



# Girls' Newsletter - 9th February 2024

## Upcoming Key Dates.....

*All school dates for this term are available to view on the 'Calendar' section of your Cognita Connect app, please regularly check to keep up-to-date with upcoming events at school.*

- **Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February - HALF-TERM**
- **Monday 19th February** - Year 5 Trip to SES Water (please refer to the 'Notice' sent out on Cognita Connect for further details)
- **Tuesday 20th February** - Year 3 to 6 ISA Regional Cross Country @ Radnor House (see sports website for further details)
- **Tuesday 20th February** - Year 4 Hockey v Aberdour (a) - Parents Welcome (see sports website for further details)
- **Tuesday 20th February** - Parents' Evening In Person
- **Wednesday 21st February** - Reception Trip to Waitrose (please refer to the 'Notice' sent out on Cognita Connect for further details)
- **Wednesday 21st February** - Year 5 Hockey v Aberdour (a) - Parents Welcome (see sports website for further details)

- **Wednesday 21st February** - *Croydon Schools Swimming Final @ Trinity (see sports website for further details)*
- **Thursday 22nd February** - *Parents' Evening Online*

## A Message from Mrs McShane

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 1 were fabulous in assembly this morning, giving us much to think about regarding how we can better look after our planet. They spoke their words loudly and with confidence and clarity. I think we all took away some great advice. Thank you, girls!









<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/2ehyo0Ehm3pjHzlM#content=EfNRxWvmhaq7JW>

We are so proud of our Year 6 girls. They have represented themselves, and the school, well during the whole 11+ process. They have remained calm and confident and have emerged with a superb set of results in terms of offers of places, scholarships, and awards, also the feedback that I have had from the head teachers at the senior schools about how our girls have been able to express themselves at interview has been very complimentary. There are currently 24 offers of places to independent schools and 14 Scholarships. Year 6 parents now have the task of selecting which offer to accept, I would urge you to make decisions in a timely manner so that the senior schools can ascertain numbers and offer to pupils who may be on the waiting list. If you would like to discuss your options with me, please don't hesitate to make an appointment to see me.

The annual cross-country event is one which I look forward to, it is a time when girls show their running prowess but also an event where the girls really support and encourage each other, and this year was no exception. Well done to all the girls for demonstrating their resilience and determination to complete the course.

























Some of the exciting things that I have been asked to do of late are interviews. I was approached a little while back to speak live on Times Radio about the benefits of an all-girls' education which was a new experience for me. I was also asked by School House Magazine to talk about the same thing. Here is a link to the article "[Here Come the Girls](#)".

We have sent out the information regarding parents' evenings which are after half term. If you are planning to have an online meeting, please ensure that you are in a quiet area with good signal when you have your meeting – much as you would when you have an online consultation with your doctor. Teachers cannot easily make up meetings that are lost due to poor signal or if parents are late to join.

Another reminder to complete the Voice of the Parent survey if you have not yet done this. It closes on 20th February, and we really do appreciate your feedback. We are aware that some families had not received the link and we think we have rectified this problem. If you still have not received a link, please let the office know.

After a long and very rigorous process, with a great many applications, I am delighted to announce that, from September, Mrs Steph King will be taking on the role of Deputy Head here at Cumnor Girls. We know that she has big shoes to fill when Mrs Syrradd moves on, but over the time that I have worked with Mrs King, she has demonstrated a true talent for teaching, a genuine care for the girls, and a vision for the school. She shares my ambition and drive to move our fabulous school forward and I know she will be an excellent Deputy Head. Her appointment left a gap in our senior leadership team, and I am very pleased that Mr Tim Warren has accepted that position as well as to take on the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead, also from September. Mr Warren joined us to cover Mrs Pettinger's maternity leave (she will return in May). He has demonstrated adaptability having moved to us from the state sector and a determination for our girls to be their best selves. Following on from Mrs Pettinger's work, he has looked at our maths curriculum and led staff training so that we can continue to reflect and refine what we do. Mr Warren has drawn on previous experience and again has some fabulous ideas for moving our school forward. Please join me in congratulating both Mrs King and Mr Warren on their new appointments.

A request to all parents, and guardians, please be prompt when collecting your daughter from after-school clubs. There is now an increasing number of girls not being collected on time. In these cases, we will take the girls to After School Care and you will be charged for this. Similarly, teachers will also commit to being out on time! Let's see if we can all get this tightened up after half term. Thank you.

