



Our Queens from IIS



A letter from the Headmistress

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful welcoming the children back to school last week and to the New Year. There is definitely a very positive feeling in the air and I am hopeful that we are taking some important steps back to normality.

This week has been a hive of activity around the school with assemblies, sports fixtures and 'La Fête des Rois' fantastically organised by the Languages department and Kitchen.

It was lovely to see so many Form II parents supporting your daughters at the Netball match against Maltman's Green yesterday evening. The girls all played brilliantly and their excitement was tangible with so many opportunities for competitive play having been cancelled due to Covid.

We are very much looking forward to those of you attending our Senior Schools Information evening next week. The evening is an opportunity to speak to you about the whole process of choosing a Senior School and there will be lots of information as well as the opportunity to ask questions.

Finally, I am pleased that we were able to share with parents the exciting appointments of Kate Bailey, as the new Headmistress from September, and Samantha North, as the new Director of Finance. I am confident that both of these appointments are going to prove very successful.

I would like to wish you all a warm and healthy weekend and look forward to seeing many of you at our events next week.

Key Dates for next week

17th January

- 11+ Common Entrance exams

18th January

- 11+ Common Entrance exams
- 6pm - Senior Schools information Evening for FI, FII, LIII and MIII

19th January

- 13+ Wycombe Abbey exams

20th January

- 13+ Wycombe Abbey exams
- 13+ Downe House exams

21st January

- 13+ Downe House exams
- Lower Parents' Evening online
- **EXEAT** - please see [Spring Term calendar](#) for timings

Sports Fixtures

19th January

- 2.40pm - U11A-C 5-a-side Netball v Chesham Prep (home)
- 4.30pm - U12A-D Netball Wycombe Abbey (away)
- 4.45pm - U13A-D Netball Wycombe Abbey (away)

22nd January

- AM - U8-U11 Cross Country at Lowndes Park (away)

Weekly Awards

Boarders of the Week

Highlands	Emma B
Turner	Chizuru Y
Walker	Karisse W

Typing Awards

Beginner	Xanthe G Amelia K Martha K
Intermediate	Mimi-Rose C Oraia D Holly H Amina N Sofia W
Advanced	Theodora B-S Grace N

Accelerated Readers

Annabella E

Friday Badges

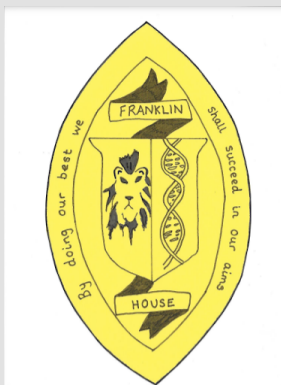
IC	Fifi D
IH	Annabelle T-P
IM	Annabel N

Sports Stars of the Week

Lana L-S	Charlotte S
Beatrice P	Rhea S
Georgina P	Zara McC

House Points

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



La Galette des Rois



The "Galette des Rois" is a cake traditionally shared at Epiphany, on 6th January. It celebrates the arrival of the Three Wise Men in Bethlehem. It is composed of a puff pastry cake, with a small charm hidden inside. The cake is generally filled with frangipane. This week, all our pupils in Lodge and Main school have learnt about this tradition in their French and Spanish lessons, and they have enjoyed taking part in a variety of tasks including watching powerpoint presentations, singing songs, designing posters, listening to the story of "Roule Galette", making crowns and even watching a video of how to make a Galette des rois! Some girls decided to be brave and they even tried the recipe over the weekend, and I did one too, which you will find below!

On Friday breaktime, the whole school joined in this much loved and appreciated annual celebration. It is usual that the youngest pupil in each form goes under the table and calls out the names of the girls in random order until everyone has a cake. The girl or the boy who finds the cherry in the cake will become the Queen or the King for the day. You will find some lovely pictures of all our Kings and Queens.

Vive les rois! Vive les reines!



La galette de Madame Labourdette
"Elle était vraiment délicieuse"



Our Queens

Top left: Beginners, Kindergarten and Transition
Top Right: Nursery
Bottom Left: Lower School
Bottom Right: Upper School





It has been lovely to welcome all the children back to school this term, and they have settled in well. January is always a good time to reflect on the previous year and to look forward to the new year, and most year groups have started off the term focusing on goals and resolutions. In their assemblies, Kindergarten and Transition have also been looking at how to be kind to others and how to deal with their worries.

