

We are having an amazing week! Ellie Simmonds' visit on Tuesday was a highlight of the year, with all children meeting her during assembly where she answered questions, and then selected children taking part in a PE lesson with her taught by Miss Curtis and Mrs Dallas. There is a video from the BBC to be found on

[https://www.facebook.com/bbcxford/?hc\\_ref=PAGES\\_TIMELINE&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/bbcxford/?hc_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE&fref=nf)

Ellie was very natural with the children, and had a lovely manner with them. She showed them her medals and every child had the opportunity to feel one – and some even wore one!

Here are some of the photos that were taken – there will be more on display in Primary. There is a report below the photos written by a budding journalist from Year 3.



On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May Ellie Simmonds came to Heyford Park Free School and we had a special assembly with her. She showed everyone the medals she had won in the Paralympic Games. Two were gold and one was bronze. Some children showed Ellie around the school and some had a special PE lesson with her. Ryan Booth (year 3) said "It was really exciting and I loved it". Zack

Tyler (year 2) said "I loved the tennis". Eloise McBride (year 3) said "It was a fun way to exercise". Some guys were interviewing people and Heyford Park was on the TV news and in the newspaper. Josh W led Ellie Simonds around the whole school and him and Heidi Moore thought it was amazing.

Written by Oliver Morgan-Harris (Year3)

### **Value of the Week:**

Because of Ellie Simonds' visit, we focused on determination this week. Those that demonstrated this value this week in particular, were:

Charlie D (R), Riley Pugh (Y1), Leo (Y1), George (Y1), Connie (Y3) and Jessica (Y4)

### **Diversity Working Group:**

As a school, we value diversity and seek to treat everyone equally and to include others. However, we want to take this further and actively celebrate difference. If you would like to find out more about this and to think about how you can help us take this further next year, across the whole of the school, please come to the first meeting of a "Diversity Working Group" on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June from 2-3pm in Wraparound. We would value everyone's contribution to discuss how we can work together to help our children understand different perspectives, different cultures, different cultural practices, different disabilities, different religions...in fact many differences that we can learn about to help us become as inclusive and welcoming to all as possible.

### **Achiever of the week:**

This week's awards go to: Alexander (R), Freddie (Y1), Jack W (Y2), Nia (Y2), Eloise (Y3) and Charlie (Y4)

### **Thank you...**

... to those parents who provided snacks for the Year 2 post-SATs party on Tuesday. The children (and some of the adults!) looked very relaxed in their onesies and pyjamas while watching a film. Thank you too to the staff who made the experience of SATs actually quite enjoyable for the children!

### **Attendance**

...for last week was 97.7%. Another good week!

### **Nursery Update:**

Mrs Walker and I have had a very busy week this week recruiting staff for our Nursery, and are both so excited about the team that we are appointing. More details will follow when confirmation of contracts have been received but please put our Open Day in your diaries: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June, times to be confirmed. More information will follow.

We also have a beautiful new canopy on our Nursery site, which will allow for outdoor learning at all times and in all weathers.

### **Congratulations...**

...to Miss Brock, who as well as teaching and looking after her class so well this year has also been completing the first year of her Masters Degree. She has passed and is now the proud holder of a PGCE (Post-graduate certificate in Education) – well done!

**Sharing good news:**

Last week, some of the Primary staff were fortunate enough to have a training session led by a Clinical Psychologist. She came to talk to us about helping children feel safe, secure and valued, and afterwards sent this email, which I felt you would like to see:

"I was really impressed by everyone's thoughtfulness about the children's needs and willingness to be flexible in helping the children to feel safe and valued, but also gently teaching them about behaviour, boundaries and social relationships. You really stood out to me as a school."

*Have a lovely week at half term and see you on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.*