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Holy Trinity International Prep News

Free School Status

Free school status

On Wednesday evening there was a very productive and informative discussion about the school's decision to apply for Free School status. Dr Tate, chairman of IES, and Mrs Leek-Wright presented to a packed audience the rationale behind the decision. Understandably there were questions raised but the audience left the meeting in a positive mood and reassured about the 'family' ethos of the school continuing along with its academic standards remaining high. The main points to come out of the evening were:

- ◇ The application to be submitted by 24th February.
- ◇ Free School status starting September 2013.
- ◇ Classes to be capped at 22 (Year 3 to Year 11) and 20 (Reception to Year 2).
- ◇ Students on the school roll as at July 2013 will have a place in the school.
- ◇ Steering Group will consist of Senior Management and also parental representation. The parents who have kindly agreed to be part of the Steering Group are Mrs N Reeve, Mrs Marlow, Mr Murphy and Mr Rhodes. There will also be parent representation from Kindergarten.

It is an extremely exciting initiative and the verbal feedback from parents the following morning was very supportive. It is important that the parents have their view recorded and we would ask all parents to complete the questionnaire as soon as possible.

Swimming gala

Prep swimmers were back competing in the pool this week as they took on Lucton School (Leominster). After a hesitant start the pupils put on a fine performance for the many spectators. Holy Trinity finally won the gala by a margin of 11 points. Although there were many fine individual performances, including several wins for Ellie (Yr 4) and Adele (Yr 5), it is a team event and this was clearly demonstrated by the fact that the school won five of the six relays comfortably. There were several pupils competing for the first time and they were not overawed by the occasion. Congratulations to all the swimmers. The swimmers are already looking forward to two more galas this month.

The importance of our eyes

As part of their half term topic on light, Year 5 have been looking in detail at the eye. Ami Green, who has worked with many children in Prep before, explained to the pupils how individuals overcome certain handicaps such as blindness. Ami has recently suffered loss of eyesight. She showed the pupils some gadgets she uses in every day life to help her. These included a special ipad and applications for the phone, a SatNav key fob and a device to tell when the cup is nearly full. The pupils also used her cane and they quickly realised how difficult it was to use. They also understood the significance of the different types of cane (a white cane with red bands indicate that the individual also suffers from hearing difficulties). Many thanks to Miss Green.





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Bushcraft Buddies

The first session for the club took place this week (aimed at Year 3 & above). The enthusiastic 'bushcraft buddies' enjoyed the activities and learnt how to tie knots, including having to tie up their 'hostages'! They are all looking forward to use saws / knives and build a fire to melt their marshmallows!

Beauty sleep

The pupils learnt the importance of sleep in the Monday assembly – a lack of sleep has serious effects on our brain's ability to function leading to grumpiness, irritability and forgetfulness. After just one night without sleep, concentration becomes more difficult and your attention span shortens considerably. Research also shows that sleep-deprived individuals often have difficulty in responding to rapidly changing situations and making rational judgements and has a negative effect on emotional and physical health.

Cameras

Year 6 have been looking at a range of cameras and trying to place them in date order. The cameras ranged from the 1920s to 2011.



House Captains

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected as captains and vice-captains respectively.

De Matha: Cecilia Obazee / Olivia Neath

De Valois: Hana Holder / Isobel Pudney

Trinity: Rosie Young / Ewurama Tabil

Marian: Reuben Metzger / Kate Marlow

We look forward to participating in their charity events.

Wotsits Competition

Congratulations to Maddie (De Matha) for organising the unusual charity competition to estimate the equivalent number of packets of Wotsits to a adult African male elephant. All the money raised will go to a well worth cause.

New Pupils

We would like to welcome Isabelle Neill (Year 2) and Amelie (Reception) to the Prep school.

Work of the week—Congratulations to:

Aaron (K)	:great pencil control
James (K)	:brilliant number ordering without any assistance
Patrick (R)	:super writing & sounding out letters
Olivia (Yr 1)	:wonderful independent writing on avocado baby
Isabelle (Yr 2)	:wonderful comprehension / neat presentation
Madeleine (Yr 3)	:great focus on the task /neat presentation
Imogen (Yr 4)	:super book summary
David (Yr 4)	:good research on the hovercraft
Laura (Yr 5)	:accurate timeline
Hana (Yr 6)	:excellent work on musical tasks



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Key Dates

- 17th Jan** Mrs Hewitt – speaking to Yrs 4,5 & 6 on healthy teeth
Presentation to parents—Learner Profile (4pm)
- 19th Jan** Year 5 trip – The Commandery
- 20th Jan** Year 4 assembly
- 21st Jan** Scholarships into Senior School
- 23rd Jan** Swimming gala v Bromsgrove School (Yrs 3,4 & 5)
- 30th Jan** Swimming gala v Abberley Hall (Yrs 4,5,6,7 & 8)
- 10th Feb** Half-term