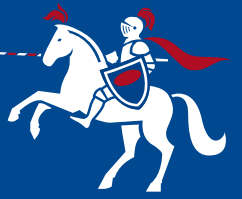


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# KNIGHT'S TALES



# WELCOME FROM THE HEAD



The academic year follows a familiar pattern and an important focus is the preparation for the Senior School Entrance Examinations. The process reached its conclusion this term. The Year 6 children have worked hard and supported each other throughout and we are delighted with the offers at their first choice schools as well as their Scholarships and Awards. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all subject areas to this success.

Academics aside, I'm tempted to say that this term has been a bit of a drama but only as I am delighted to profile our performing arts! For the third term in a row, the top grade of Distinction was achieved in every LAMDA examination entry which is truly exceptional. Congratulations to Ms Vines and Miss Jones and the children throughout the school for their achievements.

Continuing with Drama, the Year 3 and Year 4 production of *Abracazebra* was a magical and memorable event for all involved. It was a delight to welcome Helen and Thomas Docherty, the author and illustrator of the original picture book to the final performance and they were overwhelmed to see *Abracazebra* come so vibrantly to life on stage. Mrs Belcher had adapted the script and she and Miss Sharp had also composed the music.

The Chamber Choir are in final rehearsals for the Easter tour to Paris and Disneyland which promises to be a wonderful experience. It is very good to see such creativity and excellence across our performing arts.

This edition of *Knight's Tales* is a record of another busy term filled with quite an astonishing array of curriculum experiences. I am sure that you will enjoy reading about the ones we have selected to include here.

I wish you all a very happy holiday.

Christine Cook

# EASTER

Easter is always fun at Chandlings Prep. Nursery make their traditional Easter Bonnets ready for their parade and the whole school gets the chance to hunt for Easter Eggs in different places throughout the school grounds.



# WORLD BOOK DAY/WEEK

World Book Day 2024 began with the traditional parade of costumes as children and staff showed off an imaginative display of favourite fictional heroes and villains. The children were then treated to a dramatisation of Julia Donaldson's *The Gruffalo*, celebrating 25 years since its publication. Teachers from across the school took to the stage to bring the story to life.

Books continued to take centre stage in Chandlings' 'Sign up for a Story', as each Prep child chose from a range of stories, poems, and extracts. The readers and locations of the stories were not revealed until World Book Day itself when children were escorted to a range of surprising locations including the woodland area, the amphitheatre, the library, and even Ms Cook's office. The children were undoubtedly inspired by the stories they heard, with many rushing to the library to borrow the books and find out what happens next...

After break, Prep children enjoyed a visit from renowned lexicographer, etymologist, and television presenter Susie Dent. Best known for her appearances on 'Countdown', Susie shared words from her fabulous book *Roots of Happiness: 100 Words for Joy and Hope*. She captivated the audience with her infectious enthusiasm and insightful knowledge as she revealed the origins of words such as 'mubble fubbles' (a slightly sad mood), 'gigglemug' (someone who never stops smiling), and 'snaccident' (the accidental overindulgence in snacks).

The Q&A session concluded with a book signing followed by a visit to the school's "word tree", a collaborative project inspired by Dent's book, showcasing the children's favourite words to which Susie added her own favourite: 'halcyon'.



# WORLD BOOK DAY/WEEK

The fun continued when Chandlings Prep hosted renowned broadcaster and bestselling author, Clare Balding CBE. The event, co-organised by Mostly Books, offered an exciting sneak peek at her new book, *Animal All-Stars*. A familiar face —from royal events to Wimbledon, Crufts, and the Olympics, Clare Balding captivated the audience with her love of creatures great and small. She encouraged children to tell her about their furry (or feathery!) companions, and also to write about them. The inspiration behind *Animal All-Stars* arose from her experience covering the Olympic Games. This delightful book transforms the sporting arena into an animal kingdom, exploring themes of strength, speed, and resilience in the animal world. Balding drew parallels between animal characteristics and human attributes, sharing her father's advice: "You need to fall off your horse 100 times before you can be a jockey" to emphasise the importance of perseverance. Beyond individual strength, she highlighted the power of teamwork, using the example of ants' collective power. Encouraging kindness and loyalty, she advocated for a "be more dog" approach to life, underlining the importance of exercise, connection, and joy – values embodied by her own beloved childhood dog. Having just presented at Crufts, Balding also engaged students with fascinating facts about various dog breeds. The visit not only sparked a love for animals and writing, but also highlighted the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and living life to the fullest – lessons that definitely resonated with all the children and staff.

In addition to the main World Book Day events, we were delighted to welcome back the team from Mostly Books in Abingdon for our annual book fair. There were also a number of book-themed competitions, including the traditional House book quizzes; a 'Book in a Bottle' challenge, where pupils had to guess the title of a shredded book; and a bookmark design competition.

