



# EDGE NEWS



@EdgeGrove



Edge Grove

Monday 28th January 2019

Dear Parents

Firstly, my thanks to everyone who came to Saturday's Open Morning. It was extremely well-attended and was, I hope, the perfect opportunity to tour the school informally, led by your children and see first-hand how they spend their days and what their exciting learning journey has in store. It is, of course the atmosphere of a school which really matters and on Saturday it was certainly one of fun, engagement, enthusiasm and a supportive community. I would also like to thank our tremendously hard-working teachers for their time and efforts at the weekend. I am pleased that so many of you were also able to visit the boarding house for the first time and see that things have most definitely moved on since Tom Brown's School Days - we have carpets, duvets, central heating, cushions, flat screen TVs and even a popcorn maker! Please don't worry if you didn't manage to see everything or take part in all the activities as we will be holding a similar open day event next year.

The topic of communication in any school is usually a thorny one. Too little, too much, not accessible enough, too much detail or too little detail and so it goes on. We have spent a considerable amount of time and effort over the years refining our methods of communication to ensure that all parents are well and timely informed and I was pleased to see that the effectiveness of our systems was reflected positively in the recent ISI questionnaire. However, we are never complacent and always open to suggestions and improvements. To this end, we will be completely overhauling FireFly in the next few months which will involve a full programme upgrade and reformatting, as well as a restructuring of the information. Please bear with us during this period and I will keep you fully updated on our progress. In the meantime, don't forget that the weekly Information Letter has everything you need to know for the next two weeks ahead and please do use the termly calendar which also includes future term dates. The summer calendar will be sent to you in pdf format during the February half-term holiday. I recently read a fascinating and rather critical article in The Daily Telegraph regarding parent WhatsApp groups. Not being a user of one myself it does appear that whilst they may be useful for organising birthday parties and play dates, they can quickly fuel misunderstanding and become a forum of negativity. One prep school headmaster from Devon is quoted as saying, 'Minor complaints become amplified to an unintelligible degree: one

## CALENDAR

### Tuesday 29th January

Pre Prep Concert and Coffee, Strings and Woodwind, Pre Prep Hall, 8.45-9.30am

Governors Education Committee, 5.00pm

### Wednesday 30th January

Rugby v Heath Mount, U13A, U12B, U11A, U11B, U11C, U11D (A), U12A, U10A, U10B, U10C, U10D (H)

Netball v Beechwood Park, U13, U11 (H) U10 (A)

Year 4 Art trip to Tring Natural History Museum, 9.00am-3.15pm - formal uniform

Year 7 Parents' Evening, Theatre, from 5.00pm

### Thursday 31st January

Middle School Coffee Morning, North Dorm, 8.30am

Rugby v Lockers Park, U9A to C, U8A to C (H)

Lower School Inter-house Netball

### Friday 1st February

Whole School Inter-house Creative Arts Day

Ignite Challenge meeting, 4.30pm, by invitation

Exeat, School closes at 6.00pm

FOEG Quiz Night, Theatre, 7.30pm

### Saturday 2nd February

Exeat (School closed)

FOEG Chinese New Year Celebrations

### Sunday 3rd February

Boarders return, 6.30pm

lost sock takes on a proportion never intended and far from being constructive, perspective can quickly be lost.' All food for thought and please do remember that if you have a query, concern or question regarding any aspect of school life, it is always better to ask a member of staff who is far more likely to know the correct answer. At Edge Grove, we are probably slightly more forward thinking than some schools in recognising that WhatsApp is a popular form of instant communication and that Alex is always available to answer questions and give reminders on the school-run groups which she manages, although these are not for general chats!

With the Lower and Upper School Rush Hour Concerts tonight, a Pre Prep Concert on Tuesday, Middle School Coffee Morning on Wednesday, a sold-out Quiz on Friday and the FoEG Chinese New Year Celebrations on Saturday, it is going to be a busy week with something for everyone!

