



TAUNTON
SCHOOL

Prep & Pre-Prep

COURIER

28th May 2021

#TAUNTONSCHOOL

A SUMMER CONCERT SPECTACULAR



The Prep School's summer music concert was certainly an enjoyable and memorable event. The young children performed a varied and colourful programme on the theme 'Music from Around the World'.

There were nine instrumental ensembles participating and achieving a high standard of performance.

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SPORTS DAY

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More Inside

Fun at the Museum

A Trip to the Zoo

Marvellous Mathematicians

Meet the Head of English

Weekly Awards

And plenty more....

Next Prep Courier: 18th June 2021



The Head has his say...

It has been terrific to see the concentration and effort from our pupils during this past week of exams and assessments. Mrs Seymour and the teachers have ensured that our pupils have had an excellent preparation and I hope that all the children feel as if they have done themselves

justice. Results will be given to pupils and parents after half term. I am sure that the boys and girls will all really enjoy a summer half term without the burden of revision!

Last Tuesday evening, a very successful transition meeting took place for parents of pupils joining the Prep School into Year 3 in September. We are looking forward to having many of our current Year 7 pupils putting themselves forward to be Junior Leaders for our Year 3 children in September. To have the oldest pupils spending time with, and looking out for, the youngest goes a long way to creating the wonderful family feel which is such an important part of the ethos of our school.

In terms of transition for our current Years 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, there is no need for a meeting for parents, but we will be sending out detailed letters to parents during the second half of term which will provide all of the significant information relating to the next academic year. We are planning to announce, during the final week of term, the Form Tutors for next year and to give the pupils time with their new Form Tutors before the end of the Summer term. Pupils in current Years 3, 4 and 7 will move up in the same Form Tutor groups as they are in at the moment. Pupils in current Year 5 (2 Forms at the moment) will go into three new Form Tutor Groups for September, and pupils in current Year 6 (3 Forms at the moment) will go into four new Form Tutor groups for September.

Instead of our usual Summer concert for parents in the chapel (which we couldn't do due to the current regulations), we had last week the great pleasure of hearing our instrumental ensembles and orchestras showing off their talents in a special Performing Arts Cafe. I hope that many of you were able to follow the event online and that you enjoyed it as much as I did. Very well done to all of our musicians who have been practising so hard, and to our teachers. We have a dedicated and committed team of professional musicians, led superbly by Mrs Hornsby, who all inspire our pupils to develop their musical skills and use them to full effect in these performing opportunities. At the end of the Cafe, I was able to give our public thanks to Mrs Ruth Maddock, one of our violin teachers, who will be retiring at the end of this term after making a fantastic contribution over an amazing 26 years. Thank you very much for all that you have done, Ruth.

It was terrific to see parents again on the boundaries for our cricket matches last Wednesday, and it was very fitting that the sun came out for the occasion! All of our teams performed very well, with our pupils aiming high, trying their best and showing great sportsmanship. Finally, as I write this, I am very much looking forward to another TPS Sports Day. The friendly rivalry and healthy competition between the houses will no doubt be very much on display again. I always love to see how the pupils derive so much pleasure, not simply by participating themselves, but by encouraging and supporting their team mates and good friends.

I wish you and your families a very relaxing and happy half term break, and I look forward to seeing everyone again for the final exciting weeks of the school year.

Andrew Edwards
TPS Headmaster



News from Pre-Prep

As we begin to get into a bit more of a normal rhythm, we have been busy with the start of our school trips beginning to take place, Parent Consultations, Assessments and Emily Fairweather photographing the children this week.

I have been struck by the children's behaviour and involvement in the Forest School environment, this week. Healthy risk-taking, problem solving, creativity, self-reflection and self-discovery all within a natural environment and with the children building resilience and leading their own learning.

Thank you to all the parents who joined the remote transition evening for TPS on Tuesday evening. I hope that you found the event to be informative and reassuring for the

next stage of your child's learning journey.

