



Our netball courts got lots of use this week



A letter from the Headmistress

After a happy and busy weekend at the Schools Show in Battersea, it has been inspiring to return to Godstowe this week with an even greater appreciation of the vast network of schools, ideas and partnerships all on offer for us to enjoy. Whilst many talk of the fierce competition between neighbouring schools, the reality of the Independent Schools' world is something quite different, in my view. Heads and Colleagues are in fact quite united and prepared to share ideas, create forums and to capitalise on our shared wealth of experience and facilities to benefit all the students and staff in our care, no matter what the age. Whilst we all cherish our unique offerings and keep those close with pride, there is much to be said about the generosity and compassionate way schools and parents can interact and create a better future whilst standing together.

Over the coming months and years, we will share more about our partnerships at Godstowe and thank you to many of our families who have stepped forward to offer ideas, connections, speakers and workshops. If we never ask or explore, we are often unaware of the vast array of talent that sits on our very doorstep and above all, this helps us build our schools as a community both within and outside our school gates. Thank you for your continued generosity at Godstowe – this is what makes us great and what will continue to take us to new heights.

It is probably true to say, 'that it's beginning to look a lot like.....!' at school (after all these years in headship, I never know when it is safe to publicise this!) The Nativity rehearsals are in full swing at Main School with stunning scenery and singing. Our first taste of the Christmas Story will take place next week and I am probably the most excited of all as I sit in anticipation for my first season of Godstowe festivities. The Christmas Fair on Saturday 26th November looks set to be a Herculean feat of planning and teamwork – see you all there and thank you to FoG for leading the charge for us all!

Key Dates for next week

21st November

- ISEB Pretests - Maths and non-verbal reasoning
- U10 A-E Netball v Maltman's Green (home)

22nd November

- ISEB Pretests - English and verbal reasoning
- ABRSM Practical and Theory exams
- U9, U10, U11 Swimming at Maltman's Green
- U9 Netball at High March

23rd November

- Coffee Morning for FI, FII and Lower's Parents

24th November

- U8 Netball v High March (home)

25th November

- Early Years' Nativity in JK Theatre

26th November

- FoG Christmas Fair



Lodge enjoyed having the Usborne book fair on Tuesday, as Lodge Hall was transformed into a wonderful book shop! There has also been great excitement today as the children have been wearing colourful and spotty Mufti clothes in aid of Children in Need. Thank you so much for your support.

This week has been a very exciting week for Nursery as Christmas has arrived! The children have been working hard to decorate the room with beautiful Christmas crafts, ready to invite parents in next week. In keeping with our Christmas theme, our sound of the week has been 'e' and we made elves. In cookery, we also made reindeer chocolate crispy cakes. The children were very interested to learn how to melt chocolate. The Number Zoo character that we added this week was 'Spotty 7' who is a giraffe. The children each made a giraffe with 7 spots to display. Don't forget next week is the week of the Nativity play and all children should be in Nursery on Thursday and Friday morning.

This week has been very busy in Beginners. We have had a very exciting visit from Dr Humaira (Henry's Mum) who came to tell us all about oral hygiene. She gave everyone a goodie bag with toothpaste and lots of other things inside. At school, we have been given our own toothbrushes and we will put what Dr Humaira taught us into action. We have also been completing lots of activities such as sequencing the process of brushing our teeth and having a think about which foods are good for our teeth and which ones are not so good! Remember to brush your teeth for two minutes and use circular motions! In Maths, we have been using the language 'more' and 'fewer' to compare quantities. Perhaps you could ask us next time we are having a meal together which plate has more? We have created some beautiful Christmas art and we hope you might be able to pop your head into the Beginners classrooms to take a look at our lovely displays. We continue to practise our nativity and look forward to showing you all our hard work next week!

Subtraction is now the topic in Kindergarten Maths, with the children learning to take away numbers using different methods. In RE the children have been learning about some of the Bible's Old Testament stories and this week they wrote about Noah and illustrated their work.