Best wishes, Ben Evans



**FRIENDS** OF  
EDGE GROVE

## CHINESE NEW YEAR



恭喜发财

Lion Dance  
Treasure Hunt  
Chinese Tea & Snacks  
Story of Chinese New Year  
Discover your Zodiac Sign  
2019 Horoscope  
Chinese Gifts Stall  
Calligraphy  
Craft

Saturday 2nd February 2019  
2pm-4pm

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT £5 PP  
ON OUR NEW WEBSITE:  
[WWW.FOEG.CO.UK](http://WWW.FOEG.CO.UK)

# Pre Prep News

Gill Emmerson

Head of Pre Prep

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces on Saturday morning. The children were clearly in charge of the tours and had very set ideas of where they would like to go! That sort of confidence and curiosity is heart-warming to see and I hope that you had an enjoyable and informative visit. Each of the Pre Prep classes presented an activity which represents our learning this term; from maths skills, art, science and knowledge and understanding of the world, everyone was highly engaged. That learning journey continues as we sail in to the new year and we look forward now to some exciting trips and workshops which are designed to bring the curriculum to life and broaden experience.



# Lower School News

Samantha Robinson  
Head of Lower School

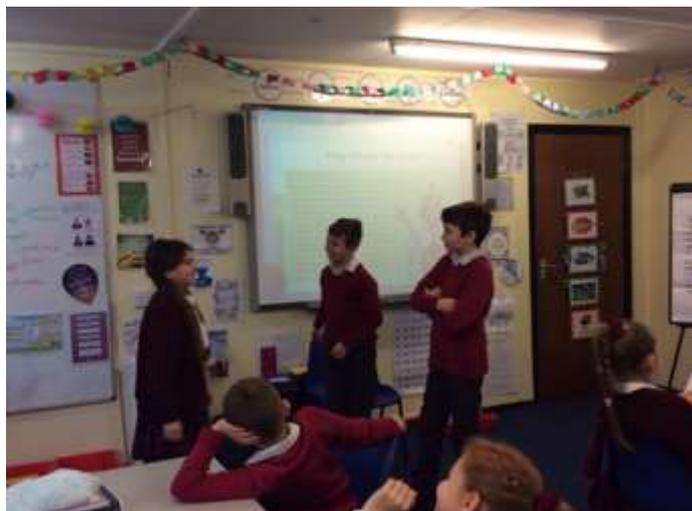
## Year 3

What a wonderful week - snow and Egyptian day! Children very much enjoyed dressing up as Egyptians and were considerate of the weather! They learnt lots of facts and were an absolute credit. See next page for more photos! English has seen us creating our own version of Fantastic Mr Fox, to rival Mr Dahl's version. Wonderful Mr Wolf anyone? Or Marvellous Mr Mole! How about Vivacious Mr Vole?! Children have been getting to grips with fractions and decimals in maths and converting fractions to decimals in order to put them in order! Children have blended music and topic beautifully as they created a stage worthy rendition of the Cleopatra song, complete with instruments and movement - excellent. Children have been considering changes and differences in bones within the human body and other animals in science.

