



Autumn 2020

THE CASTLE



PAGE 9

HARVEST
FESTIVAL

Supporting the local community

PAGE 11

POETRY
CELEBRATION

Prep School perform their pieces

PAGE 24

PRE-PREP
NATIVITY

'A Little Bird Told Me'



MARLBOROUGH
HOUSE SCHOOL EST 1874

ENJOYING TODAY
EDUCATING FOR TOMORROW



Note from the Head

Autumn 2020

Well done to all of us! I think we deserve congratulations as a community – children, parents and staff – for coping so well under unusual circumstances. The mood has remained positive throughout the term and it has been wonderful to get to the Christmas holidays without major disruption. I have been so pleased to see the school operating “normally”; we have tried so hard to keep events flowing, even if the fruits of everybody’s labours are watched on a screen rather than live. Hopefully we will soon be welcoming the parents back into school, at least to watch some outdoor sporting endeavours – I have really missed the excitement and rhythm of sports fixtures.

Within these pages you will find the highlights of the term, beautifully encapsulated in a mixture of words and pictures. The children have been busy, particularly preparing for Christmas events, but the absence of fixtures and trips have meant that we have also managed to keep delivering our teaching and learning in a consistent and uninterrupted manner. There are lessons to be learnt from how we have delivered remotely to those at home – as a profession, teaching has become more public and possibly more interesting as we learn different methods of getting our message across. There is a stronger partnership between school and home, even as we have seen less of each other!

I applaud the variety of opportunity that has been provided for your children and thank the

staff for their perseverance and originality. I am grateful to the parents for their support of both their children and the school, and I

am delighted with the energy and goodwill displayed by the children throughout the term. My first term has been full of kind words, cheerful laughter and positive feeling, and that is the best Christmas present I could have wished for.

Finally, a special mention to three people on the staff. Firstly, Rob Mathers has been inventive and thoughtful in the way that he has provided the children with so many different sporting opportunities – it would have been easy for life to have become dull and repetitive on the sports pitch, but it never did. Thank you to Rob and the whole of his team. Secondly, Roisin Bishopp has been an unstoppable ball of creative energy in writing and directing the Pre-Prep Nativity; the praise that has flowed from all directions is testament to her success. And finally, without Olivia Rawdon-Mogg’s willingness and talent, filming and editing, you would not have been able to see so much of what has happened this term – she has been essential to the success of this term.

Enjoy The Castle and a very Happy Christmas to you all!



Eddy Newton





Contents

New School Website.....	4	Hockey	20
Independent Schools of the Year Finalists	4	Cross Country	21
New Programme for PSHE	4	Boys Football	22
Interview with the Head	5	FoMHS Christmas Fund Raising	23
Roald Dahl Day.....	6	Pre-Prep Nativity	24
Creative Writing Competition	7	Year 3 Victorian Nativity	25
Year 4 Forest School Day	8	Father Christmas Visits Pre-Prep	26
Harvest Festival	9	Prep School Carol Service	26
European Day of Languages	10	Staff Appointments	27
Year 3 Forest School Day	10		
Poetry Celebration	11		
MHS Equestrian Team.....	12		
Pre-Prep Building Updates	13		
Talk Education Review.....	13		
Year 8 Celebrate Day of the Dead	13		
Armistice Day.....	14		
Anti-Bullying Week.....	14		
Children in Need.....	15		
Informal Christmas Concert.....	16		
English Prize Winners	16		
Conkering Hero	17		
Year 4 Reading Tea Party	17		
Father Christmas Fun Run.....	18		
Sports Round-up	19		
Cricket, Swimming, Tennis	19		
Netball	20		



Head Girl and Head Boy

Thank you to the Autumn Term Head Girl and Boy, Millie M and Henry H.

A COUNTRY PREP SCHOOL WHERE
EVERY CHILD IS VALUED

New school website

The start of the Autumn term saw the launch of the new school website. Our aim is to give prospective parents a glimpse of life at MHS and to keep current parents updated regarding news and forthcoming events. We hope you have enjoyed browsing the new site online.

Independent Schools of the Year Finalists



We were delighted to kick off the new school year as finalists (again!) in the Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2020, for the Healthy Eating Category.

We firmly believe that our own army of children and staff marches on it's stomach so thank you to Mr Gibbons and his lovely catering team for the constant supply of fresh, seasonal and locally sourced food.