The final book-themed event of the term saw incredible author and illustrator, Helen and Thomas Docherty sharing a few of their wonderful picture books, including *Snatchabook* and *The Knight Who Wouldn't Fight*. The duo's fabulous illustration and writing workshops ignited a spark of creativity in our younger students. The Year 3 and 4 children even had the privilege of performing their book *Abrazaebra* to them on stage, thanks to Mrs. Belcher's brilliant adaptation for our Year 3 and Year 4 play! Their visit was a truly magical experience for all.



"I had a truly wonderful morning with the children and staff, and left feeling very much in awe of their knowledge and excitement. So my thanks go to you for leaving me with the happy impression that our language is in very safe and capable hands!"

Susie Dent



# YEAR 3 & 4 CAPTIVATE WITH MAGICAL "ABRACAZEBRA" PREMIERE!

Year 3 & 4 at Chandlings Prep brought the wonderful children's book, "Abracazebra," to life with a world-premiere play! The play, brilliantly adapted by our very own Mrs. Belcher, tells the tale of Yawnalot's transformation from sleepy town, entertained by boat-building goats, to a magical place with the arrival of zebras.

Their world is suddenly taken over with magic, colour and a newfound zest for life. The Goats, not happy about being usurped, run the Zebras out of town, until they realise their actions have made the rest of the town miserable. All of Yawnalot work together to fetch the Zebras back and the magic is restored!



# YEAR 3 & 4 CAPTIVATE WITH MAGICAL "ABRACAZEBRA" PREMIERE!



Not only did the children work extra hard to put on this truly magical spectacle but they were able to perform it to the authors of the original story, Helen and Thomas Docherty, who visited Chandlings to watch the show and provide workshops to the children. Outstanding!



# CHANDLINGS PREP ERUPTS IN VERSE: CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK WEEK WITH POETRY

World Book Week got off to a poetic start at Chandlings Prep with the inaugural Poetry Festival. This celebration of language and verse saw children from Nursery all the way up to Year 6 immersed in the world of poems.

Nursery and Reception classes launched the festival with delightful group recitals. As the children got older, the focus shifted to individual performances. Each student tackled the challenge of learning a poem by heart, then bravely presented it before their classmates. From the antics of Roald Dahl's "The Crocodile" to the pestering child in Allan Ahlberg's "Please Mrs Butler," the poems covered a wide range of emotions and styles.

The festival culminated in a special recital for parents, children, and staff. Each class sent their champion poet, the student who delivered the most captivating performance. With a mix of nervous energy and pure enthusiasm, the children recited their chosen poems, captivating the audience with their love of language. Whether it was the rhythmic beats of Michael Rosen's "Welly Boots" or the food concoctions in Jude Simpson's



"Crisps with Custard," the poems transported everyone on a journey of imagination.

The Chandlings Prep Inaugural Poetry Festival was a resounding success. It not only tested the children's memory and performance skills, but also fostered a love of language and appreciation for the power of poetry. We can't wait to see what poems next year's festival brings!

## YEAR 6 SCIENCE CELL MODEL COMPETITION

The Year 6 Science House Model Making Competition allows students to showcase their creativity and scientific understanding by crafting detailed cell models.

The task involved constructing representations of cells – be it plant, animal, bacteria, or virus - emphasising key components such as the cell membrane, nucleus, cytoplasm, and organelles.

Students displayed exceptional ingenuity, using various materials to bring their models to life, adhering to the guidelines of clear labelling and detailed descriptions for each cell part. The Lantern Hall buzzed with excitement as the models were exhibited, demonstrating a remarkable blend of scientific accuracy and artistic expression.

It was very hard to choose the top five. But after much deliberation, Mrs Biggs and Ms Cook chose the following winners: Henrietta, Amrit, Riley, Leo and Wilf. "I extend my congratulations to our talented Year 6 children for their exceptional creations in the Science House Model Making Competition," said Ms Cook. "Their imaginative cell models not only demonstrated a deep understanding of cellular biology but also showcased the creativity and innovation that defines our curriculum."



# NURSERY 2 ADVENTURERS EXPLORE LONDON IN CHILD-LED QUEST



In a spirit of intrepid exploration, our Nursery 2 adventurers embarked on a captivating journey, navigating the bustling streets of London but within their own classroom! From towering landmarks to the magnificent Buckingham Palace and the iconic London Bridge they discovered endless wonder. A delightful surprise awaited them in the form of a special guest – Mr. Umhoefer, transformed into a real-life King’s Guard straight from Buckingham Palace (or maybe Year 4!). This immersive learning journey, fuelled by their own questions and curiosity, is a testament to the power of child-led discovery that thrives at Chandlings Prep!