Wishing our families who celebrate it a very happy Chinese New Year, may luck be on your doorstep. This is the year of the Wood Dragon, the girls learned about Chinese New Year and associated traditions in an assembly led by Mrs Syrradd.



Wishing you all a fabulous half term break, maybe love will be bountiful on the 14th, please also take time to read, play, go for walks or do something different. I understand there is a great exhibition in the



Palm House at RHS Wisley with smoke machines and dinosaurs. For those of you going further afield, safe travels. We look forward to seeing all the girls back on Monday 19th February.

**“Love is friendship that has caught fire. It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses.”** Ann Landers

## **Important Info/Reminders.....**

### **Club/Squad Cancellations - REMINDER**

Further to the Notice that was sent earlier today, this is a reminder that the following clubs/squads will **not** be taking place on the 20th and 22nd of February due to Parents' Evenings :

#### **Tuesday 20th February -**

Years 3 to 6 Board Games Club

Year 3 & 4 Hockey Squad

Year 5 & 6 Swim Squad

#### **Thursday 22nd February -**

Years 4 to 6 Digital Leaders Club

Years 4 to 6 Swim Squad

Please ensure you collect your daughter at the normal time or alternatively After School Care is available to book via Cognita Connect. Any girls that are not collected on time will be taken to ASC for which there will be a charge.

## School Trip Consent Forms

This is a reminder for all **Reception, Year 1, 4 & 5 parents** to please complete the consent forms on Cognita Connect for their daughters' upcoming trips. (Please refer to the Notices that were sent out on Cognita Connect for further details.)

SES Water - Monday 19th February - **Year 5**

Waitrose - Wednesday 21st February - **Reception**

St Patrick's Church - Monday 26th February - **Year 1**

Hampton Court Palace - Tuesday 27th February - **Year 4**

Sutton Ecology Centre - Thursday 7th March - **Year 1**

## This week at the Girls' School.....

### Reception

This week Reception went on a Spring Walk to spot any signs of Spring. We noticed buds on the Magnolia tree and spotted Snowdrops and Daffodils that have recently bloomed near the pond. The girls also scattered seeds in the pond area to encourage the bees later on in the Spring.













#### **Year 4**

Year 4 have been learning about their digital footprint for 'Internet Safety Day'. We noted down the different sites, apps, and other uses of the internet that are collecting information as we use it. The girls then thought about what the consequences could be of a negative digital footprint and how we should ensure we are safe and happy online.







Year 5



On Tuesday, Year 5 visited Wilhelmina House and did some stained glass window art with the residents. It was lovely to see the girls interacting so well with the elderly people and showing interest in their life stories. At the end, the girls gave an impromptu concert singing some of their favourite songs. They really cheered up the elderly residents and brought lots of smiles to their faces.













### **Digital Leaders' Competition**

Thank you to all the girls who entered the Digital Leaders' Competition.

The winners were:

