



ROOKWOOD
SCHOOL



Rook News

Spring 2020

With all of the current concern over the coronavirus pandemic, it is easy to forget that we have, until very recently, had an amazing term at Rookwood School. It is therefore even more important that we celebrate our successes through this edition of Rook News.

You will notice that some of the articles refer to events which we have, sadly, had to cancel. The most notable of this being the Lower School production of Porridge. The nature of any publication is that articles are often written weeks in advance. I had to decide whether or not to keep these articles in Rook News – it was a very easy decision! The staff and pupils had worked so hard with their preparations and rehearsals that we really do need to celebrate their efforts. I sincerely hope that these events will happen when we all return to school.

I do hope that you enjoy reading this bumper edition and that it brings back some fond memories for the pupils. I wish everyone in the Rookwood family well during the next few weeks. Let's all stay safe and look out for each other.

With warmest wishes,

Mr Anthony Kirk-Burgess
Headmaster



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Curtain Call



Return to the Forbidden Planet

On Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th March at The Lights Andover, students, parents and staff were transported into a rock 'n' roll in space extravaganza as students presented Return to the Forbidden Planet. Return to the Forbidden Planet is a sing along Jukebox musical by playwright Bob Carlton based on Shakespeare's The Tempest and the 1956 science fiction film Forbidden Planet. It has been billed as "Shakespeare's forgotten rock and roll masterpiece".

The children worked really hard and it has been fantastic. Despite a very short amount of rehearsal in the actual space, the students have been very professional. They faced challenges such as: mics, lighting changes and having all of the set together with the full band. It's a very daunting experience and one that professionals would rehearse for weeks. Whereas that element of the production they have done in 3 hours. This would not have been possible without the help of Paul Reynolds, the technical officer at The Lights. He's been absolutely awesome. Well done again everyone.





Porridge

This term Years 3 to 6 have been working very hard on their production, 'Porridge'. This is a sinister tale of a crime spree which has got out of hand in Happy Valley, home to characters such as Goldie Lox, the Billy Goat brothers and Miss Muffet. Humpty Dumpty has been robbed and broken into thousands of pieces, Bo Peep has had her sheep rustled and Old Mother Hubbard has had her recipe book stolen and her cupboard is bare.

Never fear, Jack Spratt, Private Detective, is on hand to investigate, along with a hapless crew of policemen, and is sure to solve the mystery and uncover which villain lies at the root of all the trouble.

With a cast of sixty children, led by our enthusiastic Year 6 principals, the Lower School has pulled together and put on another epic performance. With some rousing songs and toe tapping dances it was bound to end happily ever after! Encore!



Little Rooks



This term, Little Rooks have been very busy!

The children continue to enjoy every opportunity to do mark making, using different resources. This aids them in the first stage of writing. They have also thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Sports Relief during their PE lessons, to help contribute towards the 'Rookwood Marathons'.

Pizza Time

Reception enjoyed visiting Pizza Express in Winchester on Thursday 6th February. The children learnt all about the different ingredients and made their own margherita pizza. This followed with a food quiz about where and how the different ingredients grow and a chance to taste some as well! The children listened very carefully and joined in enthusiastically. What a super morning!



Year 1



End of term tea party preparations

Year 1 have enjoyed preparing decorations for their end of term tea party. They practised their sewing skills in order to create their very own bunting for the classroom! The children chose royal designs and colours to sew onto their fabric.



Year 2



Where's Stanley?

This term, Year 2 have been busy making fabulous Africa masks as part of their 'Where's Stanley?' topic.

Simon Murray visit

On Thursday 12th March, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were treated to a visit from children's Author Simon Murray. They were introduced to the mischievous character 'Icky Doo Dah' who lives in the attic at Copperpot Farm in the middle of a place called 'nowhere!'

Mr Murray showed the children how to draw 'Icky Doo Dah' and they were able to draw their own in a follow up workshop. All the children participated enthusiastically and loved sharing their pictures at the end. A huge thank you to Mr Murray for the visit and also to Miss Abraham for organising a really fun morning.



