



Mrs Wilks' Seasonal Newsletter



Friday 16th February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It never fails to amaze me how quickly these Newsletters come around! We are now in our third season in The Bridge and I am delighted with how our Lower School pupils are progressing. Your child will be bringing home a copy of our latest Ofsted report today and we hope that, when you read it, you will feel as happy as we do. To have our staff and our students described in such a positive way fills me with immense pride. Well done to everyone!

Lower School Review

Last Friday we welcomed colleagues from three different schools who, at our request, spent the day looking closely at our Lower School Curriculum. They left us, having seen 39 lessons and 150 exercise books, talked with 30 Lower School pupils and interviewed all Heads of department, full of praise and admiration for the positive impact The Bridge is having on learning. They were most impressed with our pupils' behaviour and attitude to learning in lessons and they loved listening to them talk so passionately about their work. Their feedback will enable me to reflect fully on the areas in which we can improve further and develop the curriculum to ensure that all pupils have the skills they need to be successful at GCSE and A-Level in years to come.

Subject Consultation Evening

During the Curriculum consultation period last year, many parents requested that we reinstate subject specific evenings so that parents/carers could discuss their child's progress with individual teachers. Last night, we held the first of these for Year 8 and it was wonderful to see so many of you here. If you were unable to join us, please do get in touch so that we can arrange an alternative meeting or a phone call conversation at a time to suit you.

Just a reminder that Year 7 Subject Consultation Evening will take place on Thursday 15th March from 5pm until 7.30pm. The online booking system will open after half term and I will write to you again when that happens.

Year 8 Options

The options process for Year 8 started this morning with a thought-provoking assembly from Mr Morris. It can be an exciting and daunting prospect but it is so important that the choices you and your children make about GCSEs in the coming months are considered carefully. Mr Morris will be in touch with you after half-term with further details, including information on our annual Curriculum Fayre to help you make those decisions.

World Book Day 2018

I hope you have had time to read Mrs Hodgson's letter this week about our plans to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 1st March. We hope that Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will come dressed as a character from their favourite book – our staff are really getting into the spirit and costumes are already being prepared. Miss Price and Mrs Hodgson are putting together a wonderful day for our pupils, all based on Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. We can't wait to see who we get on the day – remember prizes will be available for the best costumes. If your child does not dress up, they must come to school in full school uniform.

Thank you!

Mrs Hodgson and Mr Queen have asked me to pass on their thanks for all the charity work undertaken so far this year. Our Shoebox appeal at Christmas was fantastic and the charity have this week sent a letter thanking us for putting together some much appreciated and thoughtful gifts for those in need. We have also received a letter of thanks from the cancer charity who benefitted from our Halloween Disco. Well done and thank you to all those who gave so generously in these appeals.



Weekend Talking Point

Here at Colmers, we are always trying to raise the profile of oracy – giving our children something to say and teaching them to say it well. You could support this at home by following our ABC rules; try to **add** to, **build** on or **challenge** what someone else has said.

I know that finding time together as a family is difficult, especially during the week. In my newsletters I pose a question; something for you to all get talking about together at home. So here's this weekend's question...

Now that a car has been sent to space, what's next? If you got the opportunity to travel to space, what would you do?

Encourage your children to come and share their own ideas and yours with me and their teachers.

Book Club

We all know how important reading is; a good reader makes an excellent writer. Reading is also an excellent way of escaping our own hectic lives as we immerse ourselves in worlds beyond our imagination. I was thrilled to see copies of my last suggestion 'Wonder' being read in school and passed around friends.

My recommendation this season is 'Ready Player One' by Ernest Cline. Set in the not too distant future and in an unrecognisable America, this book explores the world of gaming and virtual reality. Even though I am not interested in gaming myself, I was completely enthralled by this book and its wonderful characters. A film of the book is currently in production, directed by none other than Steven Spielberg and I cannot wait to see it!



Keep in touch!

Please remember that we are here for you, as parents, as well as our pupils. Please do get in touch if you need to or would like to talk to us about your child or anything that might affect your child's wellbeing and happiness at school.

Have a wonderful half-term break,

Mrs E. Wilks

Deputy Headteacher and Head of Lower School.