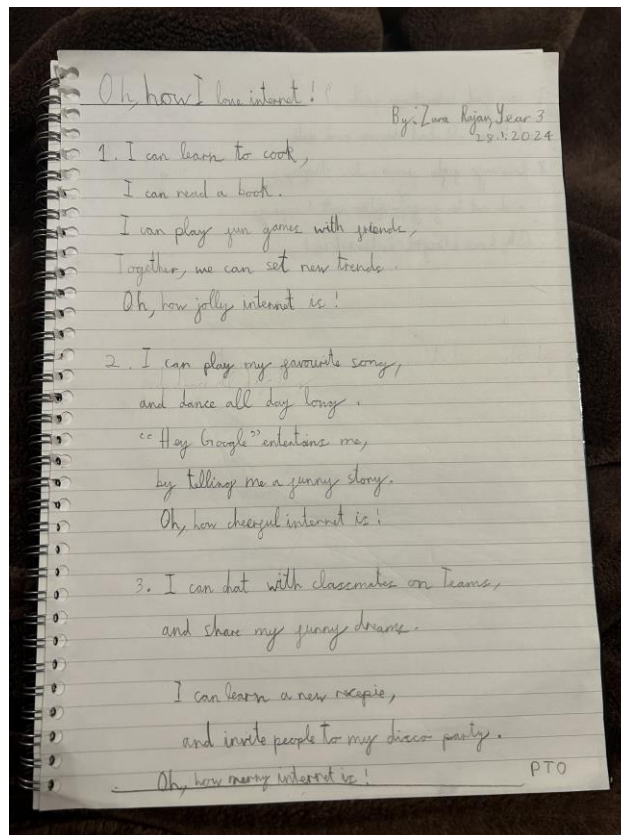
Pre-Prep - Ishani

Prep - Zara

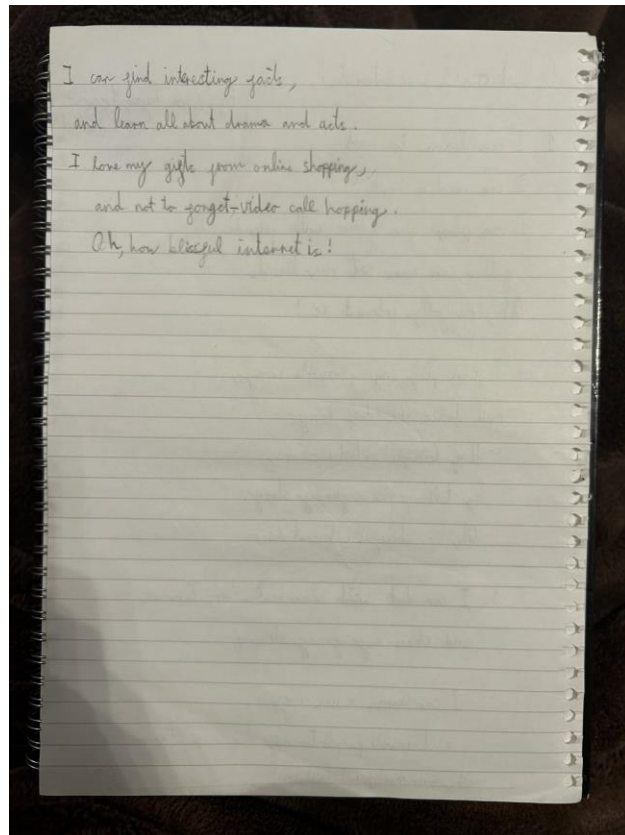
Well done girls!



1 - Ishani



2 - Zara



3 - Zara

**PTA Pancake Races Day**

























**Winners for both Pre-Prep and Prep Races were the Bue House!**



## Safer Internet Day.....

Year 2 - Safer Internet Day







<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/2ehyo0Ehm3pjHzlM#content=BR6ZAfuG3OfyK4>

#### **Year 4 - Safer Internet Day**

In Year 4 we learned about what AI is and how it is a useful tool. Did you know AI is used in facial recognition, predictive text, and video recommendations? We also looked at how AI can sometimes be used for the wrong reasons, to make Deep-fake photos and spread misinformation. Year 4 made posters to display demonstrating their learning.



Year 5 - Safer Internet Day

In Year 5 we discussed the positive and negative uses of the internet. We looked at how technology has developed over the years. When Mr Warren was younger the graphics in the games he played looked terrible when compared to nowadays. As a class, we collaborated to mind map predictions of how technology might be used in the future and how we can keep safe using it. The ideas for education included AI teachers and VR immersive environments. Imagine learning about Victorians and standing in a VR Victorian street.







## Year 6 - Safer Internet Day

In Year 6 we discussed how the websites we visit online are designed to persuade us to spend more time and money. Things like loot boxes, score streaks, and save points in games are designed to keep us playing. In groups, we looked at the different ways website/game/app designers use these techniques to keep our attention and what we can do to combat these.