# CHANDLINGS PREP RECEPTION CELEBRATES SPRING AT ROVES FARM!

Spring has sprung, and Reception at Chandlings Prep celebrated with an adventure at Roves Farm! Led by Farmer Ricky, the children embarked on a day filled with exciting activities that brought the season to life.

They bounced along on a thrilling tractor ride as they explored the farm. Up close encounters with adorable baby animals were a definite highlight - gentle strokes for the fluffy lambs and goats, and they even held a piglet!

Farmer Ricky's expertise shone through as he took the children on a bug hunt and then guided them in building ingenious mouse houses using natural materials found on the farm. Leaves, twigs, and other treasures were transformed into cosy shelters for these miniature residents.

The day finished with a captivating performance of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" puppet show, bringing the story to life before their eyes.

A huge thank you to Roves Farm for providing such a fantastic day out! The Reception children returned to school brimming with memories and a newfound appreciation for farm life!



# YEAR 1 BLAST OFF INTO SPACE

For Year 1 children the Spring Term began with an 'out of this world' space adventure experience day, as they zoomed off on their topic launch of 'Our Place in Space'! The children were invited to arrive at school dressed as astronauts or aliens before receiving their trainee astronaut badge for the day.

They started their mission by jetting off into Space on a moon buggy, then space hopped their way through the twinkling stars, before zooming through a black hole space tunnel to arrive at the Chandlings Space Station HQ!



The children loved manning the control deck of the Space Station to ensure a smooth journey for all into Outer Space and there were many exciting conversations to be heard from the Space Rocket tent. They also enjoyed developing their artistic flair creating rockets and planets using coloured sand and scratch art. Lunch was a delicious feast of meaty, meatball meteorites served appropriately in foil containers. The children ended their special day with a bag of Space goodies to take home!

During the course of the term the children will explore a variety of stories with a Space theme in English lessons. The children will develop an awareness of the past involving the history of Space Travel. They will explore the difficulties humans face when travelling to Space and learn about animals that have been to Space. The children will have opportunities for independent study to learn more about the life of a significant individual such as Neil Armstrong, Yuri Gagarin or Dr. Valentina Tereshkova. The children will also learn about the planets and our place within the Solar System.

"Space is a really exciting topic and with the constant launch of rockets into space it is also very current and relevant. We always try to bring our topics to life and this immersive Space day starts off our topic with a blast for all our Year 1 children," said Miss Richardson and Miss Buckley the Year 1 teachers.



# YEAR 2 BREATHES FIRE INTO LEARNING WITH WOODLAND ADVENTURE!

Year 2 at Chandlings Prep kicked off their “Fire Topic” transforming the outdoor learning woodland into a fiery wonderland!

Their exploration began with uncovering the secrets of fire itself. The young adventurers learned about the three crucial elements needed to spark a flame – fuel, oxygen, and heat. This knowledge was then put to the test (safely, of course!).

Next, the group gathered around a cosy campfire, sipping on hot chocolate. Fueled by both the fire and their imaginations, they huddled closer to hear a captivating chapter from “The Boy Who Grew Dragons” by Andy Shepherd.

But the adventure didn’t stop there! The woodland was transformed into a fantastical landscape for a thrilling dragon egg hunt. With eyes peeled and determination high, Year 2 scoured the area for these hidden treasures.

This magical launch to their Fire Topic promises to ignite the imaginations of these young explorers and ensure their learning burns brightly!



# YEAR 3 EXPLORE ROMAN LIFE AT THE CORINIUM MUSEUM

Year 3 at Chandlings Prep embarked on a captivating journey to the Corinium Museum in Cirencester, stepping back in time to explore the fascinating world of the Romans.

Upon arrival, the children were split into two groups, each embarking on a unique adventure. One group delved into the Lifelong Learning Centre, where a hands-on workshop awaited them. They donned Roman attire, explored ancient games and food, and revelled in interactive activities that brought history to life.

Meanwhile, the other group embarked on a self-guided exploration of the museum's captivating exhibits. With museum staff readily available to answer questions about Roman soldiers, mosaics, and everyday life, the students delved deeper into this intriguing civilization.

After break, the groups switched activities, ensuring everyone had the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the museum's treasures. Working in small teams, they embarked on a scavenger hunt through the diverse collection of artefacts, diligently seeking answers to questions in their workbooks.

The trip proved to be a resounding success igniting a passion for the Roman era. As the students reluctantly departed, one sentiment resonated – a unanimous wish to stay and explore further.



# YEAR 4 EMBARKS ON ROYAL ADVENTURE WITH "THE BOY AT THE BACK OF THE CLASS"

This term, Year 4 has been reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q. Raúf. The book is about a new boy joining the class and a group of children trying to befriend him. They soon learn that Ahmet is a refugee and has been separated from his family. None of the grown-ups seem to be able to help him, so the friends come up with a daring plan, embarking on an extraordinary adventure. The 'Greatest Idea in the World' and the 'Emergency Plan' take the group of friends all the way to Buckingham Palace and eventually lead to tea with the Queen.