Year 4

Greek Day

On Monday 27th January, Year 4 were lucky enough to have an Ancient Greek warrior from Athens join them for a day to teach them about the differences between Athens and Sparta and what it was like to live in Ancient Greece. Part of their training included making warfare necklaces and learning how to fight with shields and swords. It was a battle between Athens and Sparta and Year 4 had to strategise in order to win and protect their cities.



Fruit kebabs

Year 4 have enjoyed food technology this term and especially their first lesson where they made fruit kebabs. They were even treated to a side of chocolate sauce!



Year 5

Hawk Conservancy visit

On Friday 28th February, year 5 took a trip to The Hawk Conservancy as part of their 'Inheritance and Adaptations' topic. The students were keen to see how their learning in the classroom could be applied when looking at various birds from around the world. The students were given two talks by one of the bird handlers focusing on how birds at the Conservancy have adapted to suit their environment and even got to meet and hold two burrowing owls. Alongside the talks, students were able to watch the Woodlands Owl 'and the 'Wings of Africa' flying displays. As the birds were flying the keepers were offering expert insight into how these birds had adapted to suit their environment and also allowed students to get up close to the birds to see their key features. It was an action packed (and wet!) day that the students thoroughly enjoyed and one which has enhanced their learning.

Read about Year 5 Hampton Court visit on the next page...



Year 5 Hampton Court visit

On Tuesday 11th February, Year 5 travelled to Hampton Court Palace as Time Explorers on a digital mission to investigate the power and wealth of Henry VIII. Their task was to look at and explore the palace to find out how powerful an ally Henry VIII would be to the Doge of Venice. Using digital learning, the pupils helped the Venetian Ambassador understand what life was like in the palace. The children investigated the palace's architecture, tapestries, emblems and paintings, the Privy Council and Henry VIII's court, life in the great hall and life in the kitchen. The Ambassador's secret mission assignment helped the pupils understand the life and times in Henry VIII's court, and understand the type of king he was.



Build a Bridge'

On Monday 16th March, local schools joined our Year 6 pupils for Rookwood's annual 'Build a Bridge' Structures Challenge. Lisa Bateman, a Civil & Structural Engineer from Test Valley Borough Council, gave pupils an overview about the role of an engineer and spoke about different bridges, materials used, and the forces that affect different structures. With a new insight into bridge engineering, pupils set about creating their own bridges which were required to span a set distance and support a toy truck.

"The energy in the room was lively, and the pupils worked well in their teams to achieve their desired goal." Miss Thorne, Design & Technology teacher.

Whilst pupils enjoyed well-earned juice and biscuits, Lisa judged the bridges, and the pupils were awarded various prizes. Well done to all this year's teams, and we look forward to next year's challenge. Thank you to Jane Sheridan, from Ed2Biz for organising this fantastic event.



Year 6

Design & technology

Year 6 pupils have also enjoyed having fun with fractions in our brand new maths department.



Other Activities

THE NEST

The Nest and the Library

On Friday 31st January, the Lower School was delighted to open 'The Nest'.

The Nest is our fantastic new space in the Lower School. The bright, colourful interior is aimed to help the children relax and feel like they are somewhere special and safe. The children can come to The Nest for quiet time, to talk and to enjoy the games and activities that are available. The Nest is open at lunchtimes for drop in sessions and is being used to deliver specialist intervention groups when needed.

We were fortunate to receive a donation from 'The Friends of Rookwood' which helped us purchase new furniture and to make the room feel different to other parts of the school.

In addition to the creation of The Nest, as part of the developments in the Lower School, the library was moved from upstairs in Paddocks to the old staff room downstairs. This space not only provides the children with a calm and enjoyable area but also somewhere they can enjoy during wet play, the opportunity to borrow books regularly and an extra learning support group room. These two rooms have already shown the value they add, for the children in the Lower School.



