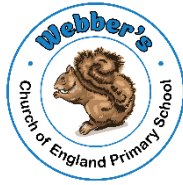


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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the regular glimpse into the lives of our two, local primary schools and the first article of the summer term. I would like to start this month where I left off from last month – our recent trip to Paignton Zoo. 😊

With both schools, and a full compliment of staff and helpers (thank you to all those who gave their time to support the trip), we set off for Paignton Zoo almost 150-strong. After arrival and orientation, children were free to explore the zoo (under the supervision of the adult guide(s) in their sub-group of course) until their workshop – and there was so much to see. Children saw a variety of different animals from zebras and red pandas to a baby orangutang (who was impossibly cute) and giraffes. Each Key Stage also enjoyed a different themed workshop with KS2 enjoying Conservation Conundrum, KS1 going on an African Safari and EYFS taking on a Curiosity Quest. It's true to say that there were a lot of tired, little legs at the end of the day, but boy was all the walking worth it!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Burlescombe and Webber's PTFAs for funding the considerable cost for the coaches required to take the children. The fundraising work they do is integral to the enrichment of children's education and is very much appreciated by children, staff and governors alike. If you are interested in helping the PTFA and joining the team, please speak to Emma Forward or Sophie Cornish, co-chairs of the Webber's PTFA, or Claire Davis, chair of the Burlescombe PTFA.

I have some Safeguarding news to update you with next: recently, both schools have undergone Safeguarding Reviews conducted by the local authority. These yearly reviews take place to ensure that everything we are doing in school supports the Safeguarding of children, and that the school and its environment is helping to keep children safe. I am pleased to report that both schools' reviews showed that Safeguarding at both schools is robust and effective.

Continuing with the Safeguarding theme, I am very happy to share news that both schools will be receiving upgrades to the systems for entry and exit to school. Next term, Webber's and Burlescombe will both be receiving new, secure entrance gates with an intercom system. This is part of a wider drive to ensure that both schools' sites are as secure as they can be, and further upgrades will be taking place in the future.

The remaining term of the year promises to be as packed with learning and enrichment opportunities for children as the previous two terms: year 3&4 from both schools recently enjoyed their residential trip to Wildside, which involved sleeping in tents and experiencing lots of different

activities including orienteering, archery, woodcraft, hiking and map reading challenges. Luckily, the residential was planned from Wednesday to Friday, so the weekend was very welcome to recover for staff and children alike! I would like to thank Mrs. Verrall, Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Gardener for coming on the trip and giving their time to support the enrichment of children's education. Attending residential is not in the contract of a teacher, or teaching assistant, and they do not get paid any more than the normal school day's wages to attend – there is certainly a lot more to do than in a normal school day too! Without the kindness of staff freely giving their time for children, it would not be possible to put on such important experiences for children.

Later in the term, year 5&6 children will be visiting London for 3 days for their residential. This promises to be a fun and factual visit to our capital city, where children will see the major London sites and take in a major West End show.

However, before any of that loveliness, we have an exciting, historic occasion to celebrate – the coronation of King Charles III. We will be marking the event across both schools, and I know there are many celebrations being planned in our communities. I look forward to celebrating the reign of our new king with you soon.

Until the next time,

Take care and Climb to your Highest.

R. Rosley