So what better way to celebrate the end of the book and the adventure within it than with our very own tea party... and even a meeting with the Queen herself! The children enjoyed an afternoon tea that was fit for royalty as we shared the last chapter of the book together.

# YEAR 5 TRAVELS BACK IN TIME AT SULGRAVE MANOR



Year 5 at Chandlings Prep embarked on a captivating journey to Sulgrave Manor, stepping back into the fascinating world of the Tudors. Dressed in authentic attire, the students were transported to a bygone era, ready to engage in a variety of interactive workshops and activities.

Their immersive experience began with a glimpse into Tudor education, contrasting the methods of the past with their own contemporary learning environment. This interactive session sparked curiosity and ignited discussions about the evolution of education over time.

A guided tour of the Manor unveiled the secrets of Tudor life. The children explored the kitchen, dining room, and bedroom, gaining first hand insights into the daily routines and customs of the era. Their imaginations were further ignited as they visualised the lives of those who once resided within the Manor's historic walls.

The afternoon offered a chance to learn about Tudor games and toys, fostering a playful connection to the historical period. The students actively participated in these traditional activities, experiencing history in a hands-on and engaging way.



This enriching trip aligns perfectly with Chandlings Prep's commitment to "championing innovation" in the learning experience. By bringing history to life through immersive activities and interactive exploration, children foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for the past, while simultaneously sparking curiosity and a love for lifelong learning.



# YEAR 6 SKILLS WEEK: PREPARING FOR LIFE BEYOND CHANDLINGS PREP



The past three months at Chandlings Prep have been all about preparing for secondary school. Exams, interviews, and scholarship applications have kept our Year 6 students busy. But this week, we shifted gears and focused on a different kind of preparation: equipping them with the skills they'll need to navigate life beyond school walls.



Gone were the textbooks and exams, replaced with practical learning experiences. The week kicked off with a "bikeability" program, emphasising safe cycling practices and basic bike maintenance. This was followed by a crash course in essential life skills like bed-making, tent pitching, tie-tying, and touch typing – all valuable skills for young adults venturing into more independence. Safety also took centre stage. Students received training in first aid, while the pool provided a safe environment to practise water safety techniques and personal survival skills.



# YEAR 6 SKILLS WEEK

For a dose of adventure and teamwork, the Year 6 headed to the Bluebell Wood for an outdoor learning day. They tackled low ropes courses against the clock, honed their team building skills, learned fire safety and building techniques, and even mastered compass work.



Interspersed throughout the week was the exciting Young Enterprise initiative. Students put their creativity to the test, designing products such as a mini ping pong table and a variety of key rings, managing budgets, and ultimately pitching their ideas to a panel of “dragons” – ably played by Mrs Jones, Miss Patel and Mr Wahid.

This Skills Week was a resounding success. A huge thank you to all the staff and parents who helped make it happen. By equipping our Year 6 students with practical knowledge and fostering teamwork and problem-solving skills, we’re preparing them to confidently face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

# ART

**Reception** have been working on their art for the sculpture trail, opening in the summer term. They have produced a range of mixed media artwork which will be displayed in the grounds - it is a bit of a secret - although here is a sneak preview of some of the sculptures that will lead you around the trail. The children worked in pairs to paint their stone ladybirds and have done a cracking job.



**Year 1** have been working hard on creating all sorts of interesting works for the sculpture trail, which will be revealed during the event. They have also been looking at minibeasts as a part of their theme and have produced some fantastic drawing studies of a range of insects, some of which have been turned into the 3D version. They worked in pairs to paint the stone beetles, learning how to work in layers with paint to create the metallic effects.



**Year 2** have been busy creating clay mushrooms for the upcoming sculpture trail! These aren't your average fungi - some will stand proudly on the ground while others will be nestled in the trees, ready to surprise you with wind chimes as you explore the trail this summer. The young artists independently crafted their masterpieces, using pinch pot techniques and adding details before unleashing their creativity with a vibrant array of glazes.



**Year 3** have enjoyed creating these colourful clay birds. They will form one of the exhibits in the Sculpture Trail at the end of the Summer Term.



**Year 4** have worked really hard during this term to create these wonderful clay gargoyles. They will form one of the exhibits in the Sculpture Trail at the end of the Summer Term. They have also been making these beautiful stained glass effect butterflies using posca pens on acetate. They will make part of an installation for the Arts Festival at the end of the summer term.