This week, Transition pupils have been looking at different strategies for adding 3 numbers in their Maths lessons, such as finding doubles or numbers that make 10. We have been focusing on improving our mental maths skills and becoming more familiar with our number bonds. In DT, we have been designing and making a pencil pot out of lolly sticks. We have chosen whether to make a triangular or a cylindrical one, and have been learning about the best way to stick them together.

Christmas is approaching fast and throughout Lodge the children have been rehearsing their songs and lines for the Nativity plays. We are very excited about the Early Years performance which is taking place next week!



Main School

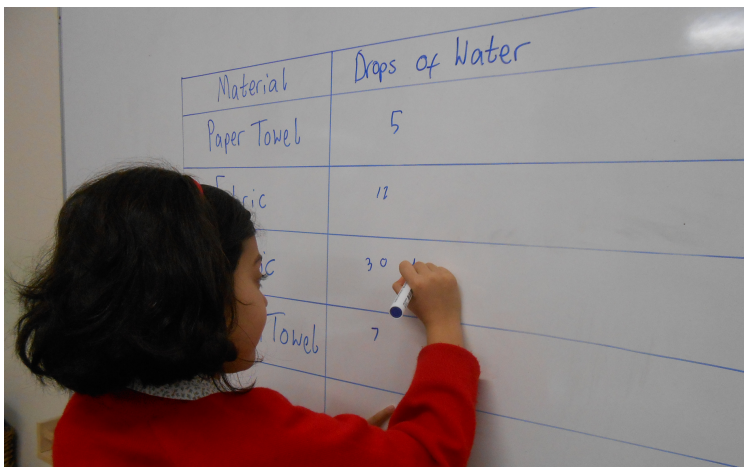
It's been a very busy week in Main School, with lots of different activities, including the Book Fair, lots of Sports matches, and some exciting Science lessons.

The Book Fair visited Main School, with every girl in Form I to Fourths able to buy a book of their choice. Thank you to Mrs Harris and Miss Miles for organising the fair, the girls have had a great time! There were definitely less books on the shelves today, happy reading!

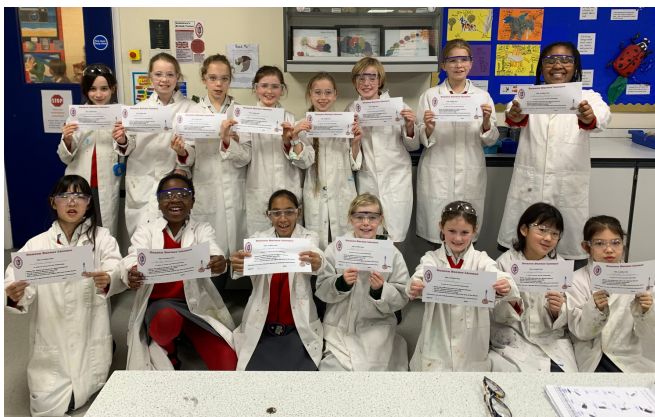
There's also been a lot of activity in Science lessons this week. Form I conducted a Waterproof experiment.

Juliana K and Freya J said that they used paper towel, kitchen towel, fabric and plastic over a cup. They then used a pipette to drip water onto the material. Their partners then counted how many drops of water passed through the material.

Juliana got to write the results on the board for everyone to see. Freya said that it was a lot of fun to see which material let the most drops in. Paper towel was the least waterproof with plastic being the most and not letting any drops through.



Girls in Lower Thirds received their Bunsen Burner licences and 8S were burning food items to work out how much energy is stored in them.



Main School

On Friday mornings, Miss Bailey hosts our Celebration Assembly. Because last week was our Remembrance Service, we had double the celebrations this week.