World Book Day

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2020



Dress Up Time!

On Thursday 5th March, the Lower School was taken over by a whole range of characters from a wide variety of books. These included: The Enormous Crocodile, Gangsta Granny, Thing 1 and Thing 2, Sophie from the BFG not forgetting Miss Walsh as the Practically Perfect Mary Poppins and a glamorous Great Gatsby themed Miss Abraham!

Our day of book celebration began with Year 1 performing a lovely dance which wove a tale of dreams and imagination. Miss Kelley went on to challenge the Lower School to a 'Guess the Character' competition, which proved popular as a tasty prize was on offer to those who guessed correctly!

Mrs Fazal had organised a wonderful Harry Potter themed treasure hunt, and despite the rain, all children from Reception to Year 6 were able to participate.

Children also brought in their 'Read Anywhere' pictures, showing children reading in weird and wonderful places, including a dog bed, up a tree, Wembley Stadium and even trampolining!

In addition to this, children created some wonderful book characters using potatoes – Charlotte's Web and Pinocchio being among staff favourites!

Thank you to all parents who sent their children in such fabulous costumes.



Out and about



The Living Rainforest

On Tuesday 28th January Years 6 and 8 visited the Living Rainforest in Berkshire to experience life in the forest first hand. Year 6 learnt all about animal adaptations and Year 8 learnt about the future of the rainforests and how we can protect them. The children got to meet some wonderful animals, including Cinnamon the Two-toed Sloth.

St Mary's Church

On Monday 9th March, Year 7 visited St Mary's Church in Andover, as part of their RS lessons exploring how 'God created the world and everything in it' and looking at 'places of worship'. The pupils took part in four workshops to learn about topics such as: the Altar, ceremonies and baptism; being part of a community; prayer and worship and what they mean; and stained glass windows and how they each tell a story. The pupils even got a chance to ring the church bells!



Year 7

Young scientists

In Science this term, Year 7 had the opportunity to test metals to see how well they burnt. Pupils learnt that looking through gaps in fingers when burning magnesium protects eyes from the bright flame!



Year 10

Map skills

Year 10 kick started 2020 in geography by testing their map skills, modelling glacial features identified on an OS map extract of Wales.

Interview tips

On Monday 10th February, during their PSHE day, our Year 10 pupils spent their day looking at career-based activities. Kerry Wilson developed their communication skills and Stacey Miller looked at the art of interviews. Thank you to both ladies for a very beneficial day!





