

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm very proud and delighted to say **we have retained our Green Flag**, which flies on the flagpole outside school. Miss Jordan and Miss Otsa have worked tirelessly to put our renewal application together alongside our dynamic class Eco Reps. Education is awash at the moment with 'awards' and 'standards', many of which have little credibility or value. However, the internationally recognised Green Flag award does not fall into this category, in fact far from it. I truly believe our green and eco efforts are embraced by the children with real enthusiasm, care and a degree of anger and frustration that older generations have allowed our planet to decline and reap the



consequences of climate change. In the future, it would not surprise me at all to see one of our children hanging from the side of a Greenpeace boat in the vicinity of a nearby oil field!

While the borders and shrubs around the school grounds soften our rather urban environment and offer some shelter and privacy to the children when they are out on the yard, many of the trees are still growing and not able to support the weight of even a small child. The drop from the borders is also over a metre.

Please could you ensure children don't climb in the trees and shrubs before or after school; we don't want any broken legs, or arms or worse!



This week we had our regular, half termly, Finance committee meeting with governors. During the course of the meeting senior leaders and governors reviewed the **contributions from parents for school trips and visits**. Currently, at the end of this financial year we have deficit of £2,000. While I know these contributions are voluntary and in an ideal world we would not have to ask for them, if this money does not come in from parents, we will have to use funds from the new school budget which would otherwise be used to buy essential resources for children to use and enjoy. Every contribution you make to a trip really does help and your financial support to bring our curriculum alive, through visits, trips and field work is much appreciated.

As you all know, Spring is the start of the annual cycle of growth in the plant kingdom. This Wednesday, a team of volunteers who work in the School's four full **allotments on Highbury**, came into the School and gave the children of Year 4 the task of starting Nature's Year.

A class at a time, the children sowed broad beans, pumpkin, sweetcorn, courgettes, tomatoes, sunflowers, sweet peas, cosmos, lupins, petunias and marigolds - to name but a few! Two of the greenhouses are now filled with totally full trays!

Before 4S got started, Steve Robson, the owner of "Acorn Hardware" presented twenty beautiful, lightweight garden spades and forks that he had sourced and provided at cost price. He also gave us, FREE OF CHARGE, a number of

small garden forks, three pairs of wellington boots and two dozen plant kits for future planting by the children.

Over the school year they will continue to visit the allotments, experiencing at first-hand how to grow plants and to recognise fruit and vegetables. Hopefully, they will develop an enthusiasm, understanding and love for Nature. There are many ways to help/get involved: one very useful thing you can do is to buy the produce the children have grown when it is displayed for sale in the playground at the rear of the School, on Wednesdays at the end of lessons. This is the only source of income and keeps the whole enterprise going. For example, those seeds Year Four planted today cost just over £200!

Three members of **Enterprise group** popped along to Waitrose this week to see how our collection of green tokens towards our Secret Garden fund was progressing. Remember, if you are shopping at Waitrose, please pop a token in our box and help us raise £500!



This past week, **Grace in Year 3** has whisked her classmates away to Candy Land in **her spellbinding debut novel** entitled Clara's First Magical Night. The book features Grace's hand drawn

illustrations and a whimsical tale of adventure as the hero Clara joins forces with The Prince of Candy Land to battle the evil Rat King.

Grace's wonderful novel has been independently published and is available online to purchase. Several copies have also been generously donated to our school and are already inspiring other young writers in Year 3. Not only that, Miss Kirkbride has also teased fans that their might be future adventures on the horizon for Clara. So stay tuned fantasy fanatics!

Young Achievers	
Lucy R1	Achieved Stage 5 Gymnastics
Danny R1	Brilliant subtraction story
Evie Y1W	Fantastic work on the Rainforest
Sylvie R2	Achieved 5m Swimming Award
Finn Y2JT	Achieved Stage 6 Swimming Award
Isla R1	Brilliant work and brilliant writing
Kai Y2JT	Fantastic expressive reading
Tia Y3L	Fantastic expressive reading
Jack Y2H	Star team player in Rugby
Scarlett R2	Achieved Stage 4 Swimming Award
David Y6W	Beautifully presented work and flowing handwriting
Shaun Y4S	Achieved Level 2A of Kumon Maths Programme
Kishlay Y10	Beautiful neat handwriting

With best wishes for the week ahead.

Best wishes

Dominic

Dominic Martin Head of School