We are also very lucky to be celebrating the children's wider achievements this week. My congratulations go to our Year two Ballet Dancers who entered the Royal Academy of Dance -- Pre-Primary in Dance. All our dancers have enjoyed amazing recognition for their performance submissions. A huge 'well done' to all our entrants. With the highest awards achieved by our twelve Year two entrants. Madame Turner is incredibly proud of your achievements.

Enjoy a lovely Bank Holiday weekend and a good half term week.

Mrs Louise Leah
Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery

Music from Around the World

continued from front page...

The concert closed with the String Ensemble playing the Blue Danube – it was quite emotional as this would be the last time Mrs Maddock, who has been with us for 26 years, would be leading this ensemble. We wish Mrs Maddock every happiness in her retirement. The performances were live-streamed in a relaxed atmosphere; a wonderful celebration of the children's musical talents. Thank you and well done to all the wonderful children who performed.

[To watch the event click this link.](#)

Jayne Hornsby, Head of Music and Performing Arts



Year 1 visit Taunton Castle Museum

Year One walked to Taunton Castle Museum to attend a Knights and Castles workshop to support their topic Castles and Beanstalks this term. The children learnt a great deal about Taunton Castle and the history of castles and were keen to share all their prior knowledge with Claire the workshop leader. They thoroughly enjoyed handling different artefacts especially the very heavy chainmail. Claire talked about the people who lived and stayed in Taunton Castle, including the daughter of King John, Princess Eleanor, to keep her safe in troubled times. The children

made the most of dressing up as Knights and Princesses and acting the parts. It was interesting to walk around the museum and discover hidden parts such as spiral staircases and arrow slits. The children were especially fascinated by the dungeon! We enjoyed our packed lunches at the museum before walking back to school. A big thank you to Claire and a big well done to the children for taking part enthusiastically and behaving so beautifully.

Lucy Hebditch, Year 1 Teacher



Year 4 go to the Zoo

Year 4 recently enjoyed a day out at Bristol Zoo, to help bring to life their Science and Geography work, on Habitats and the Rainforest. Despite some of the enclosures being closed to the public due to Covid restrictions, there was still plenty to see. The flamingos were particularly noisy and restless, the meerkats were happy to provide entertainment, the lions were 'deadly' still, the lemurs were hugging each other with their tails (!) and the spider monkeys

put on a fine gymnastic display, swinging from high ropes and branches with great dexterity!

Thank you to all the staff who accompanied us on the trip, and for once, the weather was warm and sunny; just perfect for a day out at the zoo!