New Programme for PSHE

PSHE is a fundamental aspect of the curriculum throughout the school and so we were very pleased to start the school year with the launch of a new PSHE programme called Jigsaw.

Designed as a whole school mindful approach, Jigsaw PSHE/Health and Wellbeing provides a detailed and comprehensive scheme of learning. Children enjoy well-structured, progressive lessons which aim to prepare them for life by helping them really know and value who they are and understand how they relate to other people in this ever-changing world.

There are a number of colourful characters that the children will get to know during their lessons, each with its own skill to impart. Mindfulness is a key element within PSHE lessons and something that we will all continue to practice at MHS, building upon our well established, 'Free Your Mind Friday'. CaW





Snapshot Interview with Mr Newton



It seemed appropriate for our first Snapshot Interview of the year to be with Mr Newton. From Classics at Cambridge to a memorable day when Chairman of the Independent Association of Prep Schools, we decided to find out a bit more about our new Headmaster.

What inspired you to be a teacher?

I really enjoyed coaching/helping younger children when I was a teenager and realised that I could combine my love of sport with teaching in the classroom – it seemed the right fit for me.

Tell us about your path into teaching...

I decided that I wanted to be a teacher at the age of 17 and never wavered from that path. I gained a degree in Classics from Cambridge University and stayed on for a fourth year there to do my PGCE (teaching qualification).

What were you like at school?

Not creative enough! I was good at Latin,

Greek, Maths and History, but far less good at English and Art, for instance. I loved my sport, particularly rugby and athletics. I went to an all boys' boarding school in the countryside and definitely lacked subtlety and worldliness – I think I have grown up a bit since then!

What's the funniest moment you've had in a classroom?

The one that always raises a laugh, both from me and the children, is when one of the pupils wants to ask me a question and accidentally calls me "Daddy" – the only possible answer is "Yes, darling?"

What's the most important lesson you can teach?

Be yourself, but always try to improve.

What has been the proudest moment of your career so far?

About 7 years ago, I spent a year as Chairman of IAPS, the prep school organisation. I led the Heads' Conference that year and on the opening day I spoke to the press, introduced Sally Gunnell to the stage, read a lesson in Westminster Abbey and sat next to Terry Waite, our guest speaker, at dinner. That's a day I'll never forget. Oh, and getting married and raising a family.

What makes Marlborough House such a special place to be?

At Marlborough House School, the attention to the individual is outstanding. I know that lots of schools claim that this is so, but here it really is. The warmth of the relationship between the staff and the pupils is lovely.

This term we also heard from Mr Payne-Cook, Mrs Mathers, Mr Walker, Mrs Budd, Mrs Reid, Mrs Lowe. Miss Jones and Mrs Gunson. Please visit the news section of our website to read the interviews.



Roald Dahl Day

Our Middle School children had a wonderful time on Roald Dahl Day. They all came to school dressed as a character from a Roald Dahl book and there were some great costumes from the children and staff.

Year 3 read *The Twits* and looked at character profiling, shared ideas and looked at using exciting adjectives and similes. Year 4 used the Roald Dahl story *George's Marvellous Medicine* and created their very own Marvellous Medicine! The children designed their own recipes with a list of exciting and extraordinary ingredients – these included interesting items like bath foam and shoe polish!

In Year 5, the children considered the different themes in the novels of this wonderful author and worked together to find connections with moveable post it notes and a big grid. They enjoyed the collaboration and deeper thinking that this required. Finally, Year 6 looked at Dahl's fantastic descriptive writing skills and aimed to emulate them in creating their own "Storm at Sea" descriptive writing.

To top all this the children also had a wonderful snack of cupcakes and tasty treats inspired by Charlie's Chocolate Factory.

Well done to the children for throwing themselves into the topic so wholeheartedly! KA





Creative Writing Competition

In the Summer Term our Year 5 children were given the opportunity to write a short story for an in-house Creative Writing Competition.

I had a lovely time in the holidays reading all the children's highly creative, imaginative and original stories. In English lessons at the start of the Autumn term, the children (now in Year 6), gathered together to hear some feedback on their entries and find out whose work had been selected for special commendation and a prize.

Having given the class a brief summary of the plot in each story, and picking out some particular examples of excellence in each, I also offered some ideas for further improving their writing.

