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Headteacher's Message

The summer term has started positively with the opening of new playtime zones and the introduction of new equipment at lunch time. This is something that the Pupil Parliament asked for on behalf of the school community last year, as children had reported that they felt bored at playtimes and wanted more varied play opportunities. The further zoning of the outdoor play spaces followed the successful introduction of the PlayPods and opening of Woody Oaks in the spring. Children were introduced to the new offer in assembly on Monday where we explored what their rights are, as children, with regards to play and why this is important:



Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

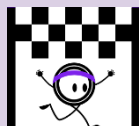
Why play time is important and what the benefits are. Suggestions were: [Get some fresh air](#); [Relax](#); [Exercise](#); [Socialise](#); [Take measured risks](#); [Use our imaginations and be creative](#); [Use the toilet](#); [Have a drink/snack](#)

They also considered what their responsibility is towards making it a safe and successful time.

To be **safe** and **respectful** to **everyone**

Children were reminded of what to do if they had a worry at lunch time and who the adults on duty are - reminding the children that all the adults wear high visibility jackets and are stationed all around the play areas, so are easy to spot!

It has been lovely seeing children playing basketball, riding our new mini bikes and scooters, being creative with the PlayPod scrap, enjoying a range of sports equipment as well as cartwheeling, picking daisies and even climbing the tree (don't worry, they can't get too high). We hope our new offer fuels some excitement and enhances their positive mental wellbeing.



This weekend, we have around 50 children from Reception-Year 6, and their families, travelling up to London to represent our school in running a one mile stretch of the TCS Mini London marathon. The finish line is right next to Buckingham Palace so it should be a memorable experience for them. I will be there to cheer them on and look forward to celebrating their achievements with you all next week. Thank you to Mrs. Rachel Huang, a parent and FOWO representative, for organising this on behalf of the school.

Finally, a big well done to Year 6 who have been having a practice run of their end of key stage tests this week. We try very hard to avoid narrowing the curriculum in Year 6 - giving the children their full entitlement to a broad and balanced learning experience across a range of subjects. However, we would be doing the children a disservice if we didn't give them some test experience, which is a skill for life. This is heavily supported and will lead to the children feeling far more confident and relaxed when it comes to the real thing in May. It also gives the rest of the school some practice in supporting them by being extra quiet around the corridors! Everyone has done a great job in supporting Year 6 to be their best.

Siân McCarthy

General Information

Staff News

Welcome to our two new Teaching Assistants, Miss Oweida who has joined the Nursery team and Miss Oliveira who has joined the KS2 team in Year 5. Also congratulations to Miss Peters, Teaching Assistant in Year 4, who got married over the Easter break and is now known as Mrs. Roberts.





Sports Days – Save the date:

Our Sports days will be held in June on the following dates:

Wednesday 19th June - EYFS Sports Day - 9.30-10.30am

Thursday 20th June - Y1-3 Sports Day - 10.00-11.30am

Thursday 20th June - Y4-6 Sports Day - 1.30-3.00pm

Parents and carers are invited to attend and support their children. Further details will be shared nearer the time.

Lumen Summer Camp 2024 is coming!

We are delighted to announce that our 2024 Lumen Summer Camp will operate from Monday 29th July to Friday 9th August this year at our Echelford Primary School site in Ashford Middlesex. Staffed by teachers and teaching assistants, drawn from across our school staff teams as well as trusted Lumen partners, you can be confident about the quality care your child will receive.



We will be offering:

- Core hours of 8.30am-4.00pm.
- Standard days priced at £28.00 during our Earlybird period (24th April-24th May), £32.00 from 25th May onwards.
- Early and Late Clubs for those parents needing wraparound care.
- Places for 3-11 year olds.
- Limited places for 12-16 year olds.
- Block week as well as ad hoc day bookings.
- Sports, arts, dance and craft activities everyday.

Important information regarding payment options

Families can continue to book using credit/debit card and childcare vouchers. We are also part of the Spelthorne Playscheme again this year. Childcare voucher and Tax Free Childcare payments need to be paid to Summer Camp (via your child's school) within 14 days of a Camp booking being made otherwise your booking will be automatically cancelled and the sessions released and made available to other families.