The Year 4 Teachers

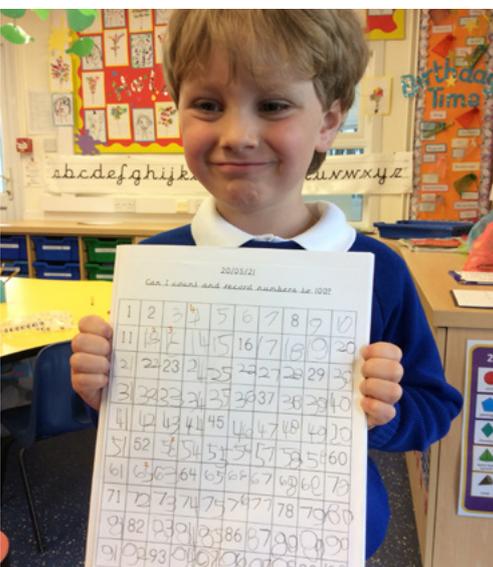
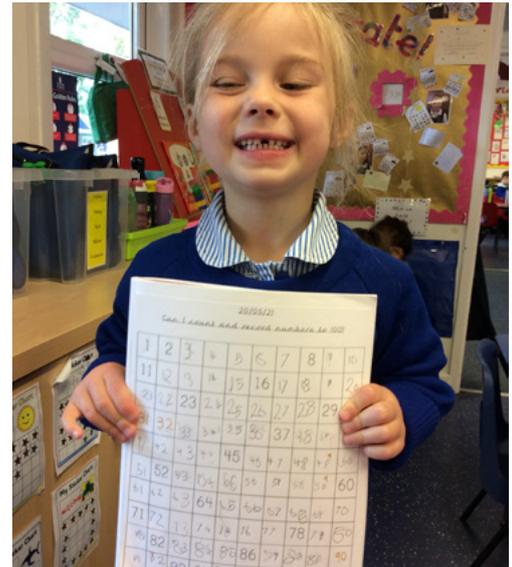
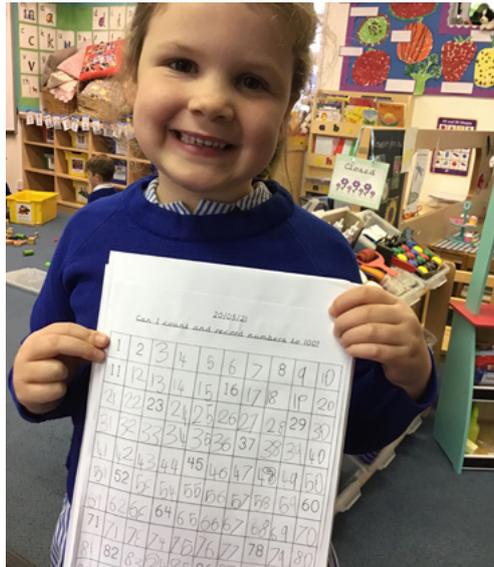
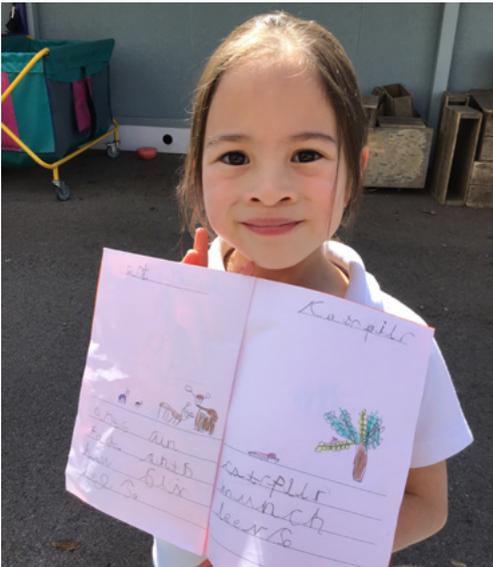
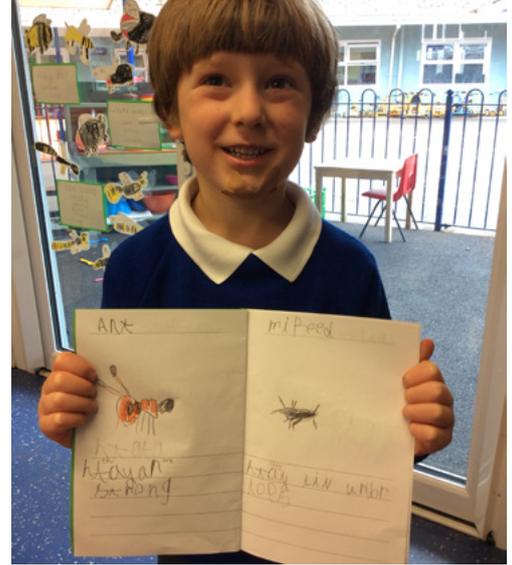


Marvellous Mathematicians

Reception became 'Marvellous Mathematicians' this week and explored numbers beyond 20. They practised recording their numbers and had fun spotting different number patterns on a 100 square. They have continued to be 'Mini-Beast Detectives' and have created their own fact books, as well as their own mini-beast moulded from clay.

Mrs Wallace and Mrs Jenner wish the children a fantastic half term break with their families and look forward to more exciting adventures after half term.

Reception Team



Performing Arts Café - 17th May

What wonderful performances we had from the Pre-Prep children in last week's Performing Arts Café. The children were involved in jazz dancing, ballet, speech & drama as well as performing on musical instruments.

Pupils who have lessons at school as well as children who get taught outside, performed confidently. Well done to every child who participated with such enthusiasm.