Many congratulations to all the children who entered their super stories and special congratulations go to:

Gracie G, Gabriella S, Holly H, Joseph J, Edward F and Oliver D, all of whom gained a Highly Commended Prize.

In second place were:
Tom G and Eliza B

First place went to:
Archie P and Dexter H

All children were given a book token to help further inspire their writing and the advice to keep writing! KA

Year 4 Forest School Day



Catching the last of the bright Summer sunshine and the first of Autumn's showers, Year 4 spent a magical day in our Forest School.

Beginning with thoughtful reflections about nature and our environment, the children enjoyed a morning working in small groups on a variety of activities including willow weaving and shelter making. Part of the Forest School ethos is working in collaboration for the benefit of everyone, and this was seen in abundance with all the children helping with the preparation and cooking of lunch – over an open fire, of course (please see the recipes).

While some children peeled and chopped veggies, others kept the fire going, some even volunteered to help with food tasting, unsurprisingly this seemed a more popular job than washing up!

We were even able to celebrate Mrs Robinson's birthday, singing to her accompanied by Miss Davies on the ukulele. In the afternoon, the children enjoyed some free play and Mrs Mathers helped them construct dens and shelters with branches, leaves and moss. We returned to school a little muddy and damp, smelling of bonfire but very happy. JS



Forest School Soup

Tin of chopped tomatoes
Passata
Veggie stock cube
Tin of water
Chopped veg – we used broccoli, carrots and courgette
Orzo pasta
2 tbsp Olive oil

Put all veggies in a large pan with the olive oil and stir fry until soft with slightly caramelised edges.

Add stock cube, tomatoes, passata and water. Cook until veggies are soft.

Add pasta and cook for 8 minutes, stir to avoid the pasta sticking the base of the pan.

You can also add precooked and chopped veggie sausages just before serving. Make sure they are heated through thoroughly.

Forest School Flat Bread

2 mugs of self-raising flour
1 mug of plain yoghurt
Butter or oil to shallow fry

Combine flour and yoghurt in a bowl. Turn out and mix until it is a ball of dough. Cut evenly into tennis ball sized pieces and flatten out using a rolling pin or your hands.

Shallow fry in butter or oil. These flatbreads can be griddled too.



Harvest Festival

Celebrations were led by a speech from the Head Girl and Head Boy, and each year group performed Harvest songs and poems; a beautiful selection.

To watch the performances on the Parent Portal, please scan the QR code using your phone's camera.



SCAN ME

Many thanks to all the children for the wonderful produce which was brought in to the school for Harvest Festival.

This year, we decided to support our local community at Harvest time so, as well as supporting our usual charity (Nourish Foodbank), we also sent a large proportion of the food donations to the Hawkhurst Community Support Group, in conjunction with Hawkhurst Primary School. A big thank you to Mrs Lucy Howells for liaising with the committee and for delivering the food.





European Day of Languages

Once again we were delighted to celebrate the European Day of Languages. The day kicked off with an assembly by Mme De Haan where she screened a special video; we are proud that many of our pupils have a mother tongue other than English and celebrated this with a fun film of pupils speaking their native languages.



The teachers also took turns to speak in various languages in a fun role play.

During the day we held a Europe themed quiz (well done 4M!) and thank you to the kitchen staff for the delicious European snacks and meals.



Alongside this, wonderful international themed cakes were brought in for a competition (well done to all who baked).



Year 3 Forest School Day

What a beautiful Autumn day it was for Year 3's Forest School day!

Our Forest School site is open and spacious with plenty of stunning, mature oak trees for children to explore and use as props for their play. Centred around the fire pit, Year 3 used natural dyes for tie dying, made clay green men and used natural materials to construct complex mandalas. Thanks to the ingenuity and creativity of Mrs Robinson, activities change with each session, giving our children the opportunity to gain skills and work with the seasons.

After lunch, prepared with the help of 29 very enthusiastic sous chefs, the children had free play time. This is an essential element of Forest School, allowing children to choose their own path and giving them the time to become engrossed in their imagination. JS





Poetry Celebration

In the true spirit of “Keep Calm and Carry On”, our annual Poetry Celebration went ahead but in a rather different format to our usual event!