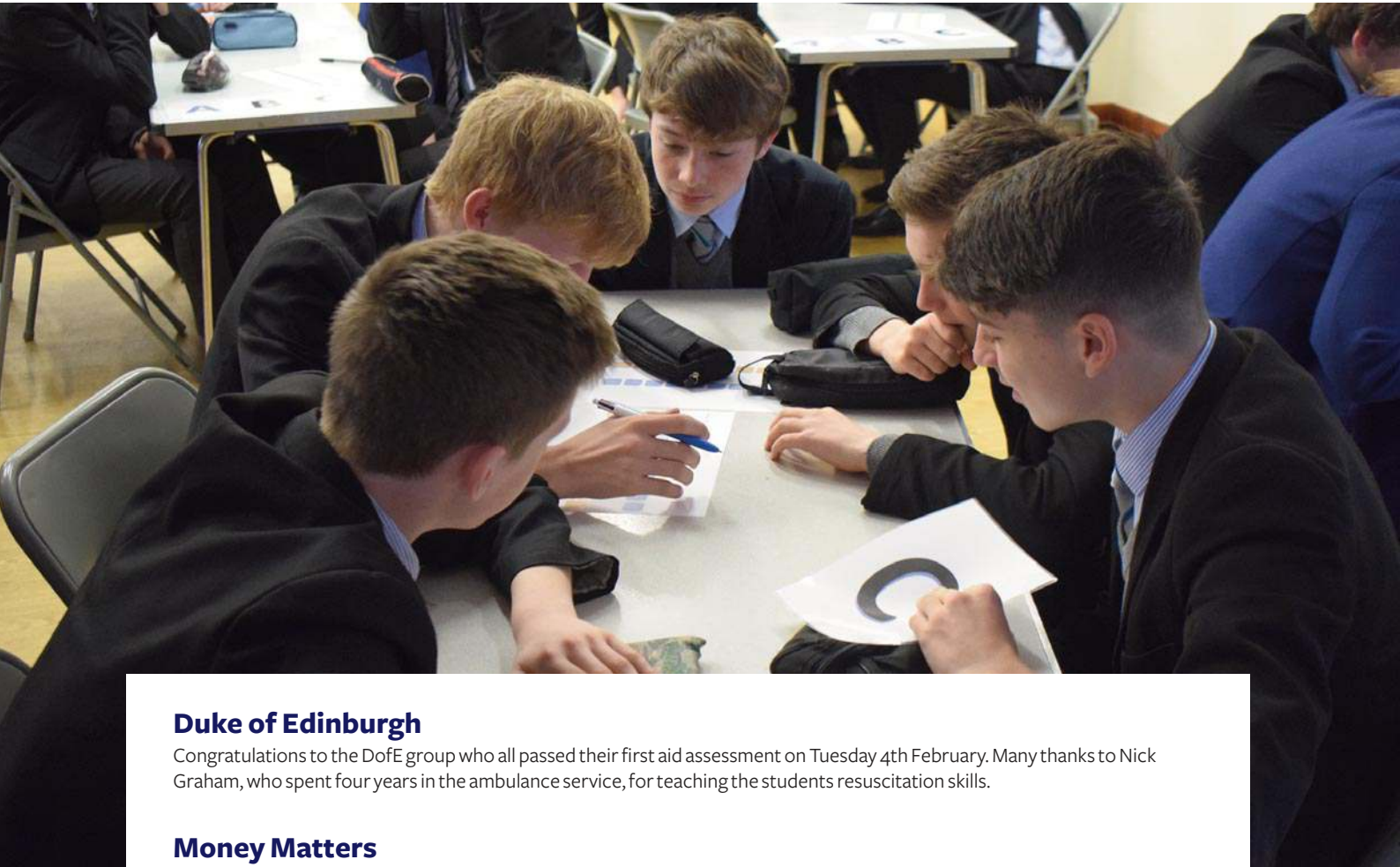
Three nights away in Berlin

During the Christmas break, Year 10 & 11 German students spent three nights away in Berlin. They had the chance to visit some iconic places and famous landmarks. The Museum at Checkpoint Charlie, the Norman Foster designed Reichsburg Dome at the Reichstag, the thought provoking Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas and the Brandenburger Tor were a few on offer.

Day three in Berlin consisted of an energetic climb up the 285 steps to the top of the Siegessäule for spectacular views over Berlin. This was followed by an afternoon at the East Side Gallery to view the artwork. The final day in Berlin included a very informative guided tour of the Berlin Wall Memorial, which brought this whole part of Germany's recent history to life.



Senior School Activities



Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the DofE group who all passed their first aid assessment on Tuesday 4th February. Many thanks to Nick Graham, who spent four years in the ambulance service, for teaching the students resuscitation skills.

Money Matters

On Tuesday 10th March, Lloyds Bank, Andover visited our Year 10 and 11 students to deliver a workshop based on financial management. Pupils had the opportunity to look at budgeting for a car purchase, working out their living expenses and understanding taxation. The morning finished with a quiz, where students were rewarded with sweets (sadly not cash). This workshop was run to boost the students' understanding of financial responsibility which, they can use in their everyday lives.