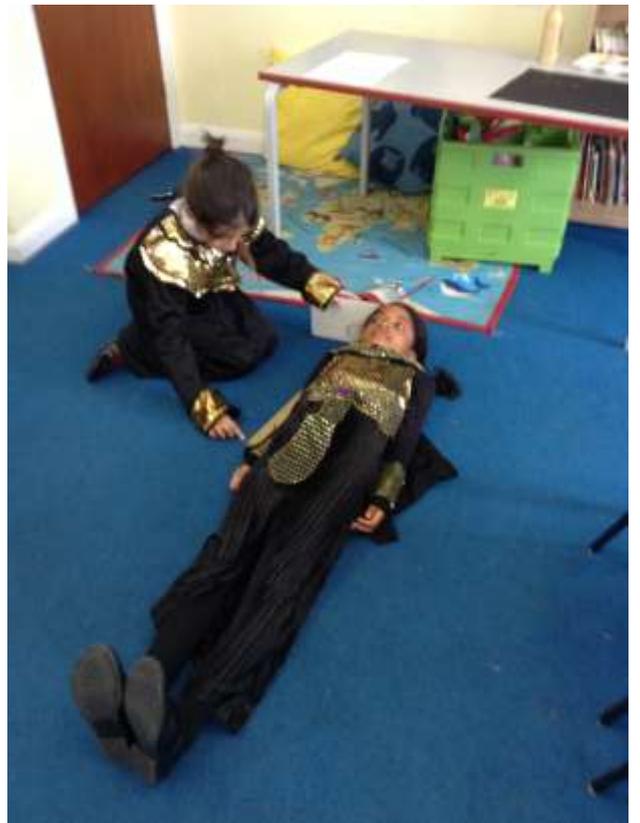


## Year 4

A super and snowy week in year 4! The children enjoyed starting their new unit in English, focusing on the text How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell, which links to their topic studies of the Vikings. The children have explored the characters, plot, vocabulary and dialogue structures, ready to start writing the follow up story "How to Rescue Your Friend from a Dragon". In maths, the children have explored and consolidated their understanding of division and in science, the concept of particles within solids, liquids and gases. In science, the children were acting like the particles found in the three states of matter and learnt what happens to them when you add heat. Topic was a lively debate between two Anglo-Saxon Kings to see who was more historically important. The children took on the roles of Athelstan and Alfred and used their knowledge to contest their importance to the British people.



# YEAR 3 EGYPTIAN DAY



# Middle School News

Kate McManus

Head of Middle School

In Science, Year 5 have been designing their own planets and creating 2D models of them along with a fact file. They have explained how the rotation of a planet affects day and night and the tilt will affect gravity, as well as other factors. Year 6 have been looking at the differences between physical and chemical changes and have had the opportunity to observe both.

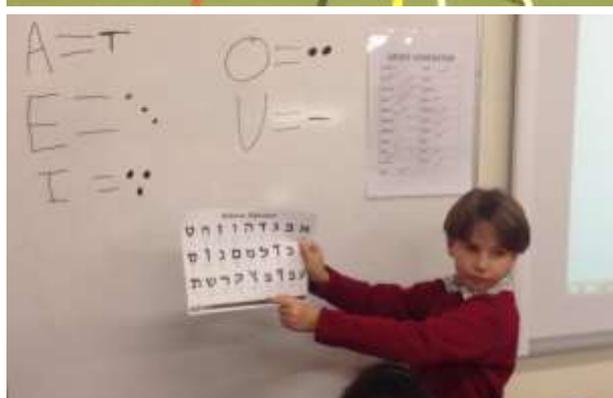
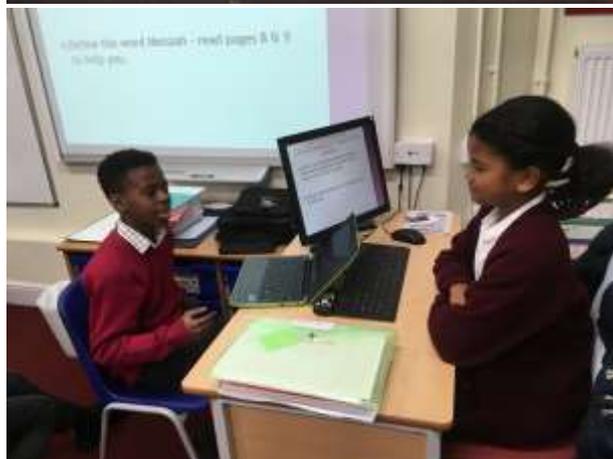
In RS this week the Year 5 pupils have been exploring the meanings of the Jewish Holy books as well as having a go at learning to write their name in Hebrew, quite a challenging task, with many vowels and consonants that are very different to our own English language. Year 6 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed role playing Jesus in an interview situation. The children wrote a job description and then applied for the job to be Jesus. Lots of fun as well as identifying the unique and special characteristics of Jesus as the Messiah.