Traditionally, this event takes place on the penultimate Friday of the first half term and the Old Gym is packed to the gunnels with excited, chattering children, proud parents and supportive siblings. The atmosphere is usually buzzing with anticipation and quite a few nerves. For 2020, it was a case of “Lights, Camera, Action!” thanks to the invaluable help and expertise of Mrs Rawdon-Mogg (our Marketing and Communications Manager) who was behind the camera and filmed all of the participating children performing their pieces.

Whilst the children did not have the thrill and experience of overcoming stage fright, so often associated with a live audience of over a hundred people, we still had the challenge

and excitement of stage lights, an audience (of peers) and a film crew to contend with!

As ever, the children gave us some wonderful performances of many old favourites, from T S Eliot, A A Milne and Walter De La Mare to some more modern humorous writers such as Alan Ahlberg, Roald Dahl and Spike Milligan. We also had some of our Year 6 and 8 children “speaking in tongues!” We had a poem about Anne Frank – in Dutch, a poem in French, Year 6 performed a lovely Spanish Poem and some Year 8 children recited a very thought-provoking and timely French poem on “colour” which resonated perfectly with October’s “Black History Month” and the “Black Lives Matter” campaign.

A huge thank you to all the parents, teachers and Form Tutors who helped with practising the children’s poems. KA

To watch the performances on the Parent Portal, please scan the QR code using your phone’s camera.



SCAN ME



MHS Equestrian team training and competition

We were fortunate that riding training and competitions were able to go ahead in the first half of term and it was a great opportunity for the children in the MHS Equestrian team to enjoy a fun training session and competition.

Our riders did really well at Duckhurst Farm in the NSEA Inter-School competition with many clear rounds and lots of happy children.

Many congratulations to Emma G who won the 60cm class on Gatsby and to Eliza B who was 3rd on Duffy.

Our team of Zoe C, Annabel J, Emma G and Eliza B were 2nd in the 50cm and in the 40cm class we fielded two teams: Zoe C, Eliza F and Annabel J were 3rd and Erin C, Tara B and Jack G were 5th. Tara B (her first time riding for MHS!) was 2nd in the 30cm and 5th in the 40cm and Erin was 2nd in the 40cm.

All in all a great day, the children had a wonderful time and were very happy to be out competing for the school with their friends. *KD*





Pre-Prep Building Updates

Half term was a busy time in the Pre-Prep building with the creation of a new interactive learning hub, a dedicated Library and a one to one music and meeting room.



Many thanks to all the staff who worked so hard in half term to make sure the rooms were ready for the children on their return.



Talk Education Review

We are delighted to have received our first review from Talk Education; a new online resource for parents which acts as a guide to the best of British education.

The inspector commented that *"children benefit from small class sizes and energetic, enthusiastic teachers"* and concluded that Marlborough House is *"a winning mix of academic rigour, superb co-curricular and character-boosting fun, this is a school that's well worth adding to any Kent- and East Sussex-based family's list."*

Year 8 celebrate Day of the Dead



Traditionally in France and Spain, All Saints Day (November 1st) is a sad, gloomy affair when you remember the deceased members of your family. The Mexicans have a wonderful and colourful way to celebrate their dead and Year 8 learned all about the event on Tuesday. They were able to sing in Spanish whilst playing instruments, designed and decorated some beautiful Catrinas (female skeletons) using paper straws, feathers, sequins, etc.

Our snack was a delicious Pan de Muerto, typical of the occasion in Mexico. Watching the film *Coco* illustrated the theme of the morning perfectly: there is no fear of death and the dead are to be celebrated and remembered. We finished this very successful morning with a delicious lunch of enchiladas. EDH



Anti-Bullying Week

Every day at MHS is Anti-Bullying day and every year we get actively involved in National Anti Bullying week.

The theme this year was to celebrate difference and the fact that we are all unique and there was a colourful array of sock combinations (and face masks!) for Odd Sock Day, as children and teachers donned mismatched socks to celebrate this.



PSHE lessons and assemblies in the Prep school were devoted to the topic of anti-bullying and each year group took part in a fun activity on this theme. Everyone learnt how to be an upstander and not a bystander.

In addition, the form reps had discussed anti-bullying strategies during a number of pupil council meetings and made some excellent suggestions that we will work on with the children throughout the year ahead.

