

Headteacher Message

It has been another wonderfully active couple of weeks in school, filled with opportunities for our children to grow, achieve and enjoy time together.

One of the real highlights recently has been seeing the children making full use of the field at lunchtime. It has been fantastic to watch all year groups mixing so naturally and happily together. From organised sports and time with buddies, to colouring, relaxing and exploring nature, the space has provided something for everyone.

We have also had a very busy and successful time in sport once again. The swimming gala we attended was a huge success — what incredible swimmers we have! The team came first out of all the small schools attending, which is a tremendous achievement. Even more impressive was the teamwork, positivity and care shown throughout the event. A huge thank you to the parents for their support and to Miss Bruce for accompanying the children — especially when it was incredibly HOT!

Our Year 3 and 4 cricketers also made us incredibly proud, finishing second overall. This is a brilliant achievement and reflects the enthusiasm and determination they have shown.

Yesterday, ten pupils from Years 5 and 6 represented the school at a lacrosse event. For some, this was a sport they play regularly through the after school - their skills and speed were certainly evident. For others, it was a completely new experience. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and confidence with which they embraced it. Taking part in these events not only develops sporting ability but also nurtures teamwork, resilience and pride in representing our school.

It was also a pleasure to visit the Year 5 and 6 swimming lessons last week. I was amazed at just how much the children fit into such a short session! Thank you to all the parents who support this by organising transport and lifts; we know this is not always easy and we truly appreciate your commitment.

Another fantastic whole-school event was our Mini Marathon. Every child took part in the challenge of running, walking, skipping or jumping two miles, which is around 10 laps of our field. What was most inspiring was that every child worked towards their own personal best, whether that was completing 5

laps or pushing themselves to achieve even more within the 20 minutes. There was a real sense of determination and encouragement throughout the afternoon. All children received certificates and a whole-school trophy was awarded to recognise this collective effort. We are already looking forward to seeing those personal bests beaten next year!

Congratulations as well to those children who took part in Bikeability this week. It sounds as though they had a fantastic experience, developed important new skills and represented the school brilliantly while out in the local area. We are very proud of you all. The instructors commented that all of our riders are of a very high standard and I am pleased to confirm that everyone has passed the course and achieved their certificate.

Around the school, we are excited to see the continued development of our Zen Den and library spaces. The Zen Den is already starting to be used and is providing a calm and supportive environment for our children. There is a real buzz of excitement about these new areas and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has dedicated their time and effort to making these spaces so special and impactful.

We were also delighted to welcome back Boodle the dog this week! It is always such a joy to have Boodle and Felicity in school - both children and staff benefit greatly from their presence and we look forward to many more visits in the coming weeks.

Looking ahead, our Year 6 pupils will be taking their SATs next week. They have worked incredibly hard to reach this point and we are immensely proud of everything they have achieved so far. We wish them all the very best and we know they will give their all and do themselves proud. We are sure they will be looking forward to a well deserved chance to relax the following week! (We shall see!)

Year 3 and 4 (as well as the staff) are very much looking forward to their evening in The West End to watch Matilda and hopefully get some inspiration for our own production later in the year.

Finally, we are very much looking forward to seeing many of you at the PTA Summer Social on Saturday. Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Alexander

Swimming Gala Report by Jackson Year 6

We arrived at the swimming gala full of energy and ready to compete. Felix raced first doing 25 metres in the pool against all of the other small schools, as that was our category. We were very successful at winning most of our races. After all of our races and they were adding up the scores, Sevenoaks Swimming Club put on a synchronised show. After that it was announced we came in first and won the whole thing!

Sevenoaks Scout Camps

We had some happy, albeit tired, children on Monday morning after at least 17 of our pupils spent the weekend camping with Sevenoaks Scouts.

Cooper, Year 3 reports

"We spent 2 nights camping in tents with our friends at the Downes activity center for the Mag 7 which happens every 4 years, we camped alongside the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We had a great time doing tons of activities."

If any children are interested in joining Beavers, Cubs or Scouts they can contact Nigel Rainey via 16thglv@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Scouts in Action:



Suits and Sparkles Event

A huge thank you to our PTA and sponsors for providing such wonderful prizes for our event. Please see below the QR code to bid on our fabulous prizes.



**SUITS AND SPARKLES
AUCTION PAYMENT LINK**

New Saplings

We are very pleased to have made our introductions to Saplings Class 2026 this week. We are very excited to welcome siblings and new families alike to Ide Hill. Some families are joining us on Saturday for "Suits and Sparkles" which we are delighted about and I am sure they will be given a very warm welcome.

A note from Dame Rachel de Souza

As Children's Commissioner, I am writing to ask you to ensure all children complete my new survey, [The Big Future](#). Under the Children Act 2004, it is my role to promote the views and interests of children in England, and I have done this so far by conducting the two largest ever children's surveys: The Big Ask and The Big Ambition.

Now, for the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election, the biggest change to the franchise in half a century. Yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them. That's why I'm launching my final survey, The Big Future.

Students should complete the survey

here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

I want to make sure that I hear from as many children as possible, aged 0-18, from all backgrounds, in all schools and colleges, and in every part of the country. I am asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, I want to know what they think a good childhood should look like today.

I will be publishing my findings next year, and they will be used to advocate at the highest level for solutions that children want to see, to the problems that they tell me are most important to them.

Thank you for your support.