throughout their time in this tutor group, that academic rigour brings great rewards and they have delighted in setting their own realistic goals and

achieving them. Upon reflection, the boys were able to identify moments that they felt proud of, skills they had developed and areas of weaknesses they had conquered. They were also able to determine the skills and values they felt they would need to take with them into Year 6. All these observations were then used to create a play to demonstrate to the school just how successful, in all sorts of ways, they had been. Once again, lines were learnt and delivered with great aplomb! And the importance of reflecting upon situations and answering why and how questions was highlighted to the rest of the school. They are, quite simply, an awesome class!

D. Andrew

PREP SCHOOL MATHS CHALLENGE

St. Edward's attended the Prep School Maths Challenge at Pangbourne College recently. The boys (Oliver Ireland, Nathan Green, Ansh Barot and Raheel Farooq) were superb, representing the school really well and working as a team. They threw themselves enthusiastically into all the activities and were particularly good at finding the felons in a cops and robbers game and enjoyed winning sweets on co-ordinates bingo. Most importantly, the boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves as well as using their maths skills!

Mrs Simpson



EXTERNAL SPORTS NEWS—WELL DONE OLIVER!

Oliver Langton was runner-up in the Boys County Final 'Road to Wimbledon' Tournament recently.

He lost to the No 1 seeded player who has a much higher LTA rating and is 13 years old. So sadly, he doesn't get the chance to play at Wimbledon this year but hopefully will get the chance to enter the tournament next year and the year after that too. Well done Oliver, a wonderful achievement!



MUSIC ASSEMBLY

The Music Assembly on Thursday 2nd July was a feast of talent. There were individual performances from four pianists, one clarinet player, two drummers, two violinists, two guitarists and two singer/guitarists. Chocolate Club gave a rendition of David Bowie's Space Oddity and Years 3 and 4 sang a song about travel decorated with percussive sounds. The music played ranged from Brahms to Bowie, via Katy Perry, John Legend, Clementi, Grieg, traditional folk and more. All did well but some stood out for me as really exciting – Dillon playing his violin with a confident, beautiful tone and sensitivity; Shalom playing blues guitar like a pro; Kelphala playing to a recorded backing with razor sharp reactions; and Ansh singing to his guitar in a voice like liquid gold.

It really adds another dimension to see the talents that these boys are so modest about. Everyone who played has gone the extra mile, for love of music, and become a bigger person for it. Huge thanks to all of you and congratulations too.

J. Reed



LOTS MORE
PICTURES ON
THE SCHOOL
WEBSITE

4M ASSEMBLY

On Friday 19th June Year 4 performed their class assembly on the Wimbledon Tennis Championship as well as their own dreams and goals. The boys learnt about the history of the tournament as well as studying the dreams and goals of Andy Murray. In addition, the boys shared their own goals and dreams ranging from becoming a professional sportsman to an astronomer. Year 4 learnt that to achieve our goals we need to work hard and persist to get to the top as well as ignoring our critics on our way to achieving success. It seemed a fitting end to the week given that Sports Day was on the same day

and hopefully in the process, inspiring boys to achieve success in the track and field events in the afternoon.

The boys were absolutely fantastic in their efforts preparing for the assembly and deserve much credit for remembering every line. Hopefully the boys can draw some inspiration from Andy Murray and one day achieve their own personal dreams and goals.

J. Mortimore

(a video of the assembly is on our Facebook page)

YEAR 2 MAKING MUSIC IN THE WOODS

As the third in a series of Woodland forays, using Stickman by Julia Donaldson as initial inspiration, Year 2 had a wonderful time making music in the woods today. Using several percussion instruments as stimuli, the boys managed to make a glockenspiel, a guiro, claves, clap sticks and a calung using...you guessed it...STICKS! Wonderful, unpitched music echoed round the woods and was hopefully enjoyed by the wildlife around!

R. Daley-Franks



YR 3 ASSEMBLY

The humanities topic studied by Year 3 this term has been The Aztecs. The boys have been enthralled by this and become totally immersed in learning as much about the period as they could. We have taken an exciting journey to discover who the Aztecs were and where and when they lived - who knew that there was once a place called Mesoamerica? We investigated the geographical features of Mexico and related this to how difficult it would have been to build the incredible city of Tenochtitlan on a swamp! We found out how the Aztec society was organised and the beliefs they held. Most (although not all) of the class agreed that they would rather not have lived in a society where human sacrifice was the norm and considered an honour... The penultimate part of our learning journey was to find out about the sad fall of the Aztec empire. Ending on a lighter note we were able to enjoy the fruits of the Aztec empire by first researching the cacao tree before finally taking part in a blind taste testing of a variety of types of chocolate. A lesson enjoyed by all!

Our final class assembly of the year was dedicated to the Aztecs and passing on our new expertise to the rest of the school. The class were split into the Aztecs: Thomas Browne playing a very regal Montezuma ably assisted by Snake Woman (who was actually a man) a high priest, the Sun God, warriors and farmers, and the Spaniards: a group of conquistadors and a historically very important Catholic priest led by Cortes himself, Lewis Lloyd. Manaswith Vippera did a brilliant job of holding everything together as a most excellent and knowledgeable narrator. The boys were brilliant at learning a lengthy and difficult script – even Mrs Swift found Huitzilpochtli and Popacatapetl hard to pronounce! They delivered their lines with power and passion to an enraptured audience who enjoyed the costumes, props and high energy performance. Well done Year 3, the hard work paid off; another brilliant assembly!