Jayne Hornsby, Head of Music and Performing Arts TPS



A virtual trip to Cornwall for Year 5

Year 5 have had the most wonderful two days off timetable enjoying a variety of activities which have been linked to their Cornwall residential trip. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, the children have been unable to travel to Cornwall, but have thrown themselves into all the activities. They have enjoyed orienteering with Mr Raven, a circus workshop with Miss Hartland-Mann, an informative virtual session about climate change with the

Eden Project, decorated pebbles with a sea theme and so much more. They finished their experience off with a fantastic 'Taunton has Talent' show with the winners being George, Noah and Benjamin with a great drama performance. Thank you to all the staff who were involved with these activities- it has certainly been great fun for everyone!

Mrs Hendy and Miss Sewell



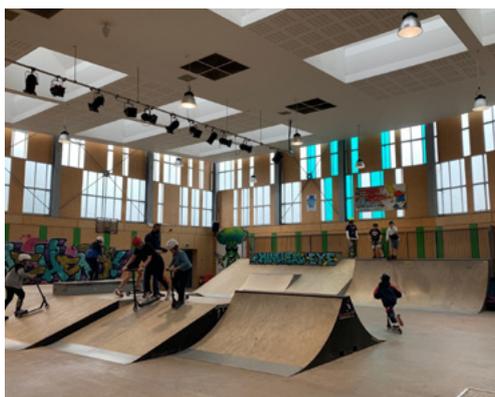
Prep Boarders get out and active



Our Prep School boarders had a fabulous afternoon on Sunday at The Minehead Eye. The children relished the opportunity to take part in skateboarding, scootering, rollerblading, roller skating, bouldering, street art and dodgeball.

A huge thank you to the fantastic team at Minehead Eye who made it so enjoyable for the children and staff alike.

Katherine Wells
Head of Boarding and House Parent



Sports Day back with a bang!

It was brilliant to have all of the children enjoying sports day again after last year's plans were disrupted.

A full gallery of the day will follow on the School's Facebook page and will also be in the next edition of the Courier. Watch this space!



Meet Jane Burton, Head of English

What is your job role and which age groups do you work with?

I am Head of English at the Prep School and teach Years 6-8. I am also a Year 7 form tutor.

When did you start at Taunton School and what did you do before?

I started here in September 2014. Prior to that, I was Head of English at a middle school for several years and before that, I taught English at a local secondary school. Before I became a teacher, I worked as a PA in an art gallery in London.

Who inspires you?

The older generation inspire me and I am always inspired by anyone who has overcome adversity.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy seeing the progression made and take great pleasure in hearing pupils say that they are proud of their work. I particularly enjoy reading to the children in my classes and hearing them gasp at key points in the story when different pieces start falling into place.

What do you find most challenging?

Every day provides different, and often unforeseen, challenges which keeps the job interesting. Who would have ever thought that we would be teaching live lessons remotely for such a long period of time? It's the positives that we take from the challenges that holds most importance; for me, the biggest challenge was getting to grips with the technology involved but, largely thanks to the expertise of many colleagues (and some patient pupils!), I now feel more skilled, am more receptive to new technology and can look to embrace different ways of being creative in my teaching.

How do you switch off from work at the end of the day?

My husband built a wood-fired oven in our garden during lockdown so we spend a lot of time cooking outdoors. I enjoy spending time pottering in the garden (although any gardening success is at the mercy of my son's football!).



Quick Fire Questions now...

Favourite film

'A Summer Story' which is based on a short story by John Galsworthy and filmed locally. Another favourite is 'The Talented Mr Ripley' although it always makes me want to book a holiday!

Favourite book

So many to choose from... I think 'The Joy Luck Club' by Amy Tan or anything by Kate Atkinson. I am currently enjoying a childhood favourite, 'Malory Towers', all over again as I am reading the series with my daughter.

Hobbies

Skiing holidays, cooking, long coastal walks and vintiquing. And reading, obviously!

Any pets?

A cat called Rolo. We'd love to have a dog but at the moment we borrow our neighbour's dog for walks.

Favourite singers/bands

Coldplay. Always partial to a bit of Abba too!

Favourite TV programmes/series

My husband and I are currently watching series 2 of Line of Duty – we're slow starters!

