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Dear Parents 27 March 2024

I hope you are all enjoying the Easter break.

The pupils and staff have worked very hard this term and have enjoyed many and varied curricular and cocurricular successes, all of which I and members of the Sports Department have written about in previous Newsletters and Sports Reports. I hope you find these publications enjoyable and useful for keeping up to date with events at school.

Since the last Sports Report, there has been only one fixture, and this was called off part way through due to bad weather. This is what Miss Mulligan and Miss Mildenhall had to say.

On Wednesday 27 March, our S1 netballers travelled across to Southampton for the Hampshire Netball County Finals. The team comprised: Alicia (C), Bonnie, Evie, Florence W, Indi, Lauren, Lexi, Poppy and Violet.

The girls were very eager to play and test themselves against mainland opposition. However, after only one game the organisers decided to cancel the tournament due to adverse weather conditions.

The game we did manage to play was against Bay House. The girls got off to a quick start and took the lead with an accurate shot by Indi. As the rain continued to fall it was difficult for both teams to get into their rhythm as the ball was very slippery, making it difficult to catch and pass. After 14 minutes of game play, the score was 5-4 to Bay House, and just as Indi was just about to take a shot the bell rung, preventing us from tying the game.

The girls put in a brilliant effort and even though the conditions were not favourable, their spirit did not dwindle, and they all had smiles on their (wet) faces. Well done to all the girls.



Principal: Mr DEJJ Lloyd BSc (Econ)





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May I take this opportunity to thank our coaches – Miss Mildenhall, Miss Mulligan, Mr Byrne and Mr Woodward for a very successful term of school sport, despite the very wet weather we have all endured in recent months. You all put in a lot of extra hours and it is greatly appreciated.

The term ended with a really lovely Easter Service at St Mildred's Church in Whippingham. Father Jonathan, with the help of an introduction and readings from the Prefects and prayers from Year 6, told the Easter Story of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ in an engaging and relatable way.

The pupils did an excellent job, and pupils, staff, parents and visitors sang the hymns with enthusiasm and feeling, and the service ended with a very healthy collection for the Mountbatten Hospice – thank you very much for this. Thanks also go to Father Jonathan for giving up his time so freely and for leading us in worship, not forgetting the Church Wardens who prepare St Mildred's for our regular visits in such a welcoming and convivial way.



In my final assembly of the term, I tried to pull together the Easter Story and the beginning of a new (summer) term into a coherent message (which I may not always achieve!).





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I talked about how pupils tend to begin a new exercise book with the very best of intentions – neatly, and with a heading and date on each page and underlined with a ruler – but how old habits and scruffiness usually creeps back in after 4 or 5 pages. Staff can sometimes be the same with their teacher planners and registers!

I then talked about sacrifice – God sacrificing his only son for us – and new life through the Resurrection, and I used this to ask the pupils to consider two questions. When was the last time you did something completely selfless, with no personal gain whatsoever, and is there one self-improvement promise you can make to yourself for next term – whilst thinking of the summer term as a new 'exercise book' for life?

I finished by talking about hope becomes reality and I revisited the Martin Luther King 'dream' speech as an example. It is important that we ask ourselves what we want to change, and then how we might go about achieving that goal – by formulating a plan and timings. Martin Luther King devoted his life to creating a world without hatred and racism, gave inspirational speeches, led demonstrations and made the ultimate sacrifice – he was killed on 4 April 1968.

I ended the assembly by referring to Psalm 20, 4-7: 'May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.' In other words, a dream alone is not enough – we all need a plan.

Let's hope we all return to school with a plan for our self-improvement promise. We don't have to share it, but let's see if we can stick to it.

Have a super Easter break and God bless you all.

# Reports

Tues 26 Mar Easter Service, St Mildred's Church (£65.00 raised for Mountbatten Hospice)

Wed 27 Mar S1 Girls, Netball Hampshire County Tournament, Southampton

Wed 27 Mar Easter Egg Hunt
Wed 27 Mar Easter Term Ended

Sun 14 Apr S5, Art/Photographic Session

#### **Future Dates & Events**

Tues 16 Apr Summer Term Begins

Wed 17 Apr S3 Boys, Basketball Match, Medina College Thurs 18 Apr S5/L6th, UCAS Discovery Fair, Winchester

Mrs Dale is running the computer wallpaper competition again, so please enter your best photos by emailing them to <a href="mailto:emmadale@psiow.com">emmadale@psiow.com</a>. The theme for pupils this term is 'Countryside' and for staff 'Spring'. Mrs Dale will be looking for in focus photos that capture the themes in an interesting way. The winning photos will be uploaded to our internal computer system where the image will be displayed on all computers until May half term. Good luck to all.

#### **Achievements**

Maya in S5 has finished dancing in the festival now, and with her East Cowes based dance school Fusion Arts Academy, she has gained a further three silver medals in the last week, for group dances in tap, ballet and modern.





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# David EJJ Lloyd Principal