**Year 5** have had a buzzing time making a mixed media swarm of bees.



# CHANDLINGS CHAMPION INVENTORS

The creative spirit of Chandlings Prep children took centre stage as they embraced the challenge to design their own incredible inventions or cracking contraptions, inspired by the visit of Adam Kay and Henry Paker, co-authors of *Kay's Incredible Inventions*. The competition showcased the incredible imagination and ingenuity of our future inventors.

The winners of the design challenge were announced in assembly and they have truly set the bar high for innovation. The panel of judges had the difficult task of selecting the most imaginative and well-crafted inventions from a pool of exceptional entries.

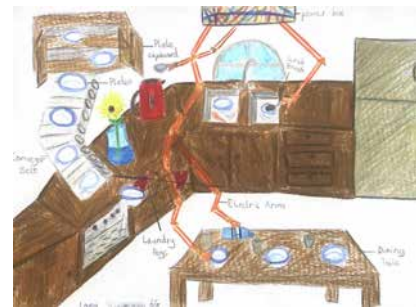
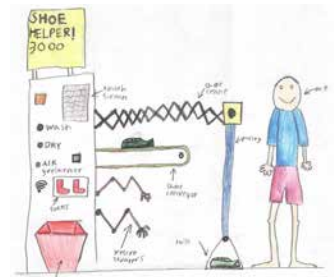
- Year 2 winner was Hattie, whose invention The Wordatron, captured the judges' interest for the most imaginative invention.
- Year 3 winner, George, whose invention The Shoe Helper 3000, wowed the judges with his practical and well thought out design.
- Year 4 winner, Zander whose Wiggly Worm Waster got the Eco-Award for best environmental innovation.
- Year 5 winner, Eric, invented the Marvellous Camera for insect photography and impressed the judges with his incredible attention to detail.
- Year 6 winner, Lana, whose invention The Dishwasher Emptier captured the judges attending with its unique approach to solving a common problem. The creativity and originality displayed in the design were truly commendable.

Nine other inventors also received a highly commended award for their incredible inventions too.

All the winners received a book which might inspire them with their future inventions.

The design challenge not only encouraged students to think outside the box but also highlighted the importance of fostering creativity and curiosity in education.

"We were delighted with the number of inventions we received," said Karina Philip, Head of English, "and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all participants for their outstanding efforts and innovative ideas. The future of invention and discovery looks bright with these young minds leading the way."



# INTERNATIONAL DAY - A CELEBRATION OF INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY

On 2 February, Chandlings Prep embarked on a vibrant journey around the world during its annual International Day, celebrating the diverse tapestry of cultures that make its school community so special.

More than just a celebration, International Day was a whirlwind of learning and cultural immersion. The Lantern Hall transformed into a bustling marketplace, with twelve stalls representing countries from Mexico and Brazil to Japan and India. Each stall was curated by dedicated parent volunteers and offered a captivating glimpse into a different culture through interactive games, fascinating facts, and delicious treats. Children from Nursery to Year Six embarked on a 30-minute tour, learning about languages, traditions, and customs from around the world.

The spirit of the day truly came alive through the children's vibrant costumes. Dressed in the colours of flags, wearing traditional dress, or simply expressing their creativity, they became living embodiments of their chosen countries. This visual tapestry sparked conversations, fostered understanding, and celebrated the uniqueness of each individual.

But International Day wasn't just about observation. Every child actively participated in engaging workshops, delving deeper into the customs and traditions of their chosen countries. Whether crafting Venetian masks, dancing the Samba or learning Zulu chants, these immersive experiences fostered a deeper appreciation for the richness and diversity of our world.

"International Day is a highlight of our school year," said Christine Cook, Head of Chandlings Prep. "It's a reminder that even though we come from different backgrounds, we are united by a shared love of learning and a deep appreciation for each other's cultures."

"Organising International Day is always a joy," added Mlle Pasquini, Head of Modern Foreign Languages and the event organiser. "Seeing the children's faces light up as they discover new cultures and celebrate their own heritage is truly rewarding. It's a powerful reminder that the world is our classroom, and understanding each other is the greatest lesson we can learn."

Chandlings Prep's International Day was a resounding success, leaving students and staff alike with cherished memories and a renewed sense of global citizenship.



# GIDDY UP FOR WILD WEST FUN AT CHANDLINGS PREP!

Saddle up, partners! This term, our Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 classes were transported to the Wild West during the Perform drama workshops. Filled with "Create & Imagine" spirit, the little cowboys and cowgirls embarked on an exciting adventure.

They all picked the perfect hat – would it be a classic brown or a show-stopping scarlet? Then, they dreamed up their trusty horses. Did they imagine a sleek black stallion or a playful spotted pony? Each child gave their imaginary horse a special name.

There was a raging river blocking the trail! The children used their imaginations to overcome this obstacle. The possibilities were endless!