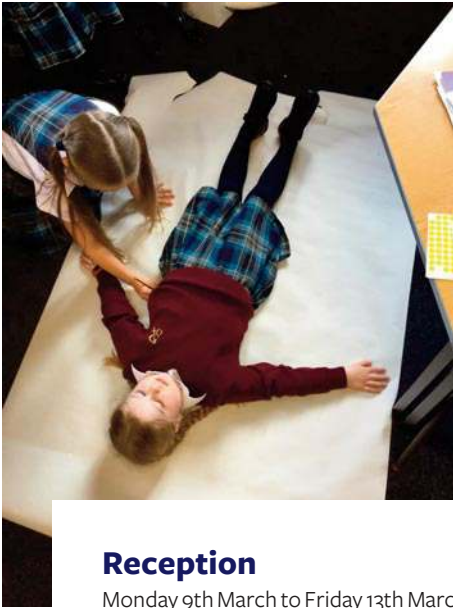
Marvellous Macbeth!

Years 9, 10 and 11 watched and participated in an energy-filled, 'punchy' production of 'Macbeth', by Box Clever Theatre on Thursday 30th January. This was a modern interpretation, performed in the round by a dynamic trio, who each took on multiple roles. Our students experienced an effective combination of drama, music and extremely physical theatre. They were required to participate at certain points, which is a key element of Box Clever Theatre's approach. The staging was particularly inventive, consisting of a set of three versatile platforms, which allowed the set to adapt to the multiple changes of scene.

Following the performance, the three actors (Nathaniel, Rob and Charlotte) led a workshop in which they recapped some of the key themes from the play and encouraged volunteers to learn a choreographed stage-fighting routine. Luke (Y9) and James (Y11) triumphed, and their performance was met with rapturous applause. This innovative theatre company never fails to impress!



Science Week



Reception

Monday 9th March to Friday 13th March marked Science week.

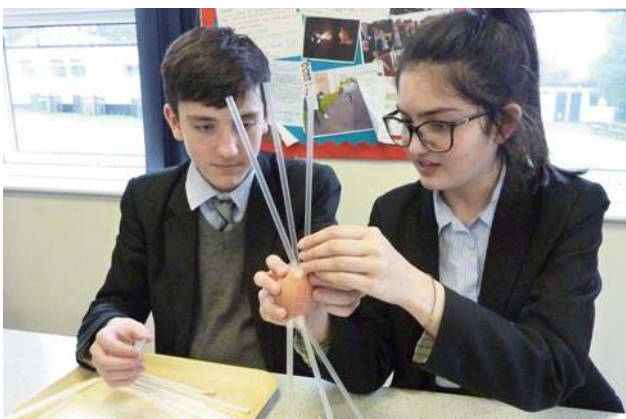
Reception had a great time exploring bubbles! The children experimented by blowing down a straw slowly and then quickly. They compared the difference in size of the bubbles. Reception also made their very own bubble wands out of pipe cleaners and had great fun seeing who could blow the biggest bubbles!

Year 1

Year 1 spent Science Week considering their similarities and differences. They worked in small groups to explore eye colour, hair colour and length of hands and feet. They were amazed by all the differences and enjoyed finding out more about each other.

Year 10

During Science week, Year 10 took part in an activity about building a science station at the Antarctic. The challenge was to work out how to protect equipment being dropped in by aeroplane - the equipment was represented by an egg and they had to create the packaging from twenty straws and a metre of sellotape. Year 10 also had to work out how to suspend a radio receiver (pencil) from the tallest possible tower made from spaghetti!



Boarding

It has been an eventful term in the boarding house, with lots of fun activities and trips. Every Tuesday evening, boarders have had the chance to take part in various in-house challenges. This started with 'Trick Tuesday' where Mayog wowed us with his coin disappearing magic trick.

Mishaund tasting Marmite during blindfolded 'Taste Testing Tuesday' was a particular highlight! Bandanas were given as prizes to the winners; who knew children were so enthusiastic about bandanas?