Any claims to fame

I was nearly run over by Vinnie Jones once – does that count?!



Year 2 Explore the Jungle

**Terrific
Toucans**

Our chocolate topic has taken us to the jungles of the world. We found out about Toucans and painted these amazing birds with their huge colourful beaks.

Mrs Brodie and Mrs Cooper, Year 2



Reminder for Parents

Just a reminder that we need notice for cancellation of lessons from Year 8 to Year 9 in Speech and Drama.

Thank you.

Jayne Hornsby
Head of Music and Performing Arts

Steam Engineers

We got the steam engines out for a bit of fun during Airfix/Warhammer club this week.

Simon Williams, Head of Science



School Uniform Shop

During Term Time:

Monday 8am – 2pm

Tuesday 10am – 2pm

Wednesday 10am – 2pm

Thursday 10am – 2pm

Friday 10am – 2pm

1st Saturday of the month 8.30am – 12.30pm

We are also very happy to take orders and payment over the telephone and deliver to a student's area of the school, if parents find visiting during these hours difficult.

Nancy O'Carroll, School Shop Manager

Nancy.OCarroll@tauntonschool.co.uk - 01823 703165

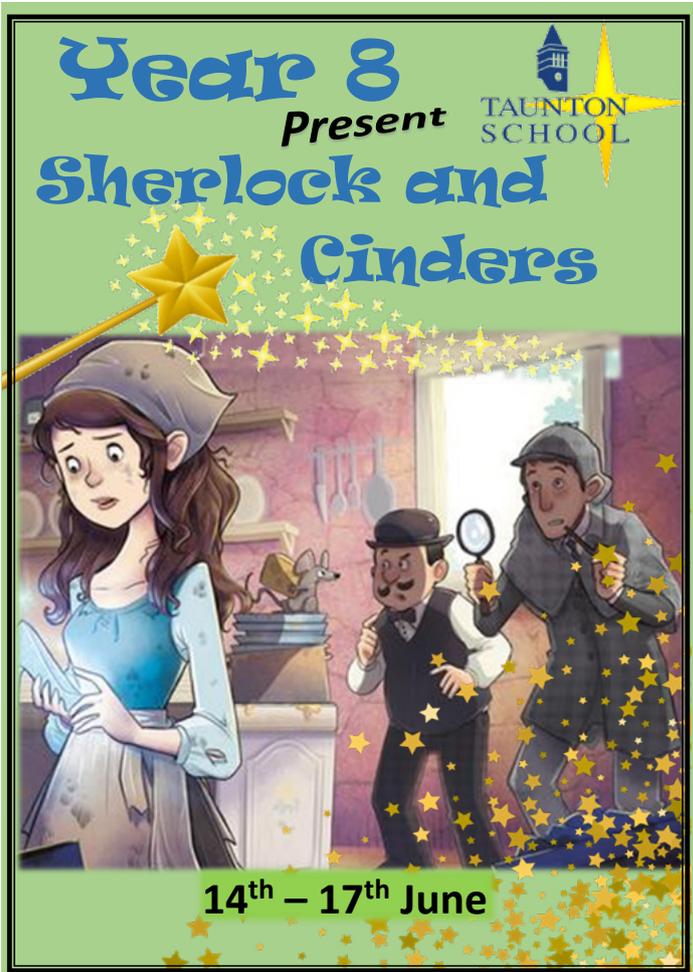


TAUNTON SCHOOL Online!