Throughout this drama-based adventure, the children explored their characters, improvised stories, and engaged in playful role-playing. These workshops are designed to make learning fun, and this Wild West theme certainly delivered. The children honed their concentration, imagination, and speaking skills – all while having a good time!

The workshop culminated in a special Wild West song, a fitting end to their dramatic journey boosting the children's confidence, concentration and communication skills. We're sure these little cowboys and cowgirls will be reminiscing about their adventures for a long time to come!



# BONNE ANNÉE 2024

On Friday 12 January, Prep children welcomed the New Year in a very French way and celebrated the "Epiphanie". The children were able to sample La Galette des Rois, a traditional cake which hides "la fève", a charm figurine inside it.

The Galettes from the French Company "Brioche Pasquier" were truly delicious. The children performed the ritual of the Galette, where the youngest child goes under the table and directs the distribution of the piece of cake. The lucky person to find the "fève" becomes the King or Queen for the day and gets to wear the paper crown. It gives children cultural awareness and they all thoroughly enjoy it. What a fantastic way to start the New Year!



## PALMER AND HOWELLS WORKSHOP AND INSPIRATIONAL ASSEMBLY

What an inspirational assembly we had from Valentina De Pascale who demonstrated that heroes can be ordinary people who do extraordinary things. She told us about her determination to do an IRONMAN, a race of extreme endurance, perseverance showing a strength to overcome overwhelming obstacles. She gave us the message that we should start every day with positive affirmation by looking in the mirror and saying to yourself 'You are an Ironman.'

During the day Valentina, who is also Head of Nutrition at our school caterers Palmer and Howells, ran nutritional workshops to all the children from Reception up to Year 6. The workshops linked to our Wellbeing focus for the first half of term - My Body. She spoke to the children about the importance of never missing a meal, staying hydrated and how different foods help our minds and bodies.



# CHANDLINGS PREP GIRLS' SPORTS ROUNDUP: A SEASON OF TRIUMPH AND TEAMWORK!



The Chandlings girls have wrapped up a fantastic season filled with impressive performances across various sports!

At the start of term The U10 and U11 girls peeked into the world of lacrosse during a taster session at St Helen's. With stations focusing on different skills, the girls got a feel for this exciting sport and are sure to be eager to explore it further.

On the netball court, our girls displayed remarkable growth throughout the season. The U8A team secured a convincing win against the Manor, showcasing their

exceptional passing abilities. The U8Bs demonstrated perseverance despite facing a tough challenge, while the Year 5 & 6 teams impressed with their defensive intensity and quick passing in their match versus The Dragon. The Year 2 girls proudly played their first netball fixture and a special shout-out to Sophia B, Anwen, and Hattie, who were named Players of the Tournament in the Year 2 age group – their enthusiasm and teamwork were truly inspiring! The U9 netballers, despite a challenging season, displayed promising development throughout their matches.

Our footballers also left their mark on the field. The U10 and U11 teams kicked off their season against Cranford House, showcasing a mix of attacking prowess, defensive resilience, and sheer determination and the U8 and U9 girls enjoyed a festival-style introduction to football, facing teams from various local prep schools.

The girls' cross country team joined 8 other schools at The Oratory for a brilliant competition. Years 3-6 tackled varying distances, all with great excitement and determination. It was a lovely afternoon with all our Chandlings competitors representing their school fantastically. Well done girls!

Well done to all the girls! Your dedication, teamwork, and growth mindset have shone brightly throughout the season. We can't wait to see what you achieve next year!



# YEARS 3 - 6 BOYS' SPORT

This term was the wettest on record. Despite the weather, the boys played football and hockey against local opposition such as Magdalen, Abingdon Prep, Ashfold, St Hugh's, and The Manor. Hockey is tactically very similar to Football and the boys were very good at transferring their skills from one game to the other. Their ability to pass in hockey and their understanding of the use of space was commented upon by several of the opposition teachers.

Year 3 was particularly successful on the football field winning at all levels (A - C) against Abingdon Prep and Magdalen. They played several mixed-ability football matches against St Hugh's and Ashfold which were used as development games for the future. All their hockey matches were development games but they showed how they had adapted to the game when playing Magdalen, Ashfold, and St Hugh's. Year 4 turned out three football and hockey teams who all had individual successes. The teams had a clean sweep of victories against Oratory and Abingdon Prep and the C team were really on form when they played St Hugh's winning 7 - 1. In their final competitive hockey match at Magdalen, the A and B teams showed excellent character by turning around a halftime deficit to win convincingly.

Years 5 and 6 trained and played together as Colts. In the St Hugh's Under 10 Football Festival, the Year 5's were hugely successful winning the trophies at A, B, and C levels. As a Colts A football team, they were unbeaten all season. The B, C, and D teams could not match the same results but they won many more than they lost. Their transfer of knowledge between football and hockey was on a different level as the boys produced some scintillating play with many goals coming after a series of flowing passes from defence to attack. The final word goes to the Colts A team hockey players whose progress was staggering.



