

# As One

CUMNOR NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2022



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edition

**Cumnor  
Book Week**

**Nursery &  
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# Welcome to *As One*,

a termly celebration of our children's achievements and a spotlight on school life.

Spring is a season of change and transformation and outside of school life, there has certainly been much of this to occupy our minds, with the relaxation of Covid rules to the war in Ukraine.

Inside Cumnor, whilst we certainly discuss and help children understand these wider issues, we remain committed to providing them with a safe and nurturing environment where they can undergo their own personal journeys of transformation.

Events such as World Book Day, Greek Day, our concerts, trips and visits from outside speakers all help foster a rich and exciting environment for young people to discover their passions and grow in confidence.

Departments such as DT, featured in this term's edition, again increase the opportunities for our children to develop broader skills and interests.

At the top end of the school, as pupils are finishing that journey, we have seen fruit being borne, with a raft of scholarships being won, as well as our Year 7s bringing the house down with a superb production of 'Oliver!'.

The term has been busy, it has been full, and it has been fun!

Fergus Llewellyn  
Headmaster

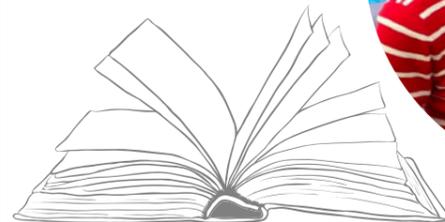
## Nursery & Pre-Prep

Spring can be physically challenging with 'weather' of all kinds, yet it is also filled with possibility and endless promise once the lighter evenings appear.

We have truly embraced it in all its glory in the Pre-Prep, be it hunting goblins in the gloom in Grace's Garden, making the most of mud and windfall in Woodpeckers, or marching magnificently in our splendid costumes during World Book Day.

The Spring Term has been filled with the wonder and joy of a return to some sort of normality, and the children continue to display their excitement, resilience and curiosity in all of their endeavours. In addition to the hard work taking place every day in class, our special events, such as Reception's Mothers' Day Tea and our Spring Coffee Concert remind us of the need for a big-hearted community and the strength and comfort we can all rely on. We are indeed blessed.

Mrs Freeman  
Head of Pre-Prep



also...

- February saw us celebrate **'Brilliant Britain Day'**, learning about the cultures and customs enriching our nation, including a spot of Morris Dancing to banish the dark of winter!
- Truly talented local author, Matt Carr, wowed us with his warm and witty stories, illustrations and costumes during **'Book Week'**.
- **Poetry, song and uninhibited joy** were the stand-out feature of our wonderful celebration of Spring, featuring performers from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
- As part of their **'people who help us'** topic, the Butterflies have been busy detectives, doctors and dentists. Visits from two East Sussex Community police officers and Dr Naomi have brought the children's play to life and sparked their imaginations!





## A Spotlight on Design Technology & IT

Cumnor's DT Department is a hive of activity, creative confidence and innovation, especially since the arrival of Mrs Bramly as Head of DT & IT from Uckfield College in September last year.

Teaching the children a range of skills and disciplines including resistant materials, graphics, electronics, Computer Aided Design (CAD) and laser manufacture, the DT Department is a fantastic launchpad to excite our children about Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

Design, technology and IT skills are crucial for every young person and we try to work with real-life problems, making projects as relevant as possible for today's world.

**“ Innovation and intuitive thinking are crucial to our approach, but we don't lose sight of traditional skills. Our facilities are unrivalled – to find a pewter crucible, an enamelling kiln or laser in a Prep School is distinctive, enabling us to really inspire the children and build their confidence. ”**

- COMMENTS MRS BRAMLAY

This Term, **Year 4** have been working with smart materials and early circuitry to design a bag tag, adding workshop safety skills to this knowledge to design a nightlight in **Year 5**. Meanwhile, **Year 7** have been honing their technical skills with the piercing saw to cut a mould in order to cast pewter and **Year 8** have been inspired by abstract artists, developing their own design for a piece of enamelled jewellery.