M.
Swift



PREP DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT IN AID OF BRITISH HEART

FOUNDATION

On Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd June, boys from Year 2 to Year 8 participated in two dodgeball tournaments on the astro and in the hall. These were in aid of charity, supporting the British Heart Foundation. Every boy who was present on the two days participated in the event, and pupils had great fun attempting to win for their team. In the end, the Year 5-8 tournament was won by Team 7, captained by Anthony Jones, and the 2-4 competition was won by Team 6, lead by

Reiss-Alexander Russell-Denny. It was a fantastic event, and special thanks must go to Mr Mortimore, Mr Jacob, Mr Jones and Mr Johnson for their support and excellent umpiring skills!

The boys raised £170 for the British Heart Foundation; a brilliant achievement, and one the school should be proud of.

Mr Fearn

DRAMA CLUB'S OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE

On Monday 6th July, St. Edward's Drama Club took an audience on an expedition through the Amazon Rainforest in an outside performance of 'The Search For The Rainforest Tribe'. Throughout the eight weeks leading up to the performance, the boys explored the use of puppetry and created their own bird sock puppets, experimented with their bodies and movement to create the physicality of different rainforest animals, played around with sound-scapes using their own rain-makers, and designed their own tribal dances. All the boys worked extremely hard on learning their lines and blocking the script, looked fantastic in their costumes and face-paint, and produced a great performance for everyone to enjoy.

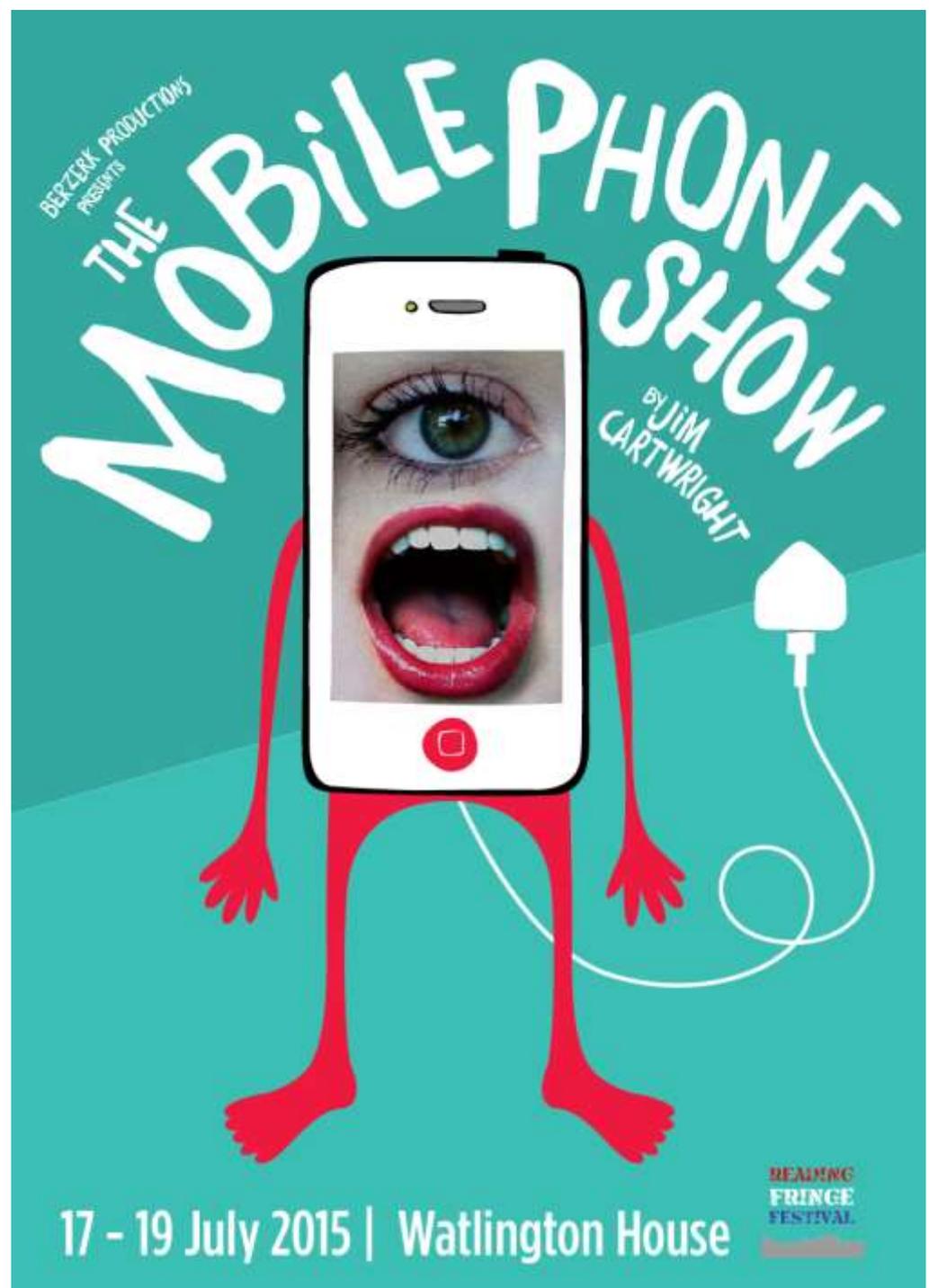


BERZERK NEWS

School drama providers Berzerk were part of the "Open Fort Art" event that took place across Reading town centre last weekend. With a unique performance piece called "The Shadow People"

They are also performing as part of this years Reading Fringe Festival from the 17th – 19th July with their production of The Mobile

Phone Show. This fun interactive show will be a cacophony of sound and media with lots of audience participation. Please do come along and see the performance and add @BerzerkMPS to your twitter accounts to see what happens and to be able to live tweet during the production. Full ticket info - <http://readingfringefestival.co.uk/whatson/schedule2015/mobile-phone-show-by-jim-cartwright/>



THE LAST DAY!