'Taskmaster Tuesday' was another fantastic evening. A big thanks to Mrs Neil who came to join us as a judge. The children were given six challenges to complete in pairs, each within five minutes. These included: Building the tallest freestanding structure only using materials found in the living room, fitting as many items as possible into a very small box and creating a story using only ten words. Patrick and Mayog finished with the highest points total and were delighted to receive the mystery prize box. It consisted of some bizarre prizes including a chopping board, a geometry set and a mug!

The children were also treated to 'Tingo Tuesdays' with Destiny enjoying her role as our very own bingo caller.



Food Heaven

Our visit to JRC Global buffet was a particular favourite of Jacob's, who took it as his personal challenge to eat as many pancakes as he could!

"It was quite a challenge but in the end very worth it" Jacob (Y10).

The same weekend, the Boarding house was even treated to Nigerian meat pasties made by our very own chefs Alya and Rosie.

There have been lots of other fantastic trips this term including: Bowling, LaserQuest, Trampolining and to Rock Up.

As we approach Easter, there will be lots more fun and games. Probably of a chocolate egg shaped variety!



Music Time!



Our Rock and Music Tech Club have been enjoying the recording studio and new electric drum kit this term.

Sports News

Sport Relief

From the 9th to 13th March, the whole school participated in Sport Relief week. Each class, from Nursey to Year 11 contributed to the collective 'Rookwood Marathons', during their PE lessons. Pupils also enjoyed watching and participating in the Year 11 versus staff Football and Netball matches. Thank you to all those who donated.



Read more sport news overpage...

Year 7



Netball

There have been a number of netball matches this term.

Both the Years 7 and 8 netball teams have played in the district league this term and as we go to press, the Year 7's are unbeaten and the Year 8's have just one defeat. They have had some fantastic results! This includes fixtures played against Test Valley School on Wednesday 5th February, with a 19 v 3 victory for the Year 7 team and a 12 v 4 victory for the Year 8 team. The girls have played amazingly well and have displayed superb teamwork. Keep up the good work, girls!

On Wednesday 29th January, our Year 5 and 6 team played Netball against Avondale School. The girls played amazingly, winning one of their two games.

Year 3 and Year 4 played netball against St Francis School on Tuesday 11th February. The girls played 5-a-side games. They were amazing to watch, winning two of their four games.

Year 4 played netball against Leehurst Swan School on Tuesday 25th February. They won showing determination and great teamwork despite the weather being extremely cold.

The following day, girls from both Year 5 and 6 played netball against Avondale School. The girls played with such competitiveness winning 11 v 7.

Mrs Kerrison is very proud of all our girls who represented Rookwood in netball matches this term. They have all displayed such great teamwork, energy and competitiveness. Well done girls!





Basketball

Our Year 8 basketball team did exceptionally well on Wednesday 5th February, finishing 4th out of 10 in the district tournament.

On Friday 28th February, our Year 9 boys competed in the U14's basketball schools tournament. Despite not winning the competition, they all showed an excellent attitude, amazing team effort and great sportsmanship.

Well done boys!





Cross Country

Our Cross Country Club have enjoyed competing in events this term.

On Friday 7th February a group of Year 5 to Year 10 pupils competed in the ISA London West Cross Country event at Sherfield School. The runners showed great determination. Congratulations to Lucy (Y6) who finished 8th out of 120 and qualified for the National ISA Cross Country finals, to be held at Worksop College.

On Thursday 27th February our Year 3 to Year 6 runners competed at a very windy Rural Primary Schools Cross Country event, held at Charlton Playing Fields. Six of our runners placed in the top 10 of their races, with George (Y6) 2nd & Lucy (Y6) 1st. Mr Harvey has been very impressed with the enthusiasm and progress that our Cross Country Club has made this term.

Well done Team Rookwood!