In Pre-Prep, Mrs Reid held a creative poster competition with some wonderful results. CaW

Armistice Day

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

The Prep School gathered outside for two minutes silence on 11th November to mark Armistice Day. A wreath was then laid on the school's Memorial in the Chapel Garden by Millie M, Head Girl and Henry H, Head Boy, accompanied by Mr Newton.

In Pre-Prep, children also gathered for two minutes silence and took to arts, crafts and baking to commemorate the day.

Nursery made Poppies to take home, while Reception created a wonderful Remembrance Day display in Pre-Prep and decorated poppy biscuits. Year 1 discussed the meaning of the day, the making of the poppies and where the monies go and who the veterans are. Year 2 painted pictures using the iconic soldier silhouette for inspiration and collated them into a hallway display. They also discussed Jour de l'Armistice in their French lesson, making calligrammes of poppies and cornflowers.





Children in Need

What a memorable day at MHS for Children in Need this year. Everyone looked fantastic in their home clothes as the school dressed up in spots and cheered on their duck in the Annual Duck Race - raising a fantastic £600!





Informal Christmas Concert

Our informal concert was the perfect opportunity for all of our instrumental pupils preparing for ABRSM examinations the following week to play one of their exam pieces in public.

The performers all enjoyed being a lovely supportive audience for each other. We had children playing the piano, guitar, clarinet and violin, and we had a number of singers. Ella W on the piano and singers Tallulah S, Camille S and Rose BP were all performing for the first time as they prepare for their prep test.



Eliza B and Isabelle W gave us confident performances on the piano. There were beautiful tunes from our guitarists Joseph J, Edward F, Alex P and Isobel B. The singers gave us performances of music ranging from Opera to Musical Theatre with strong voices and entertaining performance. Well done to Cleo C, Hattie J, Eliza F, Eliza B, Gabriella S, Mya V and Sophie W. Isabelle W performed the Raider March on her clarinet and Clara E gave us a Minuett on her violin. String group also joined us to perform a little bit of Christmas with a carol.

Well done to all of our performers and of course to all the hard work put into this by their instrumental teachers. *AP*

To watch the performances on the Parent Portal, please scan the QR code using your phone's camera.



SCAN ME

English Prize Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our Handwriting and Creative Writing Competitions

At the end of the summer term when our, then, Year 7 children were doing their lessons online, they all had the opportunity to write a piece for our annual Creative Writing competition. These were sent off to our lovely judge, former MHS teacher and now author, Charlotte Reid, who kindly read them all, provided feedback for the children and selected the following as worthy recipients of a prize.

Highly Commended: Oliver L, Sophia C, Millie M

Second Prize: Henry H and Felix SJP

First Prize: Maddie L and Dasia R

Congratulations also go to the winners of our Handwriting Competition: 3C Charlie B, 3L William P, 4D Emma E, 4M Poppy HB, 5J Charlotte B, 5L Emilia M, 6 (KA) Clara E, 6 (PA) Florence K, 6 (SL) Isobel B, 8 Set 1 Olivia W, 8 Set 2 Hermione SJP.



Conkering Hero

Congratulations to Isabelle W and Sophie O, who are the senior and junior winners respectively of the Conkering Hero competition!

The most spectacular trophy at MHS was won after some six weeks of fierce conkering at breaktimes this term. Isabelle ended with a single unbeaten conker, which though battered, was still rock hard. Well done also to Sophie, the beaten finalist, who won the junior side of the competition by playing Isabelle in the grand final. What a lovely autumn we have had seeing over 48 players take part this season. *RM*



Year 4 Reading Tea Party

In Year 4, a very enjoyable part of our curriculum is our Group Reading sessions. Each group has approximately six children who are guided by the same teacher throughout the year, this means that we get to know our group very well and we all look forward to these special book sharing moments. Some of the books we have been reading this term are *Grandma Torrelli Makes soup* by Sharon Creech, a story of strong characters and meaningful relationships told through good old fashioned cooking. *The Sheep-Pig* by Dick King-Smith, a wonderful book full of gentle humour. *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips* by Michael Morpurgo, a heart-warming tale of courage and warmth set against the back drop of WWII.

It was a passage in this book that particularly inspired the children when the characters thoroughly enjoy scones and jam which were rationed during the war. We thought it would be a lovely way to end the term to have a scone and jam reading tea party! Reading books together improves our brain connectivity, increases vocabulary and comprehension. It is also wonderful for empowering us to empathise with other people and these benefits can last a life time. *MM*



Father Christmas Fun Run

On Friday 4th December MHS Prep School staff and pupils set off on their journey to Lapland. Everyone was in good spirits, the sun was shining and we had the lovely back drop of real snow!