In Drama, Year 6 have been busy rehearsing their production of Rock Bottom and all are very excited for the show. We have now blocked the majority of the script so it is now a chance for the children to practice their lines, polish up their acting and learn how to deliver comical lines. Year 5 are also very excited about the production and have received their scripts and have started to have a run through of their parts.

In PE Year 6 have been trying different ways to catch the frisbee. They have attempted one and two handed crab catches and a crocodile catch! Year 5 have been focusing on their aerobic endurance this week and have completed some continuous training to improve this. They completed an out and back run, where maintaining a steady pace is key!

In Classics, Year 5 have been doing some flipped learning this term! They have been researching the main Greek gods, making notes in their books and next week will begin to make their own Top Trump cards, using the information they have found out.

In English, Year 5 have been using Street Child as a stimulus for persuasive letter writing. They have been trying to include literary devices such as: a range of sentence openers, complex sentence structures and punctuation for effect. They have then been given the opportunity to edit their work with specific advice and coaching from their teachers.



# Upper School News

Anna Warren

Head of Upper School

Congratulations to Riley who gave a very moving performance at the Holocaust Memorial Day at Bushey Academy last Thursday. Our local MP Oliver Dowden CBE was very impressed with Riley's singing, and we look forward to watching a clip in assembly this week.

It was a pleasure to see so many parents at Saturday's Open Morning. Mr Hays and I enjoyed welcoming visitors into J3 to introduce the Edge Grove Bacculaureate. We were very impressed by how many families demonstrated creative thinking, perseverance and teamwork skills in undertaking 'The Marshmallow Challenge'!

In the science laboratories this week, Year 7 are learning about reproduction, and Year 8 have been investigating Hooke's Law. In Bacculaureate, Year 8 participated in a series of Socratic seminars discussing their responses to the questions 'Is the prison system effective or not?'



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# LONDON MARATHON 2019

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## Runner of the week....

So, this is my first 'check in' for a series of weekly marathon training blogs in anticipation of the London Marathon this year. Before I start, I just want to say a massive thank you to those families at Edge Grove who have already donated to my chosen charity. I chose to run for Macmillan as it is a charity very close to my heart but also because it does such wonderful things all year round. My target is to raise £2000 and thanks to the donations received already I am on my way to achieving that. I have a feeling Sunday 28th April will creep up a bit too fast for my liking, with January nearly coming to an end... This is the first marathon I will ever be running after entering the ballot back in April last year. I didn't quite think I would get a place, but I did, and so let the training commence!

First, a little wobble... After getting shin splints when hitting my 10-mile mark last Sunday, I was summoned to rest and banned from the gym until the Thursday just gone on strict orders from the physiotherapist!!

I must remember that this is a marathon, not a sprint. I need to follow my 17 week training plan and not over-do it. However, my shins were iced and waking up this wet cold Sunday morning I was rested and so ready to go! I decided to run around Bricket Wood common, a real favourite route of mine. I couldn't take any pictures of the beautiful sights because I, similar to Mr Evans, have just mastered putting one foot in front of the other and trying to sip (not gulp) water when needed. It sounds so simple as I write that, sitting at home just after foam rolling my legs and laughing to myself, but that simple task of just sipping took me a few weeks to master! I have hit the ten mile mark again and I am happy I listened to my body this week and didn't overdo the training. I really enjoyed the run this time.

This picture is of the nursery children and the creation they made me at club this week with Miss Booth. A drawing of me decorated so gorgeously with a countdown to the marathon so I don't forget! Next week, my aim is to run two shorter runs at about 8 miles and one long run to hit the thirteen mile mark. I am sure the nursery children will ask why I am walking funny on Monday mornings as that is becoming a frequent question!



Wish me luck!!