How can I book?

Our Magic Booking online registration and booking portal will open at lunchtime on Wednesday 24th April. For those families who have booked in previous years your portal account will remain live and ready for use. Some of our parental consent questions have changed - you will need to answer these before the portal will allow you to make a booking so please ensure you familiarise yourself with your log in details and action this in readiness. For new families please visit this page ([Magic Booking portal](#)) to create your account and register your child's details. Further information will be provided over the coming weeks via the Summer Camp website (<https://www.lumenlearningtrust.co.uk/summer-camps>), our Camp Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Lumen-Summer-Camp-296078941054455/>) and via school newsletters.

Reading

100 Reads

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 100 reads this week:



Aurora – 3C

Daisy-May – 3C

Mahek – 3C

Willow-Hope – 4C

200 Reads

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 200 reads this week:

Eden – Squirrels

Anoushka – 3C

Ben – 3C

Ariyaana – 4C

300 Reads

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 300 reads this week:

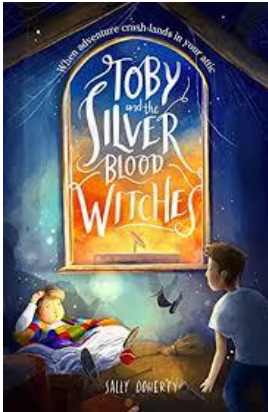
Thomas – 5B



Book Review

Toby and the silver blood Witch

By Sall Doherty ★★★★★



Toby and the silver blood witch is an amazing book that is packed to bursting point with action and adventure. Sally Doherty knows exactly how to capture the essence of exciting and I couldn't stop reading. It was as if I was hypnotised. Toby is just a normal boy, living a normal life. Trying to live a normal life as his mum is ill in bed with M.E. Suddenly, Toby has not only that to worry about but trouble crash-lands in his attic! Next to Toby's house is the SMI, a curious top secret government building with a satellite dish on the roof. Strange people have appeared at the window and Toby just can't shake it off. Who are they? Why are they in there? What was going on? Entangled in adventure, Toby must embark on a dangerous mission. A girl's life is at stake and time is running out.

"An exciting adventure full of mystery, wonderful witches and real heart." - Louie Stowell, author of Otherland. **By Eva D, 5B**

Eva has also added some information on ME - myalgic encephalomyelitis:

Myalgic encephalomyelitis or ME is an illness and around 250,000 people suffer from it. Physical fatigue, brain fatigue, muscle aches, flu-like symptoms, headaches, light headedness, sleep problems and more are all symptoms of ME. There is no cure and very little research has been done. The majority of ME victims suffer for years.

Extra-Curricular Events

Years 5 & 6 Mixed Netball



On Tuesday, children and staff from Cobham Free School came to Walton Oak, where we hosted two netball matches for our Year 5&6 mixed teams.

For Year 5, it was their first ever time playing as a team after a number of cancelled and postponed matches due to a very wet couple of months. The team worked well together and put into practice what they have been learning in PE and at Netball club this year. With Cobham dominating the league this season, it was a hard team to go up against for their first game. Although they did not come away with a win, they showed excellent resilience and team morale remained high throughout the game. Well done to you all on your first game together.

Year 6 were up against an equally difficult team, with Cobham also being at the top of their league. After a brilliant start and some

excellent tactical play, the first quarter ended 1-1. As the game progressed, Cobham were able to capitalise on a few opportunities where Walton Oak let the ball go and went ahead 5-1 leading into the final quarter. During the final quarter, our super shooting duo - John and Zara - alongside an excellent display in defence from Penny, meant that we were able to make a comeback with the final score ending 5-3. For a team so far ahead of the rest, it was brilliant to see us come so close! Excellent play from all of the team - well done!





Oracy

Take Home Focus – Let's Talk!



