



Some of our super speedy Cross Country runners



A letter from the Headmistress

As our Christmas trees arrived around the site this week, our Main School Reception, Nursery, Lodge and Boarding houses were twinkling invitingly, as I walked home last night. There is an excited buzz in the air as we countdown to our Christmas Fair tomorrow and it has been wonderful to see the fine array of Christmas Hampers in the School Reception. I look forward to seeing you all on Saturday and to sharing a day of festive community fun as we build up to the Christmas season.

I was very touched by our Nursery and Beginner's Nativity performance today – what a beautiful show and a what a lot of hard work has gone into making this such a success! Our little actors and actresses clearly loved being part of this Christmas Story and the costumes and scenery were absolutely charming. My heartfelt thanks goes to our Nursery and Beginners' team of teachers and to everyone at Lodge who helped make this such an impressive and endearing show of talent. I feel ready for the next two weeks and am most excited to share it with you all. It has been inspiring to see the collective effort going into our Christmas Fair tomorrow and we shall see you all there!

Key Dates for next week

28th November

- U11A-C Netball vs Royal Masonic School (home)

30th November

- U12A-C and U13 A-C Netball at Lambrook (away)

2nd December

- Kindergarten and Transition Nativity, JK Theatre

3rd December

- U12 and U13 Lacrosse at Marlborough College (away)



Thank you to all the Nursery and Beginners' parents who came to our Nativity.

There has definitely been a Christmassy feel around Lodge this week. Everyone is very excited to see the Christmas tree in our hall, colourfully decorated. Early Years also performed their version of the Nativity story beautifully, and we are so proud of how clearly they sang and spoke. We are looking forward to the Christmas Fair on Saturday and then Kindergarten and Transition's Nativity performance next Friday.

What a special week it has been in Nursery as we have prepared for our performance of 'The Nativity'. The children have been working hard to learn their words and songs. All the children have also been busy decorating the classroom for the parents to enjoy. They baked mince pies for the parents too. Through our artwork, we have focused on developing gross and fine motor skills and it has been a joy to see the steady development in this area as the week has progressed.

This week we have been very busy preparing and performing our Nativity play. We really enjoyed telling the special story of Christmas and we hope you enjoyed watching us too! Thank you to all the grown-ups at home for helping us learn our lines and our songs, it was a very special performance for everyone. We have also been doing some writing in our classrooms all about the Nativity story, using our phonics skills to hear some of the sounds in the words. In Maths, we have been learning all about addition, using objects and pictures to help us find the total of two groups.

In Literacy, Kindergarten children are using what they have learnt about sentence construction and punctuation, to write a recount of the Nativity story, especially relevant this week as we continue to practise ahead of our performances next week. To apply their addition and subtraction knowledge, the children have been having a go at solving word problems. We have focused this week on using number lines but also have encouraged the children to use their fingers for counting. Continued practice at home, in the car, during long flights in the holiday, to ensure they are secure with this method of counting (i.e. knowing how many fingers they are showing, without starting from 1) would be very beneficial and appreciated.

This week, Transition and Kindergarten enjoyed an assembly about road safety, learning to stop, look, listen and think before they cross a road. Thank you to Miss George.

Transition pupils have been working hard in their Maths lessons this week, focusing on multiplying by grouping. We have been practising $\times 2$, $\times 5$ and $\times 10$ and it would be useful for the children to practise these at home as well. We have also been very busy with rehearsals for our production of 'Are we nearly there yet?' as well as writing the Christmas story in our RS lesson and working on some Christmas decorations and designs in our Art lessons.



Weekly Awards

Artwork of the Week

Grace M
Molly D
Charlotte L

Friday Badges

IC Juliana K
IH Aaila Z
IM Charlotte L

A.R

Annabelle B
Clemmy W
Hettie T
Juliette W

Boarders of the Week

Highlands Morinsojo M
Turner Casilda A
Walker Ruby D

Sports Stars

Elena C
Eloise H
Rosie P
Sofiya S
Alexandra L
Lucy B

House Points

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



Artwork of the Week



Boarders' Corner

We would like to introduce you to Leonor and Casilda. Both girls are Fourths, full boarders in Turner and from Spain.

Leonor joined us in September of last year and Casilda joined this September.

We caught up with them both to find out how their Exeat weekend was and how it was coming back to School.

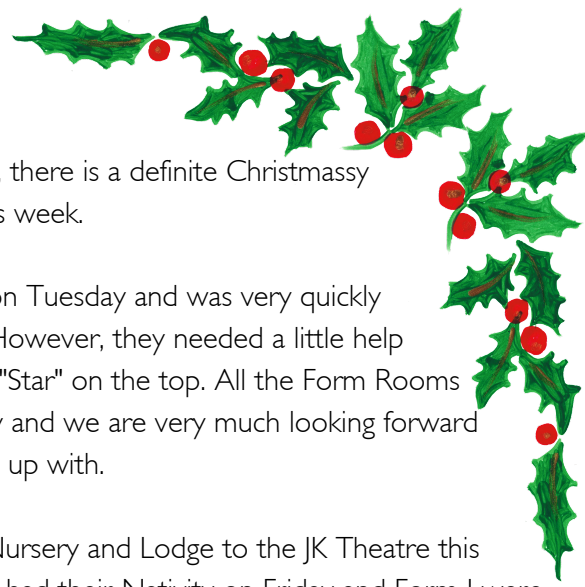
"We actually ended up spending Exeat together. My parents came over from Spain and we stayed in Tring with them", says Casilda, "It was really fun! We went to London and visited Winter Wonderland."



