



Dear Families,

I cannot leave this half term without reflecting on the distressing events at All Saints, which understandably left us all in a state of shock. The occurrence of knife crime in schools within the UK is exceptionally rare, but it serves as a stark reminder of the importance of safeguarding our children. We want to reassure you that we are committed to creating a safe and secure environment for all our pupils and very much rely on yourselves as parents to set a good example to your children. After all we know that the majority of knife incidents happen with knives that are found in the kitchen draws within the child's home environments.

To honour Harvey and the All Saints School community, we held an assembly to pause and reflect on this tragic incident. It provided an opportunity for us all to come together in support of one another and remember the values that connect us as a community.

On a brighter note, we recently celebrated significant achievements during our half-term, including the much-anticipated Dance Festival. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils who participated; their enthusiasm and talent truly shone through. We look forward to watching their new dance plans develop and come to fruition in the summer term.

It has been great to see so many of you in school this half term particularly at the parents coffee mornings. Special praise has to go to the Friends of Discovery Academy group who are working together to raise money for school. Their enthusiasm and care for school speaks volumes and we are all so excited and grateful for their hard work. Please do contact school should you want to be part of the group.

I hope you have a settled and calm half term with your wonderful children and look forward to seeing you back in a week's time for the Easter fun to begin.

## Healthy eating - important updates!

From Spring 2 onwards we will be taking steps to become a more healthy school. Work will be done this week to ensure children understand these changes in advance.

In order to support this we ask that families to do not send in the following:

- Fizzy drinks
- Energy or other caffeinated drinks including tea/coffee
- Sharing size bags of snacks / crisps / sweets

Research shows that high levels of sugar can make ADHD symptoms significantly more challenging.

We will confiscate and dispose of these items if they are brought into school.

Can we also ask that water bottles coming into school are made of plastic (not metal or glass).



## Chinese New Year celebrations

This half term we once again celebrated Chinese New Year! Our wonderful Miss Saleh filled our day with fun, learning and, importantly, delicious food!

Children made beautiful lanterns to adorn the library and U5 even created a snake sculpture to celebrate The Year of the Snake.

Our wonderful Mrs Horner delivered Chinese food for taste testing and our dinner ladies put on a beautiful Chinese spread. It was beautiful to see our children celebrating and learning together.



Check our 2024-25 events calendar on the school website.

## Toys and Special Objects

Many of our children bring special objects, toys and plushies into school. We know the important role these play in feelings of security and self expression. Recently, however, we have seen children bringing in excessive amounts of toys and/or very large toys.

We simply don't have the space or means to keep these items safe. In some cases, they are also becoming barriers to learning and interaction.

Can we ask that every child sticks to a 'one toy rule' and that toys are no bigger than an A4 piece of paper.

Resources are available in school and on the school website to support this change.



## Dance Show

Our team of performers wowed us again this half term at a dance show. The students danced to "Shake it Of" by Taylor Swift. Spectators and colleagues from across Nexus commented on their kindness, their confidence and their willingness to support other children during the event. We are, as always, really proud.



## An afternoon at the Spa with U5

In Life Skills this half term the U5 Crew have been focusing on mental health and self care. Learning about the importance of taking time out to relax and connect. The class enjoyed foot spas, face masks and even did each other's hair. It was lovely see the class so connected and sharing quality time together.

## Valentine's Day Party

On Friday we celebrated love of all kinds at our Valentine's Day party! We had face paints, made cards and even decorated our own biscuits! Keep a look out on SeeSaw for the super photos from our love themed Photobooth!

## DC Maths Day

Mrs Lazenby got our brains ticking last week with our DC maths day! Children in Lower School rocked out and became TT Rockstars, competing in timetable challenges throughout the morning! Upper School took on some STEM challenges building towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows!

## Upcoming Family Events

Coffee morning with Miss Higgins on 4.3.25

Friends of Discovery Curry and Games Night @ 6.30pm on 7.3.25

Family Workshop on Puberty @ 11.30am on 12.3.25

KS4 Options Evening for children in Year 9 and Year 10 @4pm on 19.3.25

Mr Mills' Student Art Exhibition on 20.3.25

Our Family Easter themed Colour Run on 28.3.25 (weather permitting!)