In the news this week

A new artwork, from the mysterious street artist Banksy, appeared in North London overnight in March. The artwork shows green paint sprayed on a wall behind a cut-back tree to look like greenery, with a stencil of a person holding a spray can next to it. In the days following its creation, it was covered with plastic and surrounded by wooden boards to protect it. The local council, Islington, has added a frame around the site, which has plastic panels to allow people to view the artwork, whilst ensuring its protection.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Share your experience of graffiti. Is there any in your local area?
- > What is your definition of art?
- > Do you like creating art? If so, what type?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Pastoral News



Supporting Healthy Gaming Habits

There are some key things you can do to help your child learn healthy habits when they are using their devices.

Place2Be: Parenting Smart have a short video and their top tips are:

- Set boundaries by talking to your child about the games they like and how their gaming can be fitted around family life. By setting boundaries early on, you are more likely to support longer term healthy habits.
- Learn the facts and set parental controls

Parent Zone shows how to put parental controls on devices

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/setting-up-gaming-consoles>



- Check the age range of the games your child is playing. This website is a great search tool for this. <https://www.taminggaming.com/search>
- Watch out for risks. Show your child how to block and report on the games they are playing.
- Play together and take an interest in what your child is playing. You can then model the good habits of setting limits on screen time.
- Encourage a healthy balance between gaming and other activities they enjoy. Make sure you encourage them to spend time outside.

You can find out more information and watch a short video on the Parenting Smart website:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/supporting-healthy-gaming-habits-for-children>



Tiny Happy People



A free fun activity to try with your children and family. A nature walk! Easy, free and fresh air. Getting outside has many benefits for adults and children alike. On the link, are some ideas to make it fun for you all.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zj6nsk7>

Playing outside is fun, exciting and important for children's learning. If you love to be outside, head to the section called 'getting outdoor collection' for some more ideas! We would love to see any photos of you having fun outside, send them into the office.



FOWO

TCS London Marathon – Mini-Marathon - Saturday, 20th April

Good luck to all the children participating in the Mini-London Marathon tomorrow. All those taking part should have received an email with the details. If you have not, please email fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk as soon as possible.

FOWO Summer Term Meeting – Tuesday, 23rd April at 7pm

Next Tuesday evening, FOWO will hold its open meeting in the school hall at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to all parents, carers, and staff associated with the school; just come along on the evening. This term, we'll be talking about the upcoming events, including the gardening day, summer fair, and end-of-year disco. We hope to see you there.

Nursery / Reception Cake Sale, Wednesday, 1st May

It's the Nursery / Reception cake sale on Wednesday, 1st May. All baked/bought and nut-free donations gratefully received in the morning through the school office. We also need a couple of volunteers to help set up from 2.45pm. Please email fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk if you can help.

Summer term family gardening event and litter pick, Saturday, 11th May

Save the date for the second-ever gardening event and litter pick on Saturday, 11th May. Our first event back in the autumn was a great success and a lovely atmosphere. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

Second-hand uniform rail now in the school foyer

We're delighted to announce that the second-hand uniform rail will be a permanent feature in the school foyer. The two-week trial with the summer uniform has been a great success and more convenient for all; as such, there will be no more standalone second-hand uniform sales. We'll keep the rail stocked with items appropriate to the time of year. Donations of good quality (clean, stain-free, no tears, etc.) second-hand uniforms are always gratefully received (please leave them in the foyer), but please, NO OLD LOGO ITEMS - we can't put them out, and it creates extra work for us, as have to sort through and take them home for recycling. You can recycle old logo clothes with your normal dustbin collection by putting them in a carrier bag next to your bin. See Elmbridge Council website for more details.

Seymours Estate Agent Boards – Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who offered to have a Seymours board advertising the summer fair (22nd June). At the time of writing, we have collected 32 addresses, which amounts to £600 raised! As we have just over the maximum 30, Seymours will choose the 30 addresses from the list that give the widest spread/visibility.



Celebrations



Gold Leaves

Well done to the following children who all received a gold leaf this week:

Squirrels	Michael
3C	Kiri-Mai, Mica, Anoushka, Sophie, Edith, Musbah, Jessica, Mahek & Summer
3N	Alex, Jaxon & Amelie
4G	Leo
5B	Chloe, Maci, Jemima, Freddie, Thomas & Matey

On behalf of the Walton Oak staff team we wish you a pleasant weekend.