This week Nursery requested to research more about Space, so we have enjoyed exploring books and the internet together to find out some facts about Space. The children decided their favourite planet was Mars, so we made some Mars pictures exploring mixing colours to create a new colour. We also enjoyed retelling the story of Whatever Next and have made a list of all the items we would take with us to the moon. It was quite tricky to decide the items that would be useful and those that were too important to leave behind but we got there in the end! We also enjoyed a walk to the woods where we discovered a rocket that we all managed to climb into to blast off to the moon after a count down. It was great fun trying to walk on the 'moon'.

This week in Beginners, our Literacy learning has been based around a lovely wintery story called 'Lost and found'. It follows the adventures of a sad penguin who we think is lost but we actually discover is just lonely and in need of a good friend. It made us think about what we would do if we came across a penguin and we wrote down some of our ideas. Some of us thought we would take the penguin to the park or for a quick swim in the swimming pool. Some of us wanted to take the penguin for a piece of cake and a hot chocolate. The Beginners children came up with some lovely ideas. It also sparked an interest in finding out a bit more about penguins so we looked at some non-fiction books to learn more. We learnt that Emperor penguins can grow to be taller than us and they can live to 50 years old. A really penguintastic week!

Kindergarten have returned from the holidays with an excellent attitude and have made a very positive start to the term. In Literacy, the children have been learning about adjectives, using the wonderful book *Handa's Surprise*. They had the opportunity to sample a range of exotic fruit and used adjectives to describe how each fruit smelled, looked, felt and tasted. Kindergarten have also written out their New Year's Resolutions; hopefully they will be adhered to! Finally, the children enjoyed making penguin shaped shortbread biscuits, as an engaging introduction to our new topic, Antarctica.

This week, Transition has been looking at the difference between fiction and non-fiction texts in their Literacy lessons, particularly focusing on books about dogs and cats. They have identified features of non-fiction books and have been writing descriptions of different breeds of dogs, developing their use of adjectives. This theme has continued into the Art lesson, where the children enjoyed drawing pictures of dogs, following the style of the illustrator, Emily Gravett, using watercolour paints to add colour. In Maths, we have been continuing our work on division and have been revising the 2, 5 and 10 times tables when making multiplication/division families.



In the Library *Victoria Harris, Librarian*

Our library has had a tidy-up over the Christmas break with lots of new titles being added.

All girls have an allocated English lesson in the library where they are able to pick a book to read. All girls are also welcome to come and read during their lunch break.

Mrs Harris, our Librarian, says, "It's lovely to see so many girls using their free time to read and expand their imaginations. We have reorganised the Library so that it's easier to find a book you like as well as be able to see what's new."



Beatrix M created a dragon

"In English our topic has been on the book 'Tell Me a Dragon' which describes lots of different dragons and tells you different things about them. We have all designed our own Dragon, mine is a Love Dragon. It helps you when you are feeling a bit sad and gives you a bit of love. I've decorated it with pastel colours and some gel pens. Then we are going to write four chapters on our dragon. I've really enjoyed designing my dragon; English is my favourite subject."

Sybil E and Saskia W met a Whale

"We are learning about Verbs. We have started to read the story "This morning I met a Whale" but haven't read much yet. We are hoping that the boy meets a whale and has lots of adventures. We are looking forward to finding out more!"

We are going to include updates each week of our girls lessons in Main School.

This week in English...

Ilaria F is using vivid language

"In English this week, we have been learning more about vivid language and it's use in recipes. We have been watching other people cooking and spotting the vivid language they have been using. Our prep is to find a recipe and add vivid language and I'm really looking forward to this because I love cooking. At the beginning, I didn't really understand what vivid language was but having some examples has really helped my understanding."

Violet B researched the Scilly Isles

"During the christmas holidays, we were asked to read "Wreck of Zanzibar" by Michael Morpurgo. It's about a girl who was given her great-aunt's diary. We were asked to research the Scilly Isles as that's where the book is based and I found that there are 140 islands altogether but only 5 are inhabited. The book is based in 1907 and in our lesson we are writing a diary entry similar to the book. I really enjoyed reading the book as it has lots of feeling in it."

Mercedes is enjoying Adventure Island

"We have been looking at the key features of the Adventure Island book and movie. We were able to watch some of the movie in class to see where it was set. I enjoyed the movie and am finding this quite easy as I've read a lot of books. We have only been talking in class about it so far, but I'm looking forward to writing about it."