Summer Term

Performing Arts Cafes

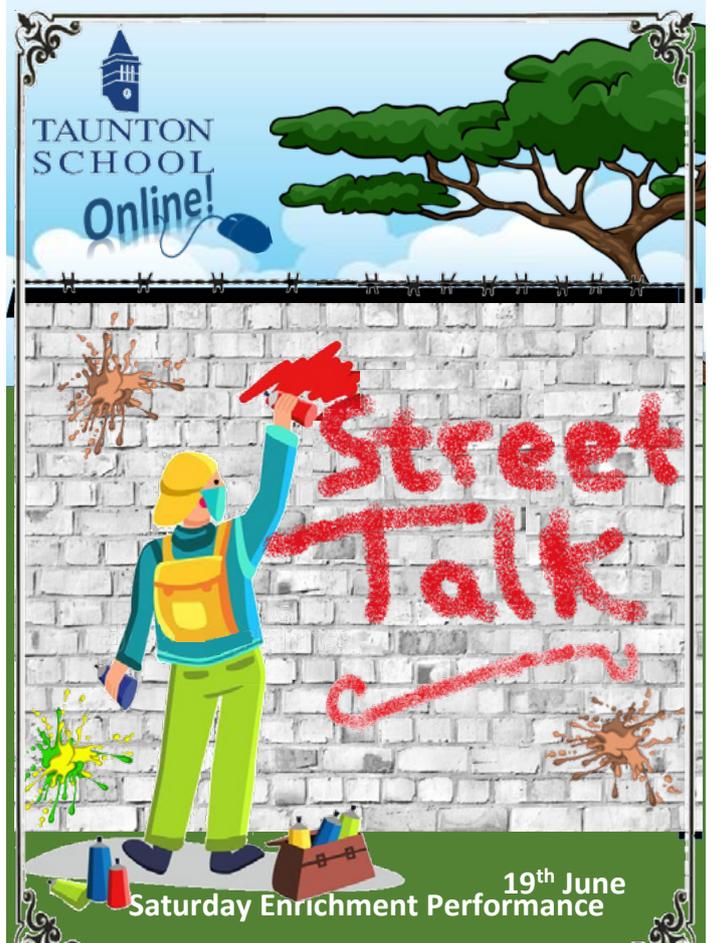
Tuesday 27th April
 Tuesday 4th May
 Tuesday 11th May
 Monday 17th May
Pre-Prep Café
 Tuesday 18th May
Music Ensembles
 Tuesday 8th June



Year 8 Present TAUNTON SCHOOL

Sherlock and Cinders

14th – 17th June



TAUNTON SCHOOL Online!

Street Talk

19th June
 Saturday Enrichment Performance

House Points

GOLD

Emily Dempsey – 3H
 Riya Narang – 3H
 Siddu Chaganti – 4P
 Benjamin Machado – 5H
 Noah Jacobi – 5H
 Alex Coombes – 4C
 Lexi Beasley – 4C
 Jessica Miller – 4C
 James Foster – 4C
 Thomas Webb – 8T
 Samy Chaganti – 8T

Daisy Gregory – 3R
 Violet Legg – 3R
 David Chilinda – 4P
 Oliver Tarr – 3R
 Jack Bruford – 3H
 Dulcie Catton – 6T
 Eva Di Capua – 8R
 Jonathan Sibanda-Jenkins – 8R

SILVER

Carlton Chu – 8M
 Nyasha Dzvanga – 8M
 Conrad Lee – 4C
 Finty Gallimore – 4C
 Isabelle Read – 4C
 Daniel Griffiths – 8T
 Harry Simpson – 8T
 Xiao Tian Ma – 3H
 Gracie Howells – 8R
 James Collins – 8R
 Tomisin Awofisayo – 8R

BRONZE

Leighton Trickett – 8T
 Destiny Zhemu – 8T
 Rohan Narang – 8M
 Tanya Gurianova – 6T
 Max Grech – 8R
 Cicely Henry – 8R
 Blythe Browning – 8R
 Olivia Reading – 8R



Musical Activities



| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| 8.00 – 8.20 am | Y7 Vocal Ensemble CH | Y8 Vocal Ensemble | Y8 Vocal Ensemble | Y5 Vocal Ensemble | Y6 Vocal Ensemble |
| 8.20 – 8.55am | Cello Ensemble Dance studio Woodwind Ensemble Sports Hall | | Wind Band UMR/CH/Dance Studio | String Orchestra CH New Kids on the Glock Dance Studio | Music Technology UMR Guitar Ensemble CH Grade 5 Theory |
| 12.35 – 1.05pm | Y5-8 Boys Choir 1pm – 1.30pm | Brass Ensemble CH Saxophone Ensemble UMR | | Gifted and Talented String Players Dance Studio | Music/Drama Scholars – Performance Masterclass CH Chimes Ensemble UMR |
| 4.05– 5.15pm | Rock Band UMR | Y3-4 Recorders UMR | | Horn Ensemble CH | |

Summer Term 2021

Safeguarding Webinar

A full recording of last week's Safeguarding Webinar for parents of students in Years 6 to 13, is now available to view online.