Leonor says that it's good coming back to school because we can see our friends and find out what they got up to on the weekend. "It used to be sad, but I've done it a lot now so it's easier. Boarding is a really good experience, lots of fun and we get to make new friends from different year groups."

Both girls are a great asset to the house and set a fantastic example for our overseas boarders. It can never be easy but we make the house a "home away from home" for all of our girls. And like Leonor said, Boarding is lots of fun!

Main School



Although it's only November, there is a definite Christmassy atmosphere at Godstowe this week.

The Christmas Tree arrived on Tuesday and was very quickly decorated by our Monitors. However, they needed a little help to put the special Godstowe "Star" on the top. All the Form Rooms will be decorated on Tuesday and we are very much looking forward to seeing what the girls come up with.

It was fantastic to welcome Nursery and Lodge to the JK Theatre this week. Nursery and Beginners had their Nativity on Friday and Form I were able to watch the dress rehearsal on Thursday. They were a great audience and clapped in all the right places. Kindergarten and Transition will be performing to the rest of Main School on Thursday and we can't wait to see their performance and their outfits!

Our Main School Christmas Countdown officially starts tomorrow with the FoG Christmas Fair and even more excitement as December approaches with Hot Chocolate, ChristmasCrosse, the Santa Fun Run and of course our Lower School Christingle and Main School Carol Service.

Over the next two weeks, there are lots of opportunities for us to welcome all of you into School. We are very much looking forward to celebrating this festive period with you.



Poem of the Week by Sophia W

Silver soaring stars goes through the inky black sky
The fireworks go BANG CRASH BOOM FIZZ
CRACK

The racing rocket comes up with no peep then it
goes BANG!

High-pitched screaming sizzlers shriek like a wailing
trains whistle

A Catherine wheel spins in the big black midnight sky
Multi-coloured rainbow sparkles fall without without
a sound slowly down to the soft ground with little
gleaming sparkles

Fireball rush to the moon and ready to EXPLODE,
whizzing energetically into the dark velvet blackness
Fabulous flaming fireworks FIZZ AND BANG like a
booming drum

Sparklers drop bits of sparkle with a dramatic BANG
and a shower of confetti floods over your head!



Another busy week for our Sports teams. We had Cross Country, Swimming and lots of Netball represented this week. Well done to all girls who took part and a big thank you to those "Sideline Supporters" who come out whatever the weather.

Following their success at Wycombe Abbey's Annual Netball Tournament, the U12's have gone from strength to strength in training and the girls were really looking forward to putting their skills to the test in their fixtures this week. The U12A-F team faced Wycombe Abbey who are notoriously strong! We held our own against them and as a result managed to keep them at bay in attack. Unfortunately Wycombe Abbey came out stronger but we took a lot from the games. In addition to this fixture the U12A&B team faced Pipers Corner and came out victorious having had a fantastic session with Chrissy Weaver, ex-international netball player.

On Saturday 19th November Ava, Poppy, Amy and Bella travelled to the London Aquatics Centre to take part in the 64th ESSA Secondary Schools Team Championships having qualified for the event back in October.

Having sung the National Anthem and a welcome from the President of the Association, the girls were keen to get under way! There were 3 heats in total with the aim to set the fastest time possible. The girls did brilliantly swimming the 4x50m freestyle in 2 minutes 16 seconds. Even though the girls did their best on the day we did not qualify for the final. A special mention must go to Poppy as without her we would not have been able to compete.



On Tuesday, we participated in our first Div 10 of the academic year the girls were raring to go. Arriving at Maltmans Green and after the warm up had finished, the races began.

With excellent swimming throughout the gala all three year groups showed a dominant display and finished with a lot of 1st and 2nd places. It was great to see the girls cheering each other on and giving support to others in attendance to spur them on. We await the results to be processed and sent with positive anticipation. Well done to all involved.



Also on Saturday, Godstowe had our 2nd Cross Country match of the season. All the girls ran brilliantly and we are really proud of their amazing running. Medals were awarded to the girls in the top 10.

U8's - Grace and Nicole

U9's - Ingrid, Elodie, Isla and Oli

U10's - Hattie, Honor, Xanthe and Sakia

U11's - Juliette, Ella, Lottie, Theodora and Elsie.

All our teams won the Gold Team medal meant that we won every age group .

Despite the weather the girls had a great time on Monday playing Maltman's Green! The girls showed great grit and determination throughout the games and we are incredibly proud of them for persevering. Maltman's A-F teams played our A-E and we came away victorious! Well done girls you played brilliantly and were fabulous ambassadors for the school.

On Tuesday 22nd November two teams of U9 netballers welcomed High March to Godstowe for a fixture. For some of the girls this was their first netball fixture, but their nerves quickly turned into huge smiles and they all played some really promising netball. The U9 Blue team came away with a 3-1 win, and the U9 Red team played a very competitive match, resulting in a 4-7 loss. Well done to all of the girls who played and congratulations to Holly Duncan and Elissia Nasr who were awarded the player of the match by the opposition.

The U8's welcomed High March and Maltman's Green for the inaugural netball festival. Despite the weather the girls battled through 3 rounds before we had to suspend the event. We are so proud of the girls. They showed great resilience and thoroughly enjoyed a hot chocolate, cookie and sausage roll in the dining room. We're looking forward to doing this again next year.