Click here to sponsor Miss Bonnick and show her your support:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/NatalieBonnick>



## EDGE GROVE FUN RUN - SAVE THE DATE!

We will be holding a Fun Run on the afternoon of **Saturday 23rd March** (time tbc) to support our runners and raise money to help them reach their fundraising targets. Come along for a non-competitive run around the school grounds and to show your support!

If any parents are running the London Marathon this year please do let us know so we can grow this fantastic community of runners! Email [office@edgegrove.com](mailto:office@edgegrove.com)



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# ART

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It's been a busy few weeks in the Art Department. Scholarship art pupils are hard at work on a variety of projects in order to build up their portfolios and Year 7 and 8 pupils have been preparing a variety of pieces in response to music as part of The Rainbow Centre fundraiser that took place on Friday. These include some oil on canvas artworks of birds. Well done everyone on your beautiful pieces of art.



## IN OTHER NEWS...

### Boarders Evening

The boarders had an activity evening on Friday doing races along a giant obstacle course! We had teams of girls vs boys (as chosen by the boarders) and then finished off with a staff race which Mr Matthew won! We then played 'no mans land' and ended off the evening with a KitKat and a glass of milk. A lot of fun was had by all. We hope to see you all again soon!

### Upcoming Spring Term Boarders Outings/Activity Evenings

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February: Year 5 to 8 Girls Activity Outing (Lush Happy Hour\*)

Friday 1st March: Year 5 to 8 boys Activity Outing (Top Golf)

Friday 29th March: Year 3 to 8 Cinema Evening in Theatre (Incredibles 2)

\* A Lush Happy Hour is..... Focus on your favourite section of the shop, be it bath, shower or soap, explore your favourites and discover new ones! we will be making a bath product too!

These activity evenings are all open to all pupils regardless of whether they have boarded before and is a good opportunity for anyone who is interested in boarding to try it out for a night. The activity evenings this year have proven to be very popular and we have sold out each event so it is important to book early to avoid any disappointment.

The cost of the activity evening is £35 and if you would like your child to attend please email Mr McManus at [bmcmanus@edgegrove.com](mailto:bmcmanus@edgegrove.com). Numbers are limited so please do book early to avoid disappointment.



## Flourish Parent Workshop

# Pathways to independence

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 0845 – 1100

£25 per person

Being able to think, act and learn independently are three of the most important skills children can learn.

Establishing habits that once imbedded help them to respond to life proactively and positively assists the development of young people who are able to take responsibility for their thoughts, feelings and actions. Encouraging them to be independent physically and emotionally builds confidence, resilience, self-esteem and the ability to form collaborative relationships.

Achieving independence needs to be managed, growing by degrees and this workshop offers the opportunity to explore topics that will assist you to support your child's pathway to independence:

- Executive function, the mental skills that help get things done
- Influences on the developing mind
- Perspective
- Beliefs: ages and stages
- Language of independence
- Emotional independence

For further information and to book your place please contact Sally Sharp, Head of Wellbeing: [ssharp@edgegrove.com](mailto:ssharp@edgegrove.com)



### Sports News

Follow Edge Grove Sport on Twitter  
[@EdgeGroveSport](https://twitter.com/EdgeGroveSport)

[Click for Match Reports](#)



Academic Commendations,  
Commendations and Golden Moments  
for the 18th-24th January

[Click for more details](#)



### MUSIC

Music lesson timetables will be updated on FireFly on Friday afternoons.

[Click for music lesson timetables](#)

**WAR**  
**27TH APRIL 2019!**

WE ARE TAKING ON AN EPIC OBSTACLE COURSE RACE!  
OVER 50 DIFFERENT OBSTACLES INCLUDING A ZIP LINE!  
AN EXCITING EVENT VILLAGE WHICH INCLUDES, FOOD, DRINKS & GAMES.  
RECEIVE A MEAN MEDAL AND LEAVE WITH AMAZING MEMORIES!  
TACKLE THE RACE AS A TEAM, EXPERIENCE THE FUN TOGETHER.

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