



Akrotiri School

Thursday!

Friday Feeling

#08

Thursday 22 October

In a departure from the regular Friday feature, we have a tremendous Thursday edition! Tomorrow we will be closed to pupils as the teachers come together for an INSET day. It comes at the end of a long half term, not without its many challenges including COVID restrictions (ongoing and ever developing), staff absences (ongoing) and onboarding of new staff (hopefully to be completed shortly after half term). However, in spite of these barriers we have continued to push forward with development.

The amazing outside environment is becoming unrecognisable and reflects the positive ethos which is developing well within school; the new curriculum offer has been adopted confidently and children are having the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding through the 'blocking' of non-core subjects; a new behaviour policy and raised expectations in terms of general and academic standards is having a positive impact; and new staff and roles are progressing well. This is all testament to the team spirit which remains one of our main priorities within the school.

I had to tread carefully when I came across learning in Y4 yesterday – a full Anglo-Saxon day was in swing, enhanced by stunning costumes and engaging learning experiences. They looked a fearsome bunch on first sight – shields, swords and helmets reflecting the morning sunrise - beneath the façade, they were the caring and conscientious Y4s that we know very well! It was amazing to see the children who have recently been put into isolation join virtually too. Well done for dressing up at home, you looked amazing!

Elsewhere, huge congratulations to three super artists who have been selected to have their artwork displayed in the Coffee Pot. Each won a voucher for themselves and their parents to enjoy in the Coffee Pot. There were a number of really high-quality entrants and we are hoping that the Coffee Pot will consider displaying these too.

Sadly, we say goodbye to three members of staff today; Mrs Elgar and Mrs Hanson, who are both going on to pursue new and exciting ventures, and Mrs Lee who is off on an amazing adventure to the Falkland Islands. Mrs Elgar has been a tremendous support to Y6 and from a sporting point of view, the wider school too. Mrs Hanson has played a great role in providing cover for teachers in addition to her LSA role. Mrs Lee has been a valuable member of the FS2 team supporting some of our youngest children. You will all be missed – good luck!

Finally, thank you for your support over the past half term. It has been difficult because of the current context, but enjoyable nonetheless. When considering the team priority within the school, this extends to the community and you, the parents. Together we will achieve greatness – “We stand in possibility” (*Benjamin Zander*)

Have a harmonious half term,

Ben Turner
Headmaster

