

## Head Teacher's Update

Dear Parent/Carers

So far, so good! February half term marks the half way point for year 1.

Looking back over the past 5 months, it really is impressive to reflect on what we have achieved together. Some of the many highlights include:

- Our first day with the History Makers
- The Rose Theatre concert
- The Carol concert
- Our visit to the House of Commons
- Victory in our first ever sporting fixture
- Taking 1st place out of all the state schools in the Literary Quiz
- Planning consent received for our state of the art STEM new build

Yet there is still so much more we want to achieve in this historic year:

The Tempest production at the ACT- already almost SOLD OUT, FoTKA Quiz Night and Art Exhibition

I could go on, but I really want to take this opportunity to thank our great team of staff who have worked tirelessly over the past few months to bring our school to life. Every day, in every lesson, I see pupils engaged, challenged, progressing and enjoying their learning. This is our greatest achievement to date and can only happen with a team of dedicated professionals supported by a stellar Operations Team. We are fortunate to have such a strong team or resilient, creative and committed staff.

I do hope you all have a relaxing break and take some time to reflect on your own personal TKA highlights.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Cavanagh



Follow us on Twitter

@KingstonAca



Tickets for

**'The Tempest'**

are selling fast!

Via ParentPay and collect  
from school office

Thursday 25th February  
at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Arthur Cottrell theatre,

Kingston College

£5 adults

£3 children

# Chinese New Year!

We celebrated the Year of the Monkey with a special Chinese New Year assembly on Monday, with pupils sharing information about the traditions of the festivities, performing traditional fan dancing (pictured below) Choir sang the folk song called Jasmine song 'Mo Li Hua'.



## The health benefits of PE

As the days of the great British winter continue, summer seems so far away and it is common for many of us to feel unwell during these dreary months. The common cold has caught up on many of us this half term but research shows that PE and sport are the best forms of defence when it comes to keeping the germs at bay...

### DID YOU KNOW....?

- \* Physical activity may help flush bacteria out of the lungs and airways; this may reduce your chance of getting a cold, flu or other airborne illnesses.
- \* Exercise causes changes in antibodies and white blood cells. These antibodies circulate more rapidly so they could detect illnesses earlier than they might have before.
- \* The brief rise in body temperature during and right after exercise may prevent bacteria from growing. This temperature rise helps the body fight infection more effectively.
- \* Exercise slows down the release of stress related hormones. Some stress can in fact increase the chance of illness. Lower stress hormones protect against illness.

...So next time you feel the onset of a cold or illness coming on, don't fall at the first hurdle, carry on running and jump over it to win the race!



# Spotlight on STEM

This week in Science we have started the Acids and alkalis topic. In order to demonstrate how dangerous and corrosive acids can be experiments were conducted by Dr Keaney and Mr Smith that involved pouring concentrated sulphuric acids on granulated sugar. The results were dramatic. The sugar was burnt and only carbon was left, as seen in the photo below right.

TKA pupils will be investigating the properties of acids and alkalis through a whole series of practical experiments including extracting a natural indicator from red cabbage.



## MUSICAL MATHS

In Music this term pupils have been learning about musical notation and putting their mathematical caps on with some 'musical maths' They have worked out the crotchet beats in a selection of rhythms and applied their understanding of rhythmic notation and note lengths to count up beats. After half term, pupils will be demonstrating their understanding of note lengths (and pitch notation) to perform '*Lean on Me*' by *Bill Withers*. It just goes to show that Music and Maths really do go together!

# World Book Day!

We will be celebrating the joy of reading on Thursday 3rd March. Pupils and staff are invited to dress as a favourite literary character. Inspirational ideas for costumes are below and prizes will be available for the most creative! There will also be lunchtime book readings and a pupil book swap. So please bring in any unwanted books you would like to swap with others.



## Important Dates for Term 2 (Spring 1 & 2)

**Monday 15th—Friday 19th February 2016—February Half term holiday.**

**Wednesday 24th February**—The Tempest, ACT, Kingston College. Technical rehearsal at 12. Dress rehearsal at 2.00pm.

**Thursday 25th February**—The Tempest, ACT, Kingston College. Performances at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Families welcome at both performances.

**Thursday 3rd March—WORLD BOOK DAY**—Pupils & staff to dress as literary character.

**Wednesday 9th March**—Staff training 1-5pm—no afternoon lessons or clubs.

**Kingston University Discovery Days**—Mon 21st March: Lovelace, Tue 22nd March: Curie, Wed 23rd March: Hawking, Thursday 24th March: Berners-Lee

**Friday 25th (Good Friday)—Tuesday 12th April—Easter holiday**

**Monday 11th April**—Staff training morning 8-12. Pupil progress meetings with parents' in afternoon.

**Tuesday 12th April**—Pupils return to school at 8.35am.

**Thursday 19th May**—Staff training 1-5pm—no afternoon lessons or clubs.

**Monday 20th June**—Staff training 1-5pm—no afternoon lessons or clubs.