The world is changing. Knowledge is changing and the ability to view the world with a more flexible mind is invaluable. Through our **new project-based learning module** we are enabling children, particularly in **Year 7 and 8** to question, research, take ownership, understand and retain information as well as becoming independent learners and we have empowered them to take on challenges through inquiry, action and reflection. A good example of this is the Year 8 bridge-building competition where they are working in teams. They have learnt about the different forces that can act on a structure, they have conducted experiments on strands of spaghetti and now they must use this research to build the lightest bridge that will hold the heaviest load.

The highlight in Cumnor's DT calendar is undoubtedly the **annual go-kart project** and **Year 6** are already busy preparing for this year's Greenpower Racing Day on 28th May at Seaford College. After stripping the cars right back, checking for faults and ordering new components, the children are working in teams (steering, brakes, electronics and chassis) to develop an e-portfolio of evidence before starting to re-build. This approach is not only getting the team ready for test racing after Easter, but developing crucial interpersonal skills such as peer-to-peer support, sharing and team working.



We have an **open door policy** and pupils can access the department whenever staff are available - we are delighted to see the DT room full of children during break times and lunch, be they our scholars beavering away on their woodworking skills, or the newly formed 'Sustainable Solutions Squad' who are investigating how everyday objects could be reused.

In the second half of term, it was full steam ahead with coding for **Year 3 and 4** in our newly redecorated IT suite as well as reinforcing online safety for Year 5. Equipped with 20 new PCs, the children are revelling in the new facilities.



Looking ahead to the **Summer Term**, the fun continues! For our STEM day on 10th May, we will be joined by Bloodhound Education for a K'Nex design and build followed by a disaster relief challenge, in conjunction with the Geography department. Outside lessons, we also have big ambitions and our Year 7 DT Occupation is going from strength to strength - their next challenge is to upcycle materials to build a wooden go kart with a Crest Award in their sights.

## Aiming High



**Congratulations to all involved in our co-curricular Scholarships and Exhibitions!** Our Year 8s have successfully secured 18 awards so far across Drama, Sport and Art with destination schools including **Bede's, Brighton College, King's Canterbury, Roedean, Eastbourne, Millfield, Christ's Hospital, Ardingly and Benenden**. We look forward to hearing the outcome of our Academic Scholarships next Term – we are on track for another fantastic year. We are also delighted to see our Year 6 children secure their places at some of the country's top senior schools including nine to Brighton College. Thank you to all who have contributed to this team effort.

## It's All Greek To Me!

Greek Day was a roaring success this year! Thank you so much to **Year 3** parents for going above and beyond to create such wonderful costumes. We had an army's worth of hoplites, a couple of Medusas, lots of Athenians and Spartans, Gods and Goddesses and even a Zeus! We busied ourselves throughout the day listening to the story of Perseus, creating repeated pattern Greek vases, Medusa heads, Parthenon paintings and hopping Hoplites.





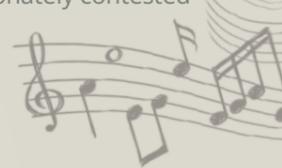
## Growing Our Mental Health

Introducing our 'Wellbeing Piano'! To mark **Children's Mental Health Week**, we rescued a piano that was in need of a bit of love and bought it back to school where it was embraced by us all and covered in wellbeing 'clouds', each one describing how we grow our mental health.



## The Music Barn

The first half of term ended with a superb **House Music Competition** which was expertly judged by conductor and organist, Timothy Carpenter, currently based at Ardingly. It was fantastic not only to see 27 soloists in the finals from **Year 3 to 8**, but also the strength of support amongst pupils for their peers. Hot on the heels of the individual competition, all children participated in the passionately contested House Song competition; **congratulations to Black House** who were winners of the overall competition with 80 HPs!