It was fantastic to see all of the children and staff dressed in their festive outfits and showing real dedication to completing as many laps as possible. It wasn't an easy run for them as they had to keep an eye out for the reindeer and the naughty elves who liked to throw snowballs at them, but in total they managed to run 307 miles, a great start to the journey of 1500 miles. The children (and teachers) got stuck in and had a memorable afternoon.



The children were sponsored per lap in order to raise money for Food 4 Families, a local charity providing Christmas lunches to families in the local community. We are very grateful for all of the sponsorship money which has come in, our total so far is a magnificent £4,785.46! JL



To view the photos and videos on the Parent Portal, please scan the QR code using your phone's camera.



SCAN ME





Sports Round-up

During these difficult months for sport, and especially competitive sport, MHS undertook an adaption to their programme to include more sports, more Inter-house competition and matches which echoed the experience of the normal weekly matches that teams enjoy.

Cricket, Swimming, and Tennis

With the glorious weather back in September, Summer Term sports were all on the games programme for the first month of our return and all the boys and girls enthusiastically involved themselves in cricket, swimming and tennis. The winter programme has involved all the major sports, with the addition of Basketball; keeping things exciting and varied for the children.





Netball

The Junior girls recently had a great Netball tournament with Awdry being the winners after some superb quality competition.



Hockey

The Girls Inter-house Senior and Middles Hockey was enjoyed by all and won by a strong Dunbar team.





Cross Country

The house competitions have involved a variety of ages with our Cross Country being combined with other athletic events to create the first MHS Winter Athletics days. The Senior's competition was won by Dunbar and the Juniors by Awdry – but overall the consistency of Egan meant they proved victorious across all the ages.





Boys Senior & Junior Football

Out on the wonderful looking grass, the senior boys football was won by Egan, who proved unbeaten on the day with some great team performances. The Junior football was run not in houses but by mixing the boys into teams, which proved to provide a better competition.

In the last week of term some 60 Senior children undertook a serious test with a 20 point orienteering competition which combined Christmas song lyrics! One hardworking and accurate team of three, covered the demanding course the quickest, compiled their verses correctly and won a packet of pre-Christmas nut free chocolate money for their efforts! All the children learnt a new skill in map-reading and interpretation whilst under the pressure of the clock!

I would like to thank all the parents for their wonderful support shown to the Sports department this past term, your understanding and patience in these tough times for school sport have been appreciated. *RM*





FOMHS Christmas Fund Raising

This has not been your typical MHS Autumn Term and whilst we were still able to run some events specifically for the children, we were thwarted from holding our whole community Bonfire Night Celebrations and Christmas Fair. It is through these events that the FoMHS raise the majority of our money for our local charities and MHS wish list and to save funds for future events.

I am therefore extremely delighted to announce that from the Christmas Stationery Orders, Auction of Promises and Shopping Event we have raised £2,600.

A special thank you goes to Kelley Selley for organising the Christmas Stationery, Natasha Wells for organising the Auction of Promises and Fi Christie for her sterling work on setting up the Shopping Event. I would also like to thank Mr Newton for his

support in enabling us to go ahead with a variation of the Children's Christmas Shopping Event and for all the teachers and staff that made it possible on the day.

The FoMHS are looking forward to next term and hopefully a change in social restrictions. We tentatively have a whole school Coffee Morning and Curry and Quiz Night pencilled in for next term, do keep a look out in the newsletter for further information. As always, we cannot run these events without the support of our parent body, if anyone wishes to join the committee do get in touch - new members are always welcome!

A final congratulations to the lucky 16 winners of the Auction of Promises and we wish you all a wonderful Christmas.

Mrs Rachel Bennett, Chair of FoMHS



Pre-Prep Nativity

In this year, when the world made us stand still, the Pre-Prep Nativity kept our spirits alive and truly brought the magic of Christmas to us all!

'A little Bird Told Me' was filmed in our beautiful school grounds, with all the children singing, dancing and acting...not to mention the Pre-Prep birds soaring high! We had the shepherds and their sheep keeping themselves warm by the firepit, angels spreading the good news from the summer house and the three wise men in our very own sandpit desert.