# HOUSE MATCHES

The Netball and Football house matches were postponed and then sadly cancelled this year due to the wettest February on record. In March there was an improvement and the pupils were able to play Inter-house Girls' Football and Boys' Hockey. As is the norm every second of every game was fiercely but fairly contested. The winning house for the Years 3 and 4 football was Richardson but that result was not enough to stop Poltimore from winning the overall trophy as they galloped away with the Year 5 and 6 tournaments, Astley finished 2nd and Poltimore 3rd.

The Boys' Hockey was incredibly close with only 1 point separating 1st from 2nd and 2nd from 3rd. Richardson held a narrow lead after the Years 3 and 4 tournament and they managed to hold onto the lead to win the overall trophy. They finished on 15 points, Astley 14 and Poltimore 13.



## Pancake Races

Excitement filled the air at Chandlings Prep's annual House Pancake Race! This year, the fun doubled as Years 1 and 2 joined the traditional Year 3-6 competition. Children raced against each other in their house teams, flipping pancakes and sprinting across the finish line.

Even the teachers donned trainers and joined the friendly rivalry, showcasing their competitive spirit. After a close race, Astley house emerged victorious, claiming the title of best pancake racers. Laughter, cheers, and of course, a few flying pancakes, made the event a memorable one for the entire school community.



# INTERVIEW WITH MELINDA PAPP

Each term the School Council organises an interview with a different member of staff. They decide on the questions and then follow up with a face to face interview.

What did you want to do when you were younger?

Archaeologist and psychologist (I studied it)

What inspired you to be a teacher?

My Games teacher

When and why did you come to England?

2010 - to receive my teaching degree, I needed a language exam which I didn't have. I came for a year.

What was your first impression when you saw Chandlings for the first time?

How can people find their way out of school and will I ever be able to navigate myself?

What do you enjoy the most about teaching at Chandlings?

I enjoy watching the children having fun and discovering something special about themselves.

What has been your funniest moment as a teacher?

Once I prepared for a lesson and left biscuits and marshmallows out in the woodland, by the time we went back with the class, it was all gone - the animals had eaten it. The same happened with the left out conkers and acorns: all disappeared.

What was your favourite subject when you were younger?

Chemistry, History, and Games

If you couldn't teach outdoor learning, what would you do and why?

I would teach History and Games - I have a passion for both. Or I would work with children who need support with their mental health due to their upbringings. I also wanted to volunteer to support less fortunate countries by giving free education or any support they need.

Ever since you were a child, did you always like the outdoors?

I grew up in a cul de sac village in the middle of the forest with only 1000 people living in it. My upbringing was about adventures: rivers, lakes and forests - lots of foraging and making things.

What is your favourite tree?

Willow: everywhere I went in my life for something special, I planted a willow tree. The oldest one is 20 years old now. I hope to plant one at Chandlings.

What's your favourite outdoor creature?

Bunnies - I had one as a pet when I was a little girl. We used to rescue animals with my Grandad, help them get better then release them back into the wild.

What is your favourite type of bird?

Carrion Crow - one of the cleverest, most adaptable.



Is football your favourite sport? And why?

It wasn't my favourite, I loved wall climbing. Once we had matches against another school and someone spotted me and invited me to play football. My dad was a football player too and so was my younger sister but she isn't anymore.

What is your favourite sport to watch/play?

I like watching Ice skating - I used to watch it with my Granny. I think it is the most difficult sport to do - at least for me. Playing - Football, cycling, wall climbing and playing squash.

What's your favourite activity to do inside?

Doing puzzles, my most recent one is a picture of the famous Scottish castles - 5000 pieces.

What instruments do you like to play/listen to?

I used to play the piano and recorder but I am out of practice. My Mum used to be an instrument maker and took me to her work during the holidays where I had the pleasure of learning about instruments. My favourite to listen to is the piano and guitar.

What countries have you been to and which was your favourite?

I have been to many countries all over Europe - I like the ones with history around them. Including castles, and medieval buildings.

What are the main differences between living in Hungary and living in the UK?

Weather! Distances between places and eating habits.

What is your favourite food from Hungary?

Chicken Stew and Goulash Soup

Do you have a nickname?

My football name was 'Papes' because we had 3 Melindas in the team so we all had a nickname. However, my friends call me Meli.

Do you have any siblings or pets?

I have 2 older sisters who I grew up with and from my Dad's side, I have a younger sister and a younger brother. I have a cat called Alvin who is living with me, but I have a dog (sausage dog) at home with my Mum. We always had animals around us where I grew up.