Our performance calendar has been jam-packed this Term, welcoming families back to the Music Barn and Theatre, for our Year 3 – 8 Coffee Concert, Wind & Brass, String and Guitar Concerts featuring over 30 groups, solos and ensembles. Thank you to all of our fantastic performers!

## Cumnor Book Week

This year, after many years off, we organised and enjoyed our **biggest ever Book Week**, welcoming not one, but four authors into our school for inspirational talks and writing workshops. We invited Danehill Primary to join our **Year 3 - 6** talk with Emma Shevah, author of 'How to Save the World with a Chicken and an Egg', who spoke passionately about the environment and offered a valuable writing tip: write about what bothers you. Some children went on to join her in a writing workshop, where they created a beautiful metaphorical poem about where they come from.



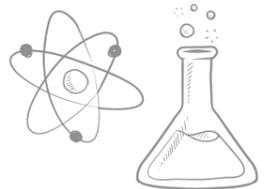
**But wait, there's more!** We also celebrated the joys of bedtime stories, snuggling up in our Book Week beds in the Main Hall, listened to audiobooks in lessons, created bookmarks, completed library quizzes, competed in the #StaffShelfie and even went to the theatre with **Year 6** (in costume!) to see their class reader, 'Private Peaceful', brought to life on stage. A highlight, of course, was the costume parade, marking the 25th anniversary of World Book Day, which saw the entire school march from The Peake to the Theatre, where we gathered for our celebratory assembly, with a Mrs Trunchbull at the helm, and Book Draw. All in all, **it has been one of our most colourful and exciting book weeks yet** and we extend our huge thanks to Miss North and Mrs Harris for their passion and commitment to our children's literacy adventures!



## The Art Studio

From David Hockney to Ernst Haeckel, Philip Treacy to Imogen Cunningham, **the masterpieces from our Art Studio are adorning the walls** in The Peake, the Dining Room and the Main Hall including some fabulous lino prints. A lucky group of Year 8 and Year 7 art scholars also had the privilege of visiting Eastbourne College this Term for a ceramics workshop, inspired by colourful aquamarine fish. Finally, we are delighted that 10 Cumnor children have been selected to have their work exhibited at the **Royal College of Art 'Young Art Competition'**, with four receiving Commendations. We also look forward to hosting our own Exhibition here at Cumnor in the Summer Term, to celebrate the work of our fantastic Art Scholars. More information to follow.

## Primary Science Outreach



Launched in Autumn 2017 to share The Peake's resources, **Cumnor now links with seven local primaries**, providing workshops for Years 1 – 6. We are delighted to be able to welcome back primary students each Wednesday, most recently Danehill and Plumpton, who were involved in a range of activities from practising for their "Bunsen licenses" and investigating the 'chemistry of fireworks' to extracting DNA from strawberries. We look forward to more schools joining us throughout the Summer Term.



## Sporting Accolades

- Our **Juniors** continue to enjoy 'festival-style' match days where we play multiple teams in short sharp matches. These have been exciting to watch, allowing maximum game time to develop and challenge. For many of our boys, this was their first time picking up a hockey stick and dealing with the intricacies of field hockey; there are certainly some young stars in the making, watch this space!
- Our **rugby teams** performed fantastically this term showing grit and determination on the pitch and dealing with inclement weather. The highlight of the season was our Saturday fixture with Crowborough RFC where our teams all showed their development with free-flowing rugby, fast rucking skills and strong defensive sets.
- Our **boys' hockey 1st VIII** have enjoyed success at various festivals, including getting through to the next round of the In2 Sussex Cup. Our Colts boys have gone from strength to strength across all the teams and should be proud of the work they put in during games sessions.
- For the first time, Cumnor has entered a new league created by the **Independent Schools Football Association** to increase competitive football for girls. This will run over both the Spring and Summer terms. Watch this space for results.

