



Newsletter



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Firstly a huge thank you to Adrian, Site Manager, this week for keeping the school site running smoothly, it is never easy with snow and ice! Please keep an eye on www.kentsclosures.co.uk to check if the school is open. Once the message has been posted on the KCC website then we will update our school website and school facebook page. The school is not responsible for gritting the pavements and roads on the school approach so please take care. KCC gritters prioritise the main roads followed by routes to secondary schools and then possibly primary schools. Gritting routes can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel.

Many events have happened in the last two weeks. You will find pictures of Beech class's Castle day and animals visiting All in Club! Our inclusive dance group 'This is us' gave an incredible performance at TEDx at the Assembly Hall last weekend. A full write up can be found on page 2. Many thanks to Jan Cockburn and Hannah Rotchell for planning and organising the group and inspiring us with the dance performance. There are two other attachments with this week's newsletter. The first is a joint letter from the school and Kent Police advising you of a new joint initiative to support children that may have witnessed domestic abuse and the second an update form Nourish our caterers regarding their Sugarwise initiative.



Beech Class are currently enjoying learning about Castles and Knights. This has included a recent dress up day. As well as dressing up as knights, princes, princesses and even some dragons, the day included jousting, doing some medieval dancing and a banquet!

The children have embraced their learning this term and will be able to tell you a great deal about knights and armour, as well as castles. Our learning culminates in a class trip to Hever Castle at the end of term.



Dancers: Lakishia, Edward, Riley, Ruben, Devon, Anniemay, Roxy and ex BD pupils Anja, Isabel, Joshua, Keira
This Is Us support:
Mrs Ahmed, Mrs Cockburn, Mrs Gardener, Mrs Gebbie, Miss Goodfellow, Miss Rotchell, Mrs Rotchell



peterrobertshaw@myportfolio.com



All in Club



This Is Us
Youth Dance Company
@ TEDx TW 2019
See page 2 for the write up

Message from Julian Miller

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection for me, which I found to be extraordinarily generous, and a complete surprise. I have enjoyed supporting the children and their families in safely crossing Coniston Avenue on their way to school for the last 18 years, and will be continuing my volunteering at Bishops Down through Forest School, Infant Football Club, and KS2 swimming. Many thanks to all of you.

Julian

thank
YOU



We are hoping to restart a **Girls' Football** club for year 5 and 6 girls on a Friday after school. We need at least 10 girls for this to make it viable. Please can you email an expression of interest to the school office by Friday the 8th Feb so we are able to see if this can happen.

Chess Club - this has been very popular during the trial period so we will be making it a permanent fixture for the rest of the spring term. There will be a letter going out before the end of this half term, stating when Gateway will be available for booking. This club is for 30 children across years 5 and 6. Thank you to Mrs Edmondson for organising this.



Safer Internet day is Tuesday the 5th February. The children will be taking part in activities to raise awareness of internet safety and there will be an assembly. Some recent, interesting statistics from National Online Safety State:

- Whilst 72% of parents (of children aged 3-10) feel equipped to keep their children safe online, of those 72% over half would let their child watch YouTube videos unsupervised.
- 40% of parents had never heard of Fortnite: Battle Royale.
- 42% of parents said that they were addicted to their mobile phones and 38% said that their children were addicted.
- 2-3 hours PER DAY is the time limit imposed by 44% of parents for their children to use their digital devices.
- Whilst the DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' states that the school DSL is ultimately responsible for online safety, 77% of parents surveyed agreed that it is both theirs and the school's responsibility.

This Is Us Youth Dance Company @ TEDx TW 2019



TEDx is a fantastic annual event in Tunbridge Wells, which allows local communities to share experiences and ideas in the same way as the famous worldwide TED talk phenomenon. Speakers are invited to share their ideas that are **T**-technology, **E**-Educational/entertainment, **D**-design based.

This Is Us Youth Dance Company were thrilled to be invited by the TEDx committee of Tunbridge Wells to share their idea and perform at this year's event. On Saturday 26th January, with a dress rehearsal under their belt, our Company of 11 dancers, and 7 support staff took to the stage in front of over 900 people. The audience response to our inclusive dance message and performance was phenomenal. Our Company were given a standing ovation and the messages we have received in person on the day, via email and our social media pages have been overwhelming. Here are some of them:

"The dancers smashed it!"

"What a brilliant thing. So good for the community. What superstars!"

"Incredible. Standing ovation. I nearly cried it was so wonderful. The children are gorgeous - each and every one of them are stars"

"Just seen the most inspiring group dancing their hearts out"

"Our hearts are full watching This Is Us"



We are so very proud of all of our Company members children and adults alike - their professionalism, dedication and belief in themselves was just a joy to see. Their behaviour was beyond exemplary, the theatre staff were amazed!

Bravo This Is Us Youth Dance Company, we cannot wait to see what the future holds...