Weekly Awards

Boarders of the Week

Highlands Alyssa Z
Elizabeth L
Turner Lexi W
Daniela GA
Walker Gayatri R
Raychi H

Friday Badges

IC Sofia W
IH Grace M
IM Arabella W

Sports Stars

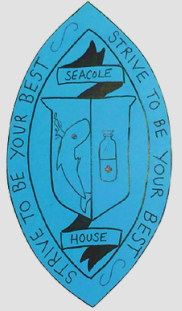
Lana Rose B
Arabella T
Michaela A
Nesia O-O
Sophia Z
Kate K

A.R

Alice D
Bee M
Typing
Annika N
Angelina S

House Points

1st: Seacole
2nd: Pankhurst
3rd: Franklin
4th: Adlington



Artwork of the Week Tabitha L

Poem of the week

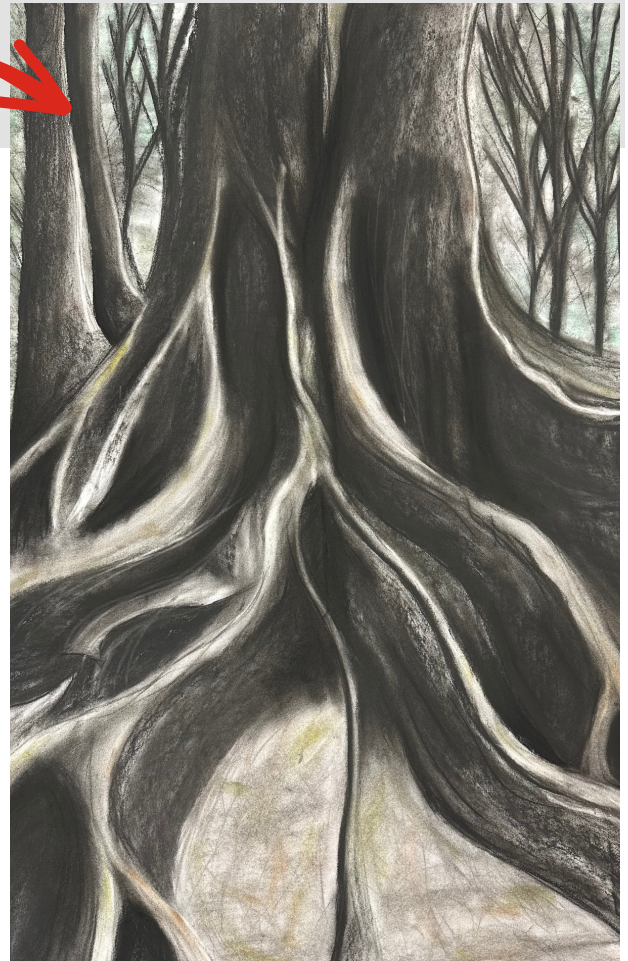
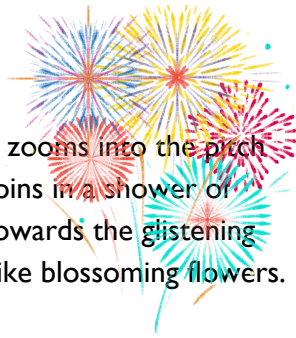
A Firework Poem, by Sophia W

Look! A blazing bright golden sun firework zooms into the pitch black midnight sky as a Catherine Wheel spins in a shower of sparks looking like superheroes zooming towards the glistening grassy ground while some fireworks look like blossoming flowers.

Listen! A firework sizzles and booms as if it were popcorn in the pan shooting upwards like a shooting star!

Look! A ruby red racing and raging rocket firework is soaring into the velvet dark sky and comes raining down on me like delicious sprinkles from a jar or a decorative chandelier, maybe even a willow tree meanwhile a purplish blackish whitish firework drops from the air!

Listen! Just then there was a pop bang boom, fizz sizzle and a shower of sparkles sounding like a rainfall!