Target Sprint

On Saturday 14th March, Emma (Y10) competed in Target Sprint at the YOSC (Yate Outdoor Sports Centre) Championships, representing British Shooting affiliated club Sedgemoor. Target Sprint is an exhilarating sport which combines the adrenaline-fuelled frenzy of running with the calm and composure required for the challenge of target shooting, similar to the Winter Olympic event 'Biathlon'. Emma performed fantastically and qualified for the National Series Final, to be held on Sunday 2nd August at Bisley, Surrey. Well done Emma!



Swimming

On Friday 6th March, Mrs Kerrison's Rookwood Mermaids gave their all at the Hampshire Primary Schools Championship.

The girls should be proud of their efforts.



Equestrian

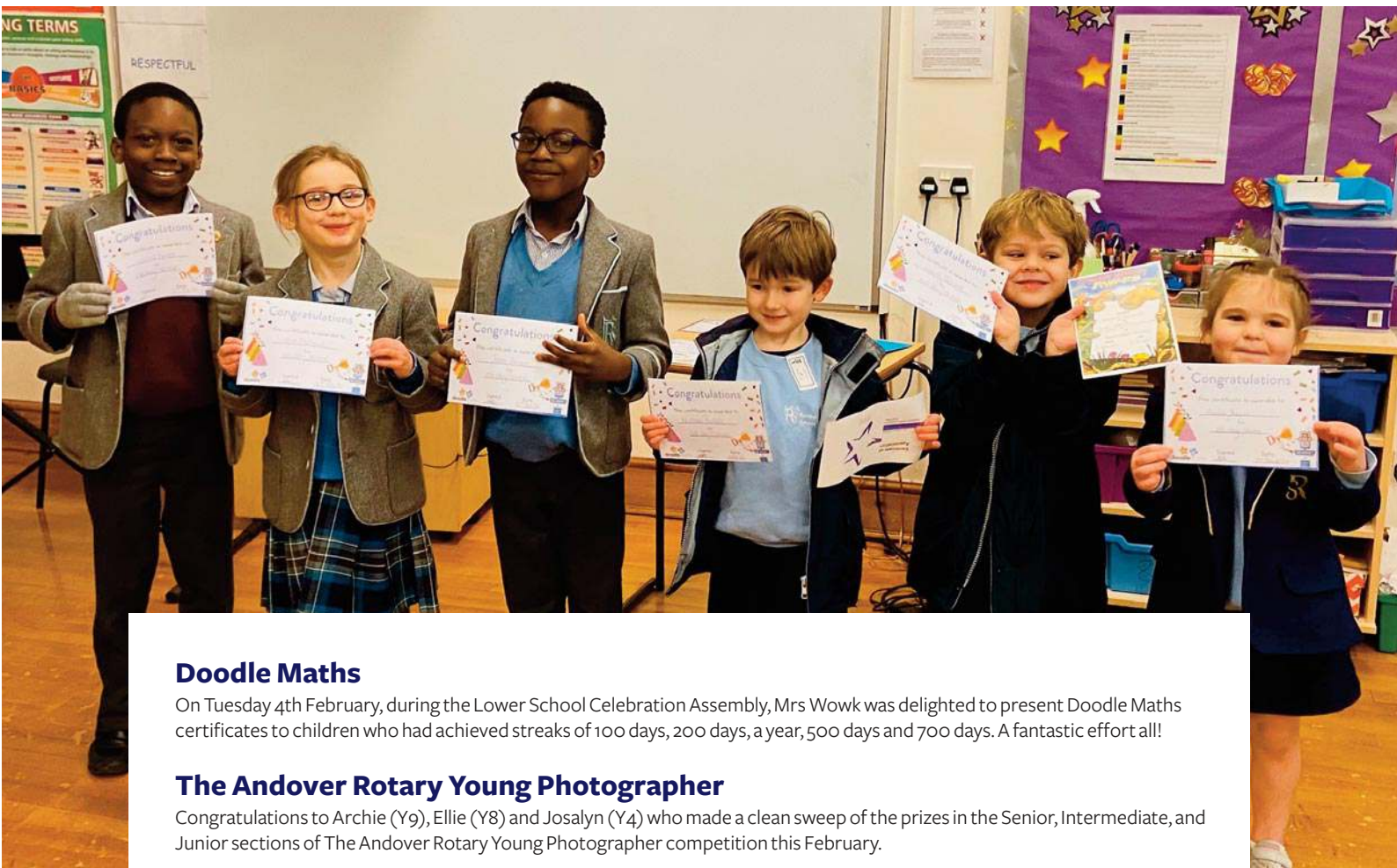
On Wednesday 26th February, our equestrian team achieved great success for their first outing of 2020 and as a new team at the Eventers Challenge at Moreton Equestrian in Dorset.