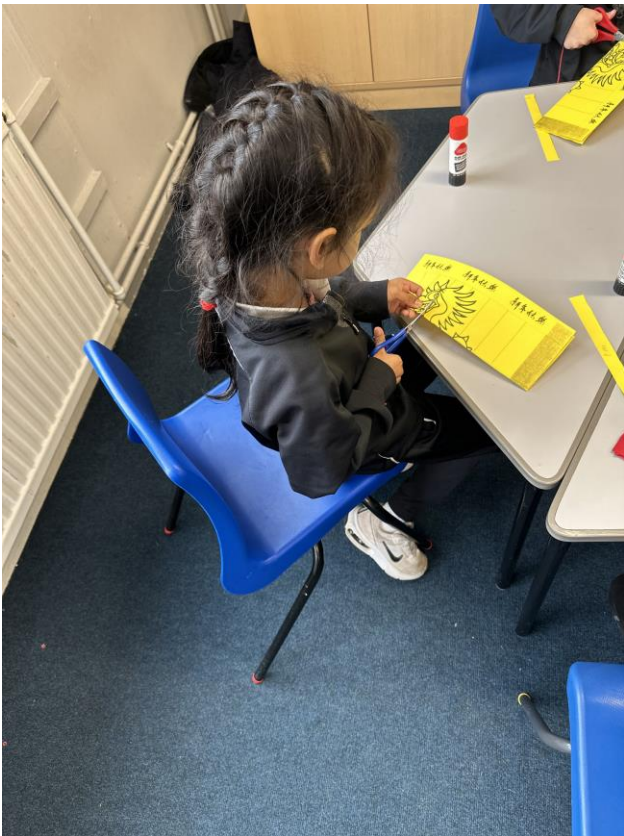




## Lunar New Year Celebrations.....

In Pre-prep the girls enjoyed completing a mixture of activities to celebrate Luna New Year! The girls carefully made lanterns and lucky red envelopes while learning about Luna New Year traditions. They also made dragon puppets as it is the year of the dragon! The girls also spent time with Mrs Lee cooking in the Food Tech room, and learning about traditional Chinese dishes. They watched Mrs Lee use noodles, vegetables, and soy sauce to create something for them to try. The girls then had great fun having a go at using chopsticks to eat their food!































Year 4 - Food Tech - Chinese New Year







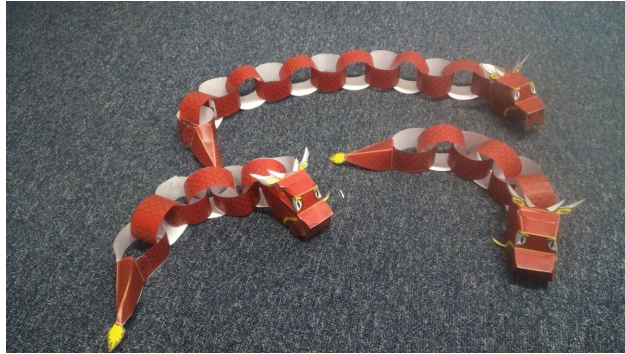












4 - Prep



5 - Prep

### Chinese Willow Pattern Plate Designs by Years 3, 4, 5 & 6



## Sport.....

### **Hazelwood Gala Monday 5th February**

Mrs Lewis and Mrs Shaw were very proud of our swimmers who took part in the Years 3 -6 Swimming Gala (away) against Hazelwood School Oxted. Many of our Year 5 girls swam up into Year 6 and our Year 2 swimmers made many appearances in the Year 3 races. We were very impressed with how mature and organised our swimmers were, they have been working hard in training and it showed at the gala. Special mention for outstanding effort goes to Serena, Daisy, Abigail, and all of our Year 2 girls. Thank you to every swimmer it was an absolute pleasure to accompany you. Unfortunately, we narrowly lost the gala, however it was a well-matched gala and we will get the win next time!



### **House Cross Country Competition Winners**

Well done to all the girls that took part in this event!

















