

Year 5 Newsletter

9.2.18

Dear Parents/Carers,

The highlight of the week was our long awaited visit to Bushey Meads School to watch the preview of Grease. Although some of us have attended performances at Bushey Meads before, we were not prepared for a show of such high calibre. The production was performed by a range of drama students from years 7-13. Ellie-May exclaimed "The singing and dancing was so good, it made me want to stand up and join in!" The Drama staff and students had clearly spent hundreds of hours practising their lines, making and preparing props, rehearsing songs and music (there was even a full orchestra made up of pupils). Joshua commented "The performance was very good, the best I've seen!

We all felt very privileged to be their first audience and left feeling like we had taken a trip to the West End!

"I've not seen the movie," said Anika, "But now I really want to!"

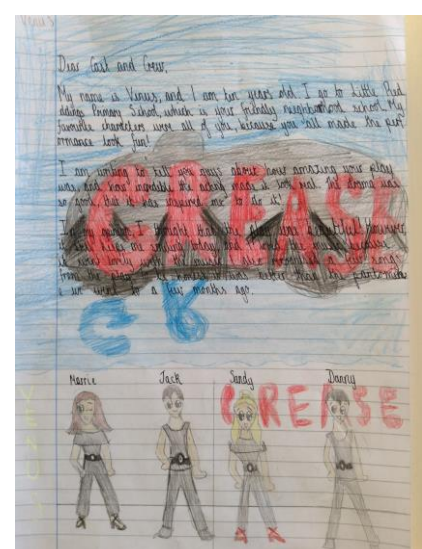
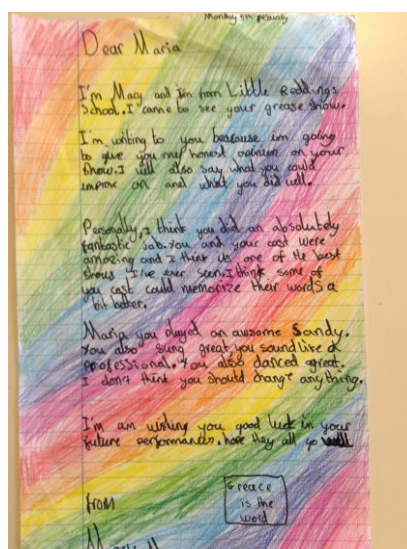
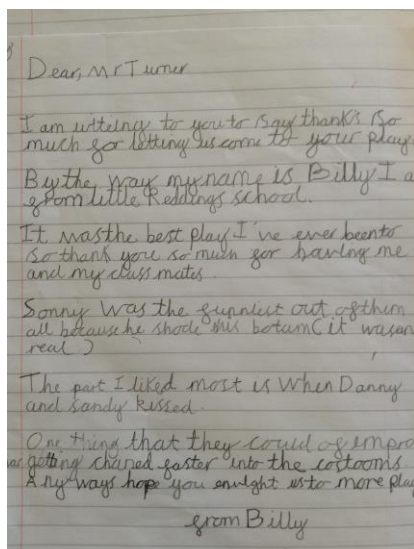
After the fantastic performance, Year 5 were invited to meet the cast in person, to ask them questions and make suggestions on how to further improve their performance. "We were particularly impressed with the use of props and the quality of the music produced by the orchestra" stressed one pupil. A response from a Bushey Meads pupil when asked, "How did you get the car up there?" Was, "We had to take everything off except the doors and lift it onto the stage - it was really heavy!" The orchestra explained that they had spent many evenings and weekends since September rehearsing.

Several of the actors pointed out to our pupils that since they have been involved in drama at school, not only have they become friends with a wide range of people but that their school work had dramatically improved due to increased levels of personal confidence.

Over twenty of our Year 5 pupils, including Jack and Sophie, said that they felt inspired to give Drama a try, following the performance. It was a pleasure to watch many of our own former students on stage acting with such confidence.

Back at school, our cohort wrote letters to the cast members - giving us the opportunity to recap on letter writing composition and form. We are all eager to thank the staff and cast for inviting us.

Here are a few of the letters written by our pupils:



Every morning this week, children have been astonished to observe that their bulbs have actually been growing overnight! We are beginning to see some patterns between those exposed to sunlight and those kept in a dark room!



Some children have been busy building on their maths learning at school by logging onto Mathletics and having fun whilst increasing their confidence - particularly in mental arithmetic.

All Year 5 pupils have now been issued with their own usernames and passwords and have logged in at school to make sure their 'logins' are correct. Please ask them to show you how they use it, as any encouragement they receive to use this at home could help to increase their success in maths.



Supporting learning at home

The curriculum now expects all children to confidently recall all times tables up to 12 by the end of Year 4. Please encourage (and take part) in developing your child's times table knowledge if they don't yet feel confident in this area. All year 5 students have been given usernames and passwords to access 'Times Table Rockstars' in and out of school. Please speak to Mr Wells if you require any help with this or any times tables resources to help your child learn at home. If your child is very confident with times tables, they could practise the inverse operation! e.g. What is 64 divided by 8?

Homework

Children have been given both maths, spelling, punctuation and grammar activities to complete over the holidays. These are designed to be completed anywhere! Children can write on the sheets so even trips abroad will allow completion of these learning mats!

Wishing you an enjoyable half term,

Mr Wells, Mr McMahon, Mrs Woodroffe and Mrs Tong.