

Spring Term

Wonderful Encounters

Jason Fletcher

*"The world will never starve for want of wonders,
but only for want of wonder."*

This comment by G.K. Chesterton captures something of why education is, to me, so exciting. There is, to put it simply, so much. And that 'so much' is always there, silently extending its invitation. The question is whether we will pause long enough to notice.



I was telling our Infants and Juniors in assembly recently about the most amazing of birds. Each weighs as much as an apple. Their delicate wingspan is about the length of my outstretched arm. Generally nesting on beaches and off-shore islands farther north, some are known to breed as far south as Blakeney Point in Norfolk. Both parents take turns incubating the eggs resting in a shallow defile. Their young fledge (grow wing feathers enabling flight) after three or four weeks, and a month or two later they fly the nest for good.

In the 1980s, some scientists decided they wanted to study their migration patterns and placed a geolocator on a juvenile in Northumberland. One day it took off from the Farne Islands. I like to imagine their astonished looks at one another when they realised it had made it to Melbourne, Australia in less than two months, having flown over 14,000 miles! Just like that.

Subsequent studies have revealed these extraordinary birds often travel more than 40,000 miles in a year on their journey to the Antarctic and back. Theirs is the longest known migration. Over their 20 to 30 year lifetime they travel hundreds of thousands of miles, like flying to the moon and back twice, and then some.

We call these exquisite creatures Arctic terns (*Sterna paradisaea*), or swallows of the sea. You might see them near nesting grounds in July in Northumberland or Scotland. Right now, they are enjoying the Antarctic summer, but in April or May some might travel through Cambridge on their way north.



What incredible strength in so small a frame. What incredible intelligence, finding their way there and back again. What incredible efficiency, taking so little of the earth's resources to fuel their graceful traverse of the planet.

This is just one example in a million. It is one thing - and very important too - to possess an extensive factual grasp. It is another to notice the invitation, the voice calling. Hearing it and pausing to wonder is the beginning of knowledge. Such encounters are, to me, the life-blood of education.

International Day

Jeni Watkins & Jonathan Burden



We all look forward to International Day at Heritage and this year did not disappoint. Our International Tuck Shop remained a highlight as pupils were able to try food from around the world.

Infants and Juniors gathered at the end of the day for a special assembly to share what they had discovered about the country they had been studying.

Lower Prep had learnt about Italy. They had made some delicious looking pizzas as well as beautiful Venetian masks and threaded pasta necklaces. Upper Prep were studying South Africa and enjoyed listening to and making music and colourful flags. They also demonstrated keen linguistic skills as they shared some Zulu words they had been taught by Mr Hulett and some Afrikaans by Mrs Cubitt. Year 2 were looking at Denmark and the legacy of the Vikings! They shared a time of *Hygee - talking about the things we love most*, while drinking hot chocolate. They made Danish heart basket crafts and baked their own aeblesciver!

Year 3 learnt about Georgia and made some very detailed maps showing the various landforms. They made khachapuri - cheese stuffed bread and learnt about the 4 languages spoken in Georgia. In Year 4, the children were studying Germany. They made some fantastic puppets inspired by the stories of Hans Christian Anderson. Mrs Scarlata also baked a delicious apple strudel which was quickly eaten. Year 5 learnt about life in Kenya and enjoyed a visit from Mrs Davies who shared her experiences of the country. Year 6 had focussed on Scotland and engaged in a lively debate about the existence of the Loch Ness Monster. They also put their creative skills into action making clay models of 'Nessie.'

In the Senior School, pupils were able to come to school dressed either, in the colours of a flag or in the traditional dress of a particular country. A collection was made with proceeds being given to Street Child United, a charity which reaches out to children surviving on the streets, around the world. Many of the lessons throughout the day were also given an international twist.

A Winter Walk

Isobel Burden

Year 3 recently headed to the Cambridge Botanic Garden as part of their weekly enrichment programme. Armed with sketching pencils and clipboards they set off for the beautiful Winter Garden, remembering on their way, favourite plants and scenes from their last visit. The Scented Garden is always a highlight and the muntjac deer they hoped to see again did not let them down!

The Winter Garden itself was simply stunning. Created in 1979 with a marvellous array of different shades, scents and textures, the site was sculpted to ensure that low winter sun catches stems and intensifies colour



The spectacular red of the Siberian Dogwood captivated the class, they couldn't believe at first that it was a natural hue! Other favourites were the peeling cinnamon-coloured bark of the Paperbark Maple and the spectral, white stems of the Japanese Wineberry. Pupils found their favourite position to sit and sketch with friends.

They walked back with some wonderfully detailed drawings as well as the memory of delightful displays to "flash upon that inward eye, Which is the bliss of solitude". (Wordsworth)

Tutankhamun - Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh

Jean Carter

During the Christmas holidays, my family and I enjoyed a wonderful day out in London at the Tutankhamun exhibition, running at the Saatchi Gallery until May 2020.

Tutankhamun has a special association with our family, as the Egyptologist, Howard Carter, is the cousin of my husband's grandfather. This is the last time artefacts from the tomb will travel abroad as a new purpose built museum is being constructed in Cairo. The exhibits are stunning and include many items that have never left Egypt before. All are beautifully preserved, stunning in the quantity of gold and precious stones used and exquisitely detailed in craftsmanship.



Heritage pupils study Ancient Egypt and the famous Egyptian pharaoh in Year 3 and we feel sure that pupils of any age will find this amazing exhibition very interesting.

The Harkness Method

Elaine Cooper

Last term we began experimenting with a new approach in our Senior School. It is an educational tool known as the Harkness Method, which we are planning to use periodically.

Harkness refers to a method of teaching that was developed in the 1930s at the Phillips Exeter School in New Hampshire, USA. In a Harkness lesson learning takes place through a discussion held around a circular "Harkness Table". Sitting at the table, members of the class question and consider a topic together. They are given work prior to the class so they can be thoroughly prepared. When they meet for the lesson, the teacher takes a back seat, becoming a guide who only joins the discussion when necessary. The pupils are responsible for the conversation.

The advantages are many: it puts the onus on the pupils to engage; it requires independence and critical thinking; it emphasises collaboration and constructive discussion rather than point scoring. To be successful in a Harkness lesson, pupils need to be good listeners and willing to take the risk of offering a question or opinion. It encourages many of the intellectual and social skills we want to nurture in our pupils.

Of the many arguments in favour of the method, the most important may be that it lifts learning above a mere mechanistic transmission of information and invites the quality of engagement necessary for deeper integration. We are encouraged by what the Harkness Method has to offer and look forward to using it further here at Heritage.



New Addition to the Staff Team

Mrs Catherine Lawless, Administrator

'I am very excited to have joined the lovely team here at Heritage and I look forward to meeting you all in the coming weeks. In my free time, I enjoy going for hikes with my husband, our two young sons and (very bouncy) dogs. We reached our first summit as a family, Thorpe Cloud in the Peak District, last summer! I also love reading, baking and crossword puzzles.'