Please visit the [Parent Portal](#) to get the link.





Weekly Awards



17th May Awards

Learners of the Week

Ivy Wreford – for excellent focus during our poetry sessions this week and a wonderful final poem.

Barnaby Bedford – for thorough concentration during the poetry lessons this week.

Harrison Adams – for always being super enthusiastic in English lessons and answering questions with a detailed response with evidence from the text.

Amarra Bevis – for an excellent speech about her chosen subject (virus microbiology) – she showed pride and courage in Debating Society.

Max Kaye – for an excellent speech about Black Holes – he showed pride and courage in Debating Society.

Bobby Saunders – for excellent independence, curiosity and pride in recent English and Humanities lessons.

Genevieve Grundy – for excellent independence, curiosity and pride in recent English and Humanities lessons.

Liberty Moon – for excellent independence, curiosity and pride in recent English and Humanities lessons.

Helena Goudswaard – for excellent independence, curiosity and pride in recent English and Humanities lessons.

Benjamin South – for excellent independence, curiosity and pride in recent English and Humanities lessons.

Ben Leahy – for original and engaging instruction writing in English.

Rollo Martin – for his excellent piece of descriptive writing.

Eleanor Thorpe – for a positive attitude within Maths and always trying her best.

Jamie Abbott – for super progress with practical work in DT.

Ellie Lawrence – for excellent independence, curiosity and pride in recent English and Humanities lessons.

Actor/Actress of the Week

Harry Cottrell – for approaching the challenges of performing on stage with pride and confidence.

Nathan Anderson – for taking pride and showing positivity in drama activities.

Winning House for House Points This Week

LOVEDAY

Dancers of the Week

Sophia Odedra – for working hard in ballet classes, aiming high and showing graceful positivity.

Diya Painuly – for working hard in ballet classes, aiming high and showing graceful positivity.

Citizens of the Week

Tongfei Deng – for helping others and bringing in green ribbon for Mental Health Awareness Week.

Musicians of the Week

Maddie Hudgell – for showing excellent pride and aiming high in music, representing the school at County level.

Grace Gendall – for embracing challenging pieces of music with confidence and excellent musical awareness.

Word Millionaires

Forest White

Matilda White

Teddy Berry

Chloe Henderson

James Sercombe

Sportsman/Sportswoman of the Week

Alex Hewer – for showing great resilience and teamwork in a cricket match.

Jack Blackwell – for an outstanding effort and performance taking a four wicket maiden.

Nalaney Petersen – for showing commitment to the school and leadership in a netball game against Millfield.

Frankie Hanson – for showing commitment to the school and leadership in a netball game against Millfield.

24th May Awards

Learners of the Week

Millie Church – for an excellent attitude and fantastic teamwork and co-operation demonstrated to her classmates.

Jack Macey – for sustained concentration during his English poetry lessons.

Aadya Agrawal – for continuing to display ambition and curiosity in her Maths learning.

Finty Gallimore – for excellent effort and pride in her work.

Dancers of the Week

Isla Moss – for showing independence and pride by practising frequently in her free time

Sportswoman of the Week

Grace Ardley – for brilliant progress and significant improvement in confidence and ambition in all PE and Games lessons this term.

Citizens of the Week

Siddu Chaganti – for being a super help in DT at the end of lessons

Lucas Baker – for great teamwork and kindness

Musicians of the Week

Erin Whitelam – for showing confidence and courage to perform in the Performing Arts Café video

Daisy Challacombe – for working hard, showing pride in her skills, and gaining great results in examinations.

Actresses of the Week

Ella Burns – for working hard towards the duologue, learning lots of lines by heart quickly and with an excellent attitude.

Harriett Phillips – for working hard toward the duologue

Grace Brake – for hard work and excellent focus in Speech and Drama lessons.