

Lucton News

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SIXTH FORM

Feb 5th 2021
Issue 19



From the Heads



Next week, on Friday to be precise, there is a very special day indeed for the Chinese members of our community. It is Chinese New Year!

Normally, we would have a special assembly, with the Memorial Hall bedecked in red and gold, and there would be a festive meal for the boarders. While it is a shame that we cannot celebrate in our usual fashion, we do hope that all our Chinese students, families and colleagues are able to enjoy this very special time of the year.

2021 is the Year of the Ox. Oxen (people born this year and in previous Years of the Ox; 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997 and 2009) are honest and earnest. They are quiet and humble, never looking for praise or to be the centre of attention. This often hides their talent, but they will gain recognition through their hard work.

Oxen believe that everyone should do what is asked of them. They are kind, and rarely lose their temper. Oxen think logically and make great leaders. A stable job is best

for Oxen. Their strong sense of responsibility also makes them the perfect candidate for professional or stressful jobs. These include doctors, lawyers and, interestingly, teachers. There is much more information on the internet for anyone wishing to learn more about Oxen, the Chinese zodiac and Chinese New Year in general. In the meantime, we wish you all great happiness and prosperity, or “gong hei fat choy” in Cantonese and “gong xi fa cai” in Mandarin!

Heads of Lucton
John Goode & Elmien Niblett

Prep School



This week, we have continued the theme of Happiness, focussing on the spoken word.

How many times have you heard: "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me"?

And, how many times have you actually been hurt by words? Friday's assembly compared our words with a tube of toothpaste! Every time you say something, the tube of toothpaste squeezes out. The trouble is, the toothpaste can't go back in. Once those words

have been said, you cannot take them back. With that in mind, we are trying to ensure that we say only kind and nice things, and keep criticism to the minimum. I suspect; however, that the children will only remember me squeezing toothpaste onto a plate!

On the subject of speech: did you know that how you spell is how you speak? Let me explain... If you pronounce 'th' as 'f' then you will spell 'fumb' rather than 'thumb' and if you add a 'g' and 'k' we can get

'somefink'! Clarity of speech is vital and is one of the reasons we encourage children to read aloud.

I spent some time this week listening to Mrs Rogers' lessons where they focussed on tongue twisters, some of which I hadn't heard in years! "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" (what exactly is a peck?). "She sells seashells on the seashore". Remember those? That is why nursery rhymes are also so important. All of these

(Continued over)

examples help children to speak properly and, therefore, spell and write correctly, too.

From speaking to reading. As you know, reading is always a focus here at the Prep School. Ideally, children should read every evening and build up to 15 minutes by the time they are in Year 5. However, the dilemma for parents is which books to choose. There are thousands of titles available, from classics to contemporary authors so, how do you narrow it down? <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/> is a recent find from Mrs Rogers.

We have spent some time going through the website and think that the author makes some very good choices (it is written by a teacher). It is interesting to note that some of my *bête noirs* haven't made his list: Horrid Henry, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, and David Walliams. In my opinion, the problem with these authors is their cavalier attitude to spelling and grammar. Whilst I applaud this for confident and fluent readers, they are less suitable for those that lack confidence as they instil bad spelling and incorrect grammar. Another good site is: <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>

For parents, the important thing is **NOT** to stick to your child's age group if they are struggling. If they find it too difficult drop down a level, briefly. The vital thing is that they continue to read. In any case, who doesn't like to read



an 'easy' book every now and then? I certainly do, especially when I am tired.

This year we are going to stick to our reading scheme, and we are pleased to have quite dramatically increased it. You may say, "...well, she is a free reader." We fully understand. However, a scheme will introduce children to books that you and I might not have considered; an example being *Beowulf* or *Gulliver's Travels* (both abridged). Reading these will expand a child's vocabulary and knowledge and expose them to different cultures and ideas.

But I think that expanding vocabulary is probably the most important. I was quite astonished when I was asked what a 'coward' was by an 8 year old, recently. Along with buying books, or borrowing them from our library, don't

forget public libraries. They are open and they want you to borrow books! They also offer e-books, free of charge. No excuses!

Usually, as we approach half term, we would have our Parents' Evenings; don't despair! We will still have Parents' Evenings but they will take place remotely, after half term; invites will be sent via email. It is always good to discuss how your child is getting on and don't forget, even in these odd times, please, please contact us if you are concerned about something. And with that, have a good weekend and enjoy the rugby!

Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School

Safer Internet Day 2021

Safer Internet Day 2021 is being celebrated around the world on Tuesday, 9th February 2021.

The global theme is 'Together for a better internet' and this year, in the UK, we are putting the emphasis on how young people can tell fact from fiction, and work together to create an internet that we trust.

Everyone has their part to play in making the internet a better place, including you!

At Lucton, it is time for our annual reflection on safe use of the internet by engaging in the National Safer Internet Day. Given that we are all working online more at present, this day is a good opportunity to remind everyone of best practice. For parents, this can be a considerable challenge with the nagging feeling that children are always one step ahead. However, this is not true and there are many helpful organisations that can support you.

The most important thing is to have discussions with your child as to how you can work together to keep them safe. Whatever the age of your child, please monitor their use and be aware!

Next week I shall be sending more information and we will be covering key messages

with students in PSHE. In the meantime, there is a dedicated set of resources for parents, which can be found on the Safer Internet Centre Website. Other resources for parents include the Netaware or NSPCC website, where you can get support regarding online matters.

Mental Health Resources for Children, Parents, Carers and School Staff

You are probably aware that this week is Children's Mental Health Week. As we all know, mental health issues are getting bigger and bigger; exacerbated by the frustrations of the last year. DfE have put together a pretty big list of sources found at: <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/01/mental-health-resources-for-children-parents-carers-and-school-staff/>

5Rights Foundation: In-game Purchases

76% of children and young people between the ages 10-16 say that online games try to make you spend as much money as possible. But do you know your loot boxes from dark nudges?

The 5Rights Foundation have put together some wonderful information. This can be a great way of opening up conversations with children

and young people about their concerns, whether they feel pressured to spend money, etc.

Mrs S Goode DSL

Library News

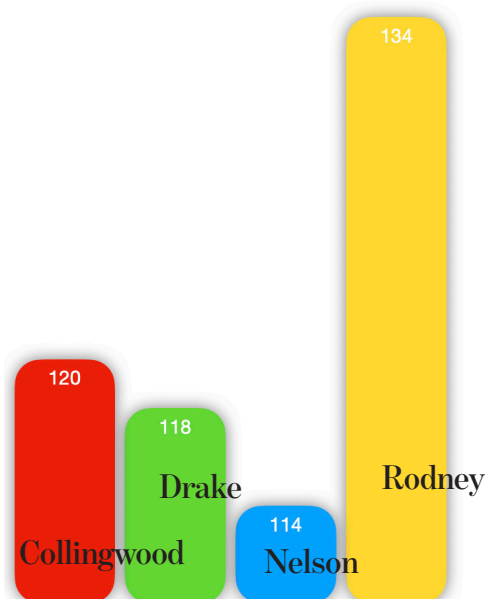
A few new arrivals have landed in the library this week.

We have a fun new series from the author of the Hunger Games, about 6ft sewer animals as well as lots of Young Adult page-turners too, and for our younger readers, we have loads of mini-series to dive into.

I'm looking forward to seeing them flying off the shelves, soon.

Miss Quick

House Merit Totals



*Numbers accurate 5th February 2021

Sixth Form

With Safer Internet Day in mind, it seems appropriate that we all tuned in to the online assembly to remind ourselves of the pitfalls and dangers that the internet can bring.

Our analogy this week was deep-sea fishing and how the advice given to deep-sea fishermen can act as a useful double-up when considering how to use the internet. As the old cartographers used to say, "Beyond this point, there be dragons!".

In other news, higher education offers continue to roll in; Will has now received an offer from Exeter and

Reading universities, whilst Angus and Forbes have both successfully completed their interview process for Hereford College of Arts and received offers, as has Keira! This is just reward for the hard work they have all put in during their time in the Sixth Form.

In addition, I'm delighted to hear that Amelia-Sky has been asked to consider staying on as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for next year; this shows quite how highly they rate her as a candidate, and she will no doubt be one of few - if any - to have held the post for so long!

Meanwhile the learning

continues and I have now seen snippets of this term's Sixth Form Magazine, which is beginning to take shape. With only a week to half term, I think the Sixth Formers can safely say that they have given it their all this term and can, hopefully, begin to look forward to a brightening horizon!

Mr Wolstenholme, Head of Sixth Form