- In **Cross Country**, the first race of the term was held at Great Walstead allowing our large squad a chance to get their racing legs back into gear after the Christmas break, with three of our Junior boys finishing in the top five runners! The next race at Ardingly saw our senior teams compete, with our girls showing promise and demonstrating the importance of teamwork in a sport often seen as an individual sport. At the Nationals, congratulations go to Olivia B (4th) and Tiago R (6th) who were the outstanding performers in what was a large field of runners. Thank you to Mr Timmis, Mr Emans and Miss Searle for their support and coaching.



## Netball in Focus

With the netball season having been severely impacted by Covid, particularly for Year 8 who haven't had a proper season since Year 5, this Term has given us a real opportunity to rebuild our teams and competitive confidence. Our Junior girls were introduced to Bee netball, a new initiative led by England Netball, focusing on friendship, inclusion, fair play and playing together. This was new to many, but something we at Cumnor have done for many years (as with all sports we play), as we believe small-sided games are the best way to offer development and challenge to our pupils.

The 1st team have made great progress this Term, going on to reach the quarter-finals of the IAPS regional tournament and performing well in the Sussex Schools competition.

The U10s and U11s started the season playing some 5-a-side netball matches, keeping in line with the new initiatives from the governing body. This has allowed girls to play in a variety of positions and really helped to develop their game. Finally, the U12s team reached the semi-finals of the SISNA tournament; this was a great team performance and success to develop next year.

At the end of Term, an invitation to Roedean for a training session and masterclass with former England player, Pamela Cookey, was inspirational and we're delighted to see our girls developing in confidence and technical skill. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to hold off the stiff competition from both mothers and teachers at our annual Year 7 and 8 'Mums v Staff v Girls' netball match in February; great fun and the Staff remained victorious!



## Consider Yourself Invited!

Spring Term closed with a triumphant production of Lionel Bart's 'Oliver!' from Year 7, bringing great joy, excitement and pride to the community. With two performances over consecutive nights, each and every child was featured on the stage, some of whom also doubled up with technical support backstage, including stage make-up, which is one of our most popular extra-curricular activities with Miss Wergan. Congratulations to the entire cast and crew with special mention to Eva R who was successfully cast as Oliver, having demonstrated honesty and sincerity in the role during auditions, Ben N (Artful Dodger), Annabel H (Nancy), William B (Fagin) and Tommy L (Bill Sykes). A week on, the songs of 'Oliver!' still echo around the classrooms and corridors and the magic of theatre still lingers in the air.

A production of this scale is a huge team effort and we are blessed with a group of incredibly talented and enthusiastic staff and volunteers. Drawing on her experience of starring in a West End production of 'Oliver!' in her previous life, huge thanks to Mrs Harris for her direction and choreography, to Miss North for her role as Company Manager, Mr Gabbard for production and to Mrs Wicks and her staff band.



## Out and About

- This Term it has been the turn of the Pre-Prep to enjoy their curriculum-linked school trips to **Tilgate Park Nature Reserve, Wilderness Woods** and **The Sealife Centre**, offering our children unique learning experiences and lasting memories of very special days with their friends.
- After half term, 15 pupils from our Chamber Choir enjoyed a visit to **Glyndebourne** to see a new youth opera, 'Pay the Piper', featuring with our very own Eva R.

## The Cumnor Foundation

In March we closed this year's applications for our **Foundation Scholars, who will join us in Year 4 at the start of the 2022/23 academic year.** We currently have seven fully funded Foundation Scholars from Sussex thriving within our community with our first Foundation Scholar, who joined in 2016, enjoying senior school life at Hurst on an Academic Scholarship. A huge thank you to all who support The Cumnor Foundation - we look forward to hosting an evening reception in the Summer Term to mark our appreciation to our Termly Giving Scheme donors. If you would like to find out more please contact Olivia Henley in the Development Office (ohenley@cumnor.co.uk).



**THE CUMNOR FOUNDATION**