The team of Charlie (Y7), Grace (Y7), Imogen (Y7) and Phoebe (Y8) all rode brilliantly and achieved 2nd place in the 70cm class. This result has qualified the team to represent Rookwood at the finals held at Hickstead in May 2020. Charlie also picked up an individual 6th place in this class.

In the 80cm class, the team rode well and achieved 4th place, just missing out on qualification for the finals.



Time for a celebration



Doodle Maths

On Tuesday 4th February, during the Lower School Celebration Assembly, Mrs Wowk was delighted to present Doodle Maths certificates to children who had achieved streaks of 100 days, 200 days, a year, 500 days and 700 days. A fantastic effort all!

The Andover Rotary Young Photographer

Congratulations to Archie (Y9), Ellie (Y8) and Josalyn (Y4) who made a clean sweep of the prizes in the Senior, Intermediate, and Junior sections of The Andover Rotary Young Photographer competition this February.

The Andover Rotary Young Writers

Rookwood had a very successful evening at this year's Rotary 'Young Writer' presentation at Andover's Guildhall on Thursday 12th March. Congratulations should go to the following students, for their imaginative pieces in response to the title 'Connections':

Intermediate:

Bethan (Y9) and Niamh (Y9) - Highly Commended

Senior:

Charlie (Y10) - Winner

William (Y10) and Max (Y10) - Runner-Up

Mille (Y10) - Highly Commended

Certificates were presented to all finalists by the Mayor and Charlie's story now goes forward into the regional finals. Well done to all who entered the competition – we are proud of your efforts.



“ I love how I can express myself through other characters and explore the world of the performing arts! I love it! ”

LAMDA

During the whole school assembly on Friday 14th February, Mr Kirk-Burgess was delighted to present certificates to a selection of our LAMDA drama students from Year 5 to Year 10, from their recent exam sessions. These range from Level 1 to Level 6. All senior pupils gained either a merit or distinction. Congratulations all!

“I love how I can express myself through other characters and explore the world of the performing arts! I love it!” Isla (Y7)

If you are interested in your child starting LAMDA lessons, please contact the school office.



Andover Young Musician

On Thursday 6th February Ege (Y11), Luke (Y9) and Xen (Y9) took part in the Andover Young Musician competition! The musicianship of all three was simply outstanding with Ege winning the 15-17 age group and Xen the 12-14 age group! This is the third consecutive year that Rookwood pupils have won the competition!



Eco Schools Committee

Miss Brown and Mrs Wilcox are in the process of setting up an environmental committee to raise awareness and promote change in our school.

This will be done through the Eco Schools Award which is an 18-month project driven by the pupils but guided by staff.

The environmental committee will meet every term with the staff facilitating the meetings and helping the pupils with whole school initiatives.

We are so excited about making environmental changes that will have a long-lasting effect on our young people.



Friends of Rookwood

‘The Friends of Rookwood’ are a small, friendly group of parents & teaching staff who are dedicated to raising funds for the enhancement of our pupils’ experience at Rookwood. They have been busy this term and organised a successful ‘Trivia Night’ on Friday 7th February.

We would also like to take this opportunity to cast your attention to the Summer Ball which ‘The Friends of Rookwood’ will be organising on Saturday 20th June.



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