Our Christmas story came to rest in the cricket pavilion, with beautiful ponies and dogs (pretending to be a camel and a sheep!) gathering around in a perfect manger scene.

I am so proud of all the children for their efforts this year and hope that they will look back on the 'Lockdown Nativity 2020' with fond memories for many years to come. *RBS*



To watch the performances on the Parent Portal, please scan the QR code using your phone's camera.



SCAN ME



Year 3 Victorian Nativity

On 7th December, Year 3 performed (for the camera) their Christmas production of a Victorian Christmas. This brings to a conclusion our topics covered in History and RS including the work of the great reformists Lord Shaftesbury and Dr Barnado. It was a heart-warming production, incorporating singing of traditional carols, a display of musical talent, as well as some super acting.

The children worked really hard as a team and were a delight throughout. Georgia W in 3C said, 'I loved all the singing and working in a big group with all my friends'. A huge thank you to all our performers and the production team. *EC*



To watch the performances on the Parent Portal, please scan the QR code using your phone's camera.



SCAN ME



Father Christmas visits Pre-Prep

A very special person came to visit Pre-Prep at the end of term and caused huge excitement. The children sang a song for him before going to find the presents he had left for them under their Christmas tree.



Prep School Carol Service

Christmas to many wouldn't be Christmas without music and song.

We've had to think a little differently this year about how to celebrate our carol service virtually and take into account the limitations of rehearsal and performance facing all artists in current times. Despite everything we wanted our musical celebration of Christmas to continue to bring joy and with that in mind, this year we have a selection of old classics that we all know and love. Everyone performed so well even with only a camera as an audience.

Hattie J started us off with a beautiful solo for the first verse of Once in Royal David's City. Each form learnt their own carol and Year 5 were brave enough to tackle the French carol Il Est Né le Devin Enfant. The carols were interspersed with the traditional readings and the Senior Choir managed to make an appearance in the choir robes for Silent Night, sung a capella. To finish off we all bopped along to the Senior Choir and Staff Choir renditions of Winter Wonderland and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas. *AP*

To watch the performances on the Parent Portal, please scan the QR code using your phone's camera.



SCAN ME



Salvete

Kayla Chapman Year 2 Teacher

I am so pleased to have been given the opportunity to join such a supportive, close-knit school with the most beautiful grounds.

I have worked in schools since 2011 which is when I started my four year degree in Foundation Phase Education. After completing my degree and graduating with Cum Laude, my husband and I decided to move to the UK in 2017 so that we could boost our careers and travel Europe. Since then I have worked in various schools within Suffolk where I specialised in special educational needs and disabilities co-ordination (SENDCo) with distinction through the University of East London.

I believe all children are unique in their own way, therefore education cannot be a one-size-fits all discipline. It is my duty as an educator to tailor my approach to the specific learning needs of each student.

When I do not have my teacher hat on, you can usually find me at my CrossFit gym or out and about exploring a castle or forest.!



Amanda Philip Music Teacher

I am very excited to have joined Marlborough House School to teach music. In the 22 years since I started teaching I have taught a range of subjects but specialising in music and drama. Music is a subject that is all inclusive and can be enjoyed at every level of ability.

I am a keen musician and I play the piano and sing. Recently I have been teaching myself the clarinet and in the past I have dabbled with guitar, ukulele and recorders. I am a member of a local amateur dramatics group and have performed on stage, assisted with sound and costumes as well as being the Musical Director for several shows. In my previous school I directed and produced all of the school productions.



Valvete

Kyle Jackson Junior Master

We were very sorry to bid farewell to Kyle our wonderful Junior Master. Not only did he arrive just before the arrival of the Coronavirus, for which he had to return home, but he then returned as quickly as he could which was all the more commendable as he would be the only Junior Master.

Kyle has been invaluable in our Pre-Prep, in the Middle School and on the games field. In every area he has been exceptional, and he will be very much missed by pupils and staff alike. Kyle told the staff that once he has completed his university course in South Africa he would like to return to Marlborough House as a teacher - watch this space!





Autumn 2020

THE CASTLE

Marlborough House School
Hawkhurst, Cranbrook
Kent, TN18 4PY

marlboroughhouseschool.co.uk



9385026

Printed on Carbon Captured paper