Zara McC is preparing for her scholarship

"I am currently revising ready for my scholarship exams next week. I am preparing to take the Academic scholarship for Wycombe Abbey which includes most curricular subjects. For English we have been looking at past papers, learning about the different question styles and practising our answers. I'm excited and nervous about my scholarship exams but am doing very well in our practises."

Book Review from Mrs Harris

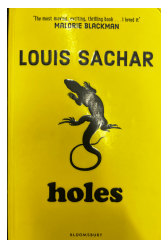
Book Name: Holes

Book Author: Louis Sachar

A.R Level: 4.6

Value: 7 points

My rating: ★★★★★



"The main character Stanley gets sent to a detention centre for young criminals. However, he didn't commit a crime, he was just in the wrong place at the wrong time. It's not Stanley's fault, his bad luck is all because of "his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather". I won't say anymore about him - you can read about him yourself! I thought the book would be boring; just a load of boys digging holes; but, when you find out why they're digging the holes, that's when the adventure starts. I had thought this book might have a sad ending but the twist at the end was so lovely and kept me smiling for days after I had finished the book."

Book Review from Mrs Cox

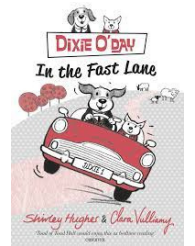
Book Name: Dixie O'Day - In the Fast Lane

Book Author: Shirley Hughes

A.R Level:

Value:

My rating: ★★★★★



"A great adventure for all motoring enthusiasts! This is a terrific book about two friends, Dixie and Percy, who enter a race together. Join a whole host of characters in their race to the finish line and enjoy watching their pitfalls along the way. I really enjoyed the pictures on each page, particularly all the different cars that enter into the race such as the seal family in the bathtub and the mouse family in a cheese trailer! Which will be your favourite?"

This is an easy read to be enjoyed on your own, or a great story to listen to with an adult. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have!"



More fantastic Gymnastics

On Sunday 12th December, Godstowe entered an U11 team into the BSGA Milano South East Gymnastics competition. The girls had to do a group sequence, floor routine to music as well as a vault.

It was a rather eventful 24 hours before the competition. Holly Duncan came down with chicken pox so was unable to compete. Elysia Whelan stepped up to the huge challenge of learning the group sequence and taking Holly's spot in this. Four and a half hours later we were just about ready for the competition the following morning. Poppy and Kiana did a great job supporting Elysia and helping her learn the routine and also had to adjust their skills in the sequence. They did fantastically. Bella Olliver was called in to do the vault at very late notice and rose to the occasion and did a great handspring vault.

The Godstowe team came 2nd and qualified for the National Milano competition in Stoke-on-Trent in March.

A huge well done to all the girls. You should be so proud of all your efforts. Well done.

Team:-

Elysia W, Kiana K, Bella O and Poppy D.



Sports Results

On Thursday 13th January, our U9's played Maltman's Green School

U9 Red Team: 6-0 (won)

U9 Blue Team: 3-2 (lost)

Boarders Corner

The first boarding weekend of 2022 was packed full of activities which made the most of our access to the Godstowe site. Whether you prefer something arty or sporty, are a keen baker or musician, there is always an activity happening in boarding at Godstowe for you to enjoy.

On Saturday, Walker House spent the afternoon in the Art Room and Activity Lab redesigning and decorating coin purses. The Uppers and Fourths joined forces for a netball tournament in the Sports Hall with Mrs Western-Kaye. For lots of players it was the first time they had been involved in a tournament and the fantastic encouragement from more experienced players to those just learning made for some awesome teamwork. Congratulations to the Red team (captained by Annointed) for their win!

Over in the Cookery Room, the Middles of Turner and Highlands House had a super time creating pizzas from scratch. With the help of Miss Fanti, all of the girls made their dough, sauce and added toppings for some authentic Italian cuisine. The smell of the pizzas cooking lingered around the kitchen and they were eagerly devoured in the afternoon.

Then, on Saturday evening, all three boarding houses took their pillows and duvets over to the Recital Hall and after supper we snuggled down with some tuck to watch "The Incredibles". We are so lucky to have the opportunity and resources at our fingertips!



[View our Boarders Video](#)

[from 8th - 9th January 2022](#)