

# Prep School

## VIRTUAL ROUND UP



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

# The Head's Update

I hope everyone had a good time over the half term holiday. It is so lovely to have our younger years back in school this week! It has been great to see their smiling faces each morning and their enthusiasm to see their friends and teachers.



### KS2 Online Learning Evaluation

Before half term, we asked the KS2 girls to complete an online learning evaluation to check in with them to find out how they are feeling about online learning. A total of 70 girls took part and we could not believe how overwhelmingly positive they were about their experiences; they have remained positive and resilient despite the current circumstances. While the overall feeling was that they would love to be back in school with their friends and their teachers learning in the classroom, the majority of them feel that the fact we are offering their 'normal timetable' means that we are 'as close to being in school as we can be' and they are feeling engaged in their online lessons.

The girls have enjoyed using technology and although many found navigation a little bit tricky at first, they feel they have mastered this now and are much more confident. They really enjoyed our unplugged sessions giving this a 4.52 out of 5 rating so we will continue to include these sessions in our weekly timetable where appropriate.

Some girls requested online PE lessons, which are now taking place this term for one PE session a week. Please remember there are also daily yoga sessions at 11am, after school netball club on a Thursday at 3.30pm and softball on Fridays at 3.30pm on Zoom. Please [click here](#) for the link to the PE Firefly page where you will also find information about our kilometre club here is the latest update:

*February 14th: the grand total has reached 6,085km. Year 4, who have been our most active year group in the Prep School throughout Kilometre Club, remain at the top of the leader board - but Year 2 are quickly catching them! Keep sending in your distances during the half term break as Kilometre Club will continue for the next 6 weeks.*

It's not too late to take part all details are on this page!

There are a few more tweaks that the girls would like the teachers to make, such as using break out rooms more often, asking girls not to write on chat during lessons, using whiteboard.fi and having a dance party at the end of every day! We will look at putting these in place but hopefully we will all be back in the classrooms again soon.

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## Staff News

Mrs Maitland Evans has had a routine operation, so she is currently recuperating at home. I am sure you'd like to join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

## Lunches

Lunch is served for all the Prep girls in the Senior School dining room. [Click here](#) to read next week's menu.

## Monday 1st March

On Monday 1st March we will be celebrating Saint David's Day. Whether they are in school or at home, girls may wear a Welsh or traditional costume, a rugby jersey or their house colour.

## Thursday 4th March - World Book Day

The girls are to wear their uniform to school on this day, but they can bring in their favourite book and a prop to go with their book to share with their class.

## Howell's Crescent Gate

Even though our younger girls are back in school, the gate at the bottom of the lane will remain locked. We will review opening it again after Easter. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## Parents' Evenings

Our spring term Parents' Evenings will take place during the last 2 weeks of term. More details of specific dates will be sent to you early next week. Appointments will be for ten minutes and on an electronic booking system. Information on how to book your appointments will be issued a week before the Parents' Evening.

## The Great Egg Drop

Emma, Year 2, had lots of fun carrying out The Great Egg Drop experiment in her Science lesson recently. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Year 5 Unplugged

In the week running up to the half term break, Year 5 enjoyed a number of 'unplugged' sessions during which they had time to enjoy an activity away from their screens and devices. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Senior School Virtual Open Event

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March we will be holding a Virtual Open Event for prospective Senior School students and parents. Mrs Davis will be hosting a Zoom call for parents and students at 4pm and all our current Year 5 parents have been invited to attend. During the call, families will find out more about the academic offer as well as the extracurricular opportunities available. For further information about the event please email [admissions@how.gdst.net](mailto:admissions@how.gdst.net). Please do pass the information on to anyone you think might be interested in attending.

## GDST Talks

The recordings of the most recent events with **Marissa Carrarini on Healthy Eating** and **Charlotte Robertson on Digital safety** are now available [here](#). We also have two fantastic talks confirmed for this half term. Next **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March Dr Nihara Krause** will speak on [The Science of Motivation: how to help your child keep going](#) – the thinking behind this was how to help parents keep girls upbeat and on track with exams being cancelled and no definitive end in sight for lockdown. On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March, **Emma Gleadhill** will speak on [How to Get Your Daughter Through Puberty](#), which came as a feedback request from a parent.

## GDST Alumna of the Year 2021

We wanted to let you know that the GDST Alumna of the Year Award 2021 launched this week, so please join in and nominate an outstanding candidate who you think should be recognised for their achievements. There are two categories – the main Alumna of the Year Award and the Trailblazer Award, which celebrates a young alumna who is making an early mark on the world – and you can nominate

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people for either category (or both). In 2020, Hywelian Chloe Smith won the Trailblazer of the Year Award, and we would love to have another Howell's candidate in the running for an award this year. Past winners and finalists come from all walks of life and include scientists, actors, public servants, sportswomen, artists, entrepreneurs, charity founders, social activists, film makers, lawyers, historians, journalists/broadcasters, and musicians, to name just a few. [To make your nomination click here.](#)

### **GDST Dance Competition.**

We are delighted to share information about the GDST Lockdown Dance Competition for girls in Key Stage 2. The entries need to be in by Monday so it is something they could do over the weekend.



It's time to dust off that choreographic cap and start creating your masterpiece.

#### Important info;

- ✦ Any dance style
- ✦ Costumes are optional
- ✦ Maximum 2 minutes in length
- ✦ Video entries must be in by 1st March 2021
- ✦ Send your videos via WeTransfer.com to [a.williamson@sut.gdst.net](mailto:a.williamson@sut.gdst.net)



### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent meetings will be online again this term. As a school we will be using a new booking and video system which will enable you to select and book your own meeting time. There will be both afternoon and evening slots available for every class at specified times between Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. More information about using the new system will be sent next week and the link to the booking form will be sent to you on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Judith Ashill, Deputy Principal, Head of Prep School**