# CHANDLINGS PREP LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

As the children embark on their final year at Chandlings Prep, exciting leadership opportunities await! Our leadership programme fosters well-rounded individuals prepared for the challenges and triumphs of secondary school and beyond.



## Leadership Journey

Throughout the childrens' time at Chandlings, we encourage them to take responsibility and become resourceful, adaptable and independent children. This process becomes increasingly important in Year 6 as we work with them to prepare them for life beyond Chandlings.

There are a variety of leadership roles, allowing students to make a tangible impact on school life. Participation is encouraged

## The Path to Leadership:

- Most roles require a concise letter explaining why they are a strong candidate.
- Some positions may involve a brief presentation or interview.



As a sports ambassador we represent Chandlings at sporting events, help with pre-prep sports day, put up the teams on the boards and speak at assemblies.



## Year-Round Leadership Opportunities:

Throughout the year, all Year 6 children will be exposed to leadership opportunities, taking on duties and delivering school tours to prospective parents on Open Days.

As a tech ambassador we organise and lead tech club and we also have to operate the slides for some assemblies.



# LEADERSHIP AT CHANDLINGS

## Leadership Roles (Y6):

- **House Captain:** Motivate your house, lead meetings, and champion house spirit during events.
- **School Council (Year 3,4,5 & 6):** Represent your class, discuss school improvements, and actively participate in meetings.
- **School Council Chairperson and Deputy (Y6)**
- **Sports Ambassadors:** Promote school sports, encourage participation, and help organise exciting events.
- **Eco Ambassadors:** Champion environmental awareness, organise recycling initiatives.
- **Performing Arts Ambassadors:** Support school productions and concerts, assist with rehearsals, and inspire a love for the arts in others.
- **Charity Ambassadors:** Lead fundraising efforts for the chosen school charity and organise events that make a difference.
- **Language Ambassadors:** Promote language learning, provide support for new students, and help organise language-focused events.
- **Technology Ambassadors:** Promote responsible technology use, assist teachers and students, and suggest improvements for a tech-savvy school.
- **Senior Librarians:** Ignite a passion for reading, and help manage the library.
- **Wellbeing Ambassadors:** Support student well-being, organise events that promote positive mental health, and help create a supportive school environment.

Leadership roles in Year 6 help students develop responsibility, communication, and teamwork skills. These experiences boost confidence and prepare them for challenges and opportunities in secondary school and beyond.



I really enjoy helping the younger children as they thrive through their journey.



As a member of the school council we are involved in making changes to the school and making it a better place by talking to all the pupils and finding out what is important. We have also organised the school talent show.

# CHARITIES

## SSNAP

This year, our chosen charity is SSNAP (Supporting Sick Newborns and their Parents). This local charity is based at The John Radcliffe Hospital and their incredible work supports sick newborns, their parents and those who care for them; by providing emotional, medical, financial and informational support.

In support of SSNAP, the Chandlings community have been invited to take part in the Blenheim Family Fun Run on Sunday 19 May 2024. There are a choice of 4 different events, including a 1 mile run, aimed at under 15s and a 7km run (which is perhaps more appealing for parents or even teachers!).

The 1 mile is run by everyone from toddling two year olds with parents, to fast 11 year olds doing their best to break the record.



Mrs Hickin, Ms Cook and Miss Clarke attend a special donors event for Helen and Douglas House (last year's charity)

## Dress to Express

In celebration of Mental Health Week, Chandlings Prep embraced the theme of "Express Yourself" with a dedicated dress-down day! Children donned their home clothes, feeling free from uniform restrictions. This simple act of self-expression served as a reminder of the importance of feeling comfortable and empowered to be oneself.

It perfectly aligned with the national Children's Mental Health Week theme, which focussed on giving a voice and platform to all children and young people in the UK. Through this fun and creative activity, we encouraged our pupils to celebrate their individuality and fostered a supportive environment where everyone feels free to express themselves.



# PATCH

## Movie Magic and Disco Fever

Chandlings Prep buzzed with excitement as the annual Disco and Movie Night brought laughter, popcorn, and dancing shoes to the school.

Reception and Pre-Prep, donned their pyjamas and snuggled up for a movie marathon. Popcorn in hand, they were captivated by the adventures of Fireman Sam and Paw Patrol (Reception) and the timeless tale of 101 Dalmatians (Year 1 & 2).

Meanwhile, the Main Hall was transformed into a vibrant disco scene. The children showcased their impressive moves, dancing the night away to upbeat music and flashing lights. The energy was contagious, and the odd teacher was also spotted strutting their stuff (!) filling the room with joy and laughter.

A huge thank you to PATCH (Parents and Teachers Association at Chandlings) and all the dedicated parents who helped organise this unforgettable event. Their hard work and support ensured that Chandlings Prep children experienced a night of pure entertainment and fun, creating memories that will last a lifetime.





Follow us on   

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