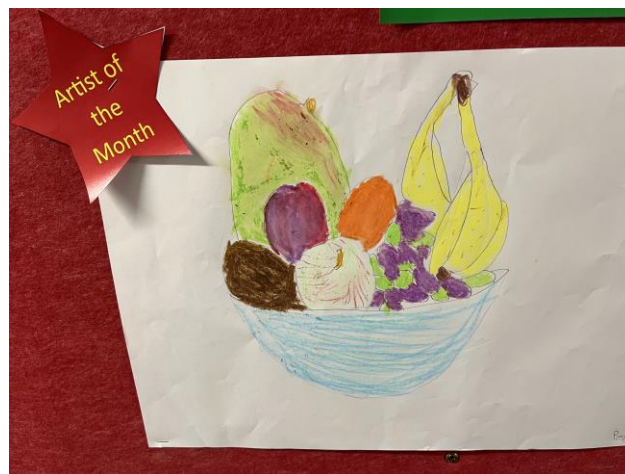
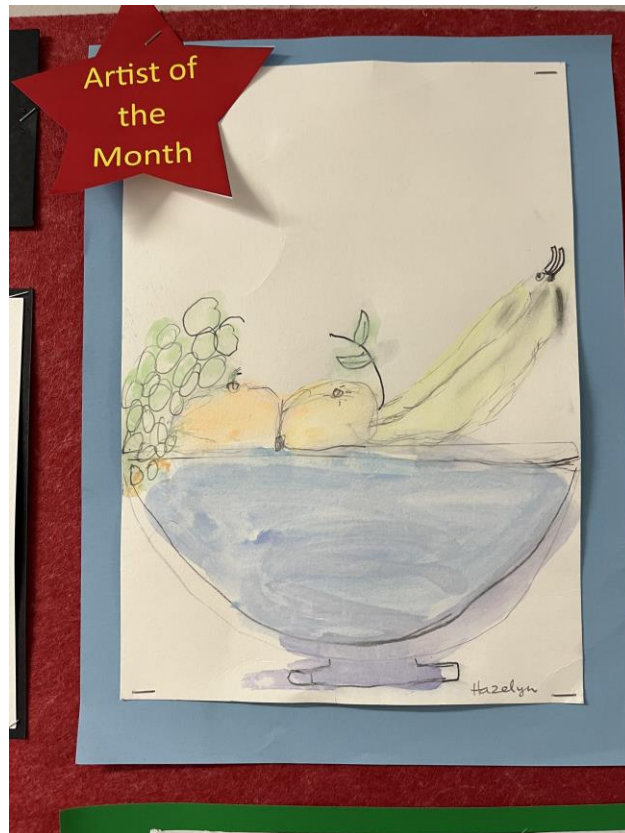






## ART.....

**Joint Winners of Artist of the Month for January and February are Hazelyn and Posy for their fruit bowl pictures. Well done!**



Artist of the Month Competition for March is to Paint, Draw, or Collage an Easter theme Design.





## Spotlight on Digital Safety.....



We use Atom Learning in Years 3-6 and they have offered us an opportunity to hold an online parent workshop. Please use the link below to give feedback as to whether this is something parents would find useful.

[Atom Learning-Parent Workshop](#)

## Other.....

### House Points

Apologies to Serena for forgetting her photo last week to celebrate Yellow House's win!



### **Journalism Club Newsletter - Spring Edition**

The journalism club has been working hard this term on creating a newsletter sharing all of Cumnor News.

[CHG Students Newsletter](#)

### **Anti-bullying ambassadors**

Congratulations to our new anti-bullying ambassadors who have been voted by their peers and are now fulfilling their role in school.

They are:

- Year 1-Nyahrobi & Deborah
- Year 2-Reeva S & Evie
- Year 3-Aruna & Maya I

- Year 4-Annika & Riya
- Year 5-Hazelyn & Eunice
- Year 6-Zahra & Sienna

The retiring ABAs took part in a handover training session to share good practice and remind the new ABAs of the requirements of their role.

We wish our new ABAs well in ensuring that our playground is a safe and happy place for all and reminding all of our girls that there is always someone there to talk to.



#### **Outside of School Achievements/Awards**





6 - Posy - Member of the Ultra Marathon Club



7 - Layla - Surrey County Swimming Championships

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# HOLIDAY CAMPS

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AND BEYOND

This poster features a blue background with a white paper airplane in the top left and a green cartoon alien in the top right. The central text 'HOLIDAY CAMPS' is in large, bold, pink-outlined white letters. Below it is a blue cartoon dinosaur wearing a green vest. To the left of the dinosaur is a circular inset photo of three children playing on a grassy field. A pink circular button with the text 'BOOK NOW!' is to the right of the dinosaur. At the bottom, the text 'BOOK NOW FOR FEBRUARY HALF-TERM AND BEYOND' is written in pink-outlined white letters.




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USE THE CODE  
PARENT24 FOR  
10% OFF YOUR  
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FEBRUARY HALF-TERM  
★ CHILDCARE ★

This poster features a blue background with a white paper airplane in the bottom left. The central image is a circular inset photo of a group of children running and playing on a grassy field in front of a wooden building. Above the photo, the text 'SuperCamps' is in white on a blue background, and 'SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS' is in white on a yellow background. To the right of the photo is a pink circular button with the text 'USE THE CODE PARENT24 FOR 10% OFF YOUR BOOKING'. At the bottom, the text 'FEBRUARY HALF-TERM' is in yellow, and '★ CHILDCARE ★' is in white with pink stars.







# HOLIDAY CAMPS

AT CUMNOR HOUSE GIRLS SCHOOL


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