National Online Safety

We are proud to be a certified school for Online Safety for the second year running. As part of our commitment to keeping children and young people safe online, the staff have undertaken CPD accredited online courses. Online safety continues to be taught every half term in the ICT lessons and the children are kept constantly up to date with how to stay safe online.

All you have to do is sign up: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com> or click on the image.



Boarders' Corner *Walker House*



Christmas has started in the boarding houses at Godstowe with our annual trip to 'Christmas at Waddesdon'. The girls who had been before were very excited to revisit the Christmas market, food stalls and the light trail.



Our first port of call was a Christmas craft activity. The girls had a choice of painting a bauble, decorating a lantern or creating a felt 3D Christmas tree. After lots of concentration, the girls refuelled with their packed lunches before heading into the manor house. Each room had been beautifully decorated with floor-to-ceiling Christmas trees and there were lots of 'oohs' and 'aahs' as we wandered through the house. Then it was time for shopping! Armed with pocket money and a long list of presents, the girls had a great time browsing the craft stalls; tasting hot sauce and garlic butter; sipping hot chocolate and of course replenishing their tuck boxes! As the sun set, the house was bathed in colourful lights and everyone queued up to buy some dinner. The light display was bigger and better this year, not only taking us through the woods but also along Miss Alice's Drive. As well as the beautiful lights, we were also able to admire the art-work created by local primary schools.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day (thank you to Mrs Whitley for organising it!) and we are already looking forward to next year!



[Click here to watch the Boarders' Video from 12th and 13th November](#)

Sports Snippets

Rebecca Turner, Director of Sport

There has been lots of activity in the Sports department this week. I've been extremely proud of how well all the girls have represented Godstowe. They've shown true commitment to their sport and demonstrated a fantastic level of teamwork.

In Netball, our U13 teams played Pipers Corner on Thursday 10th November, both teams played really well and team spirit was in abundance. Our U11 teams took part in a Netball Tournament at Berkhamsted on Saturday where Godstowe were victorious in all of their matches! Well Done girls, what a great achievement!

The weather was not enough to dampen the spirits of our U9's who travelled to Matlman's Green School on Tuesday 15th November. The girls played two 7 a-side matches demonstrating just how far they have come on with their netball. Lots of goals were scored and there were smiles all round. Well played girls!



Our lacrosse teams were out in full force on Saturday, with both U12 and U13 teams competing in a large tournament at Abbot's Hill School. Each age group consisted of 16 senior schools. The U13's lost two games and won one, a big congratulations must go to Anushka B, our Goal Keeper for saving so many goals. In one match alone she saved 9 goals!

The U12's won all 3 of their group games and therefore qualified for the semi-finals. Our team were in the lead for a while, until Berkhamsted caught up and the end score was 3 all. This meant a nail-biting extra time with golden goal. Berkhamsted scored first and therefore went through to the final. Our U12's then played one more match for the bronze medal, against Caterham. Godstowe were victorious, finishing 3rd out of 16 senior schools - an outstanding achievement. Well done everyone!



We've also had great success in Swimming. On Monday 14th November a team of U12 & U13 took part in a 4-way gala against Lambrook, Crosfields and St Mary's Ascot.

The competition was of a high standard with all the girls showing great determination to push the competition. The gala finished with a skins race. With a random stroke selected, all swimmers had to swim the selected stroke with the slowest swimmer eliminated. After 2 rounds Godstowe and Lambrook faced off. With not even half a second difference, Lambrook took the win.

With all scores added up, Godstowe finished 3rd. The team of girls were a credit to Godstowe in their organisation and maturity throughout the gala. Well Done Girls!

On Wednesday 16th November Godstowe Girls took part in an invitational gala at Wycombe Abbey. With the warm up completed, the races were underway.

With a series of excellent swims all participating Godstowe girls won their races! Added to this some event records were broken (to be verified)

It was a great performance by all the team and with one more event remaining puts Godstowe in a good position to make the final 6 schools to reach the final.

Well Done to the U13 & U11 selected!