



**FOREST PREPARATORY SCHOOL**  
EST. 1924

## **Upper School Blog**

### **Year 3**

The focus this year is to settle the children into life in the Upper School, familiarising them with new routines, responsibilities and developing independent learning. The children will also begin their preparation for the Trafford Grammar School Entrance Examinations. They will particularly focus on Verbal Reasoning, English and Maths.

We have rewards in the Upper School to encourage hard work and good behaviour. House points are awarded in class to celebrate effort and achievement, the winning house earning a trophy at the end of year. In addition to this, certificates are awarded in assembly for a 'star of the week'. These pupils will also receive a mention in the weekly newsletter.

During the year, pupils enjoy participating in a variety of enrichment days, including the annual Roman Showcase. Year 3 were learning a great deal about the Roman way of life last half term and worked extremely hard on perfecting their assembly to showcase their learning.

They did a superb job of performing it to the rest of the school and taught everyone a thing or two about the Romans!

### **Year 4**

In Year 4, the children enjoy a curriculum which is broad and balanced and one that includes specialist teaching in Music, ICT, PE/Games and French. In Maths and English we continue to build upon the firm foundations established in the lower years ensuring, continuity and progression in their learning.

We celebrate school life through participating in class assemblies and school concerts which highlight the skills and talents of our pupils. Our aim is to equip all pupils with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed for a smooth transition into Year 5, which is a challenging year preparing for both the state and independent school exams.

Year 4 pupils continue their work on examination preparation for Grammar Schools. Particular emphasis is placed on developing their Verbal, Non-Verbal, English and Maths skills, which are required for the entrance exams in Trafford.

This term, the children have been learning all about the plague in the 17th century and yesterday they were able to see how The Black Death reached a small northern village-Eyam. The children took a tour of the church, gathered information at the museum and traced the steps of the villagers to the boundary stone.

## Year 5

The focus this year is on preparation for the entrance examinations for the local Grammar Schools and for Independent Schools, which take place very early in Year 6.

The children are thoroughly prepared in Maths, Verbal Reasoning, Non Verbal Reasoning and English, all of which form part of the secondary selection process. Extra support is offered to the children during regular early morning and after school group sessions held after school during the Autumn and Spring Term. Holiday classes provide extra tuition for the children held weekly during Summer. A three day Revision Class is held during the last week of the Summer Holidays, to help build confidence and focus in preparation for the fast approaching assessments.

Alongside this intense and thorough examination preparation, the pupils experience a broad and balanced curriculum. The curriculum for Music, French, Computing, P.E. and Games is delivered by specialist teachers, giving the children great opportunity to excel and develop their particular interests to a very high level. There are various extracurricular Music, Computing and Sporting activities held throughout the year at which the children have an opportunity to perform and display their talents. Christmas time also provides an opportunity for an enjoyable trip to the theatre.

As part of their Science topic Year 5 visited Jodrell Bank in Macclesfield. The children took part in workshops, experienced hands on practical exhibitions; an even observed the movements and recordings of the infamous Lovell Telescope.

*My day at Jodrell Bank was very fun. We had an interesting workshop where we worked in groups to carry out the 'Mars Rover Challenge'. We had to create a protective device to make sure an egg did not crack when it was dropped from a height. Our second workshop involved looking at Tim Peake's mission into Space. Towards the end of the day we had enough time to visit the playground and gift shop, which was very exciting! (Year 5 pupil)*

## **Year 6**

Year 6 is an exciting year during which the pupils are prepared for their transition to Secondary school. Entrance exams take priority at the beginning of the year, with extra revision provided. Once these have taken place we deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. Year 6 pupils are encouraged to become more independent. They are given opportunities to research and work independently, to develop their creativity and effectively manage their time. These are essential skills for Secondary school.

We give our pupils responsibilities throughout the school to develop maturity, encourage team work and to increase their self-confidence. They are given various jobs around the school and are viewed as role models by the younger pupils. Our Head Boy and Head Girl and Deputies are selected from Year 6.

The pupils participate in many varied activities throughout the year. As part of our PSHE/Citizenship studies we have a visit from Trafford Magistrates and from the Fire Service. We also take part in the Trafford Crucial Crew schemes organised for Year 6 children throughout the borough. The pupils are invited to sing in many festivals throughout the year.

In the Autumn term our Humanities topics begin with The Victorians studied in History and Evolution and Adaptation studied in Science. As part of the History topic we visit Dunham Massey for their Victorian Christmas event. The children are encouraged to view links with the local community as important and take part in the Christmas Singalong at Newhaven as well as the Advent Service and the Lower School Nativity play.

In the Summer term, Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoy a five day residential trip to Shropshire or France. This gives the pupils a chance to develop their team building skills and engage in activities which may be new to them, so developing self-confidence and a zest for the future.

The culmination of our year is the Leavers' Assembly. This gives us an opportunity to say 'goodbye' to our pupils. It is an emotional experience for all concerned.

Year 6 leave us having grown in confidence across all areas and being well equipped to face the challenges of Secondary school life.

**Louise Knowles**

Key Stage 2 Co-ordinator