



**Dear parents:** .... We needed some good news in November and last weekend certainly cheered me up. On Saturday evening at 5pm the election results came in from Pennsylvania and the world to me suddenly seemed a better place. Later that evening in the 98th minute a Fulham player tried a Panenka against West Ham and missed (it's football!!) ... ..and then on Tuesday came news of early success of a vaccine. Good news comes in threes so some light in the darkness. More good news I applied for laptops for pupils and got some free Chrome Books and more good news the sun shone on our lovely Remembrance Day Service. Now on our website under Assemblies and worth a look to see the hall, our wreaths and the two minute silence. Even more good news, we then counted out our Poppy Appeal and a record sum was collected, indeed we ran out of most items to sell by the Wednesday. Then yet more good news on Thursday we had our Year 2 Phonics for parents session and 21 families joined us online and learned of the joys of Phonics and Alien Words. Also finally heard back from Hackney Safer Streets (I have emailed them every single Monday since September about our barriers and cameras) and was assured that once the police have finally agreed to a protocol they will be delivered, hopefully!!

Sunday I thought go for a long walk on Hampstead Heath one of my favourite places in the world. I always used to use the 'Boxers Run' a looping hilly 3 mile circuit of the Heath when I was younger. Nowadays a brisk stroll does me. I usually go really early but watched Andrew Marr on Sunday, so by the time I got to Kenwood, about 10.30am it was packed. Lockdown hmm?? Famous faces everywhere unfunny comedians, media folk, Lords of the realm, economic gurus all sitting about or waiting for coffee and cake. I carried on and two young men fell into step behind me talking loudly and got me thinking. Their conversation revolved around body building and cars and then one of them said: "Yeah well he wore glasses but he was a massive a big guy and could handle himself so I let it go ...". Got me thinking about Identity politics. One person in our school qualifies under the Disability Discrimination Act (25 years old this week) and that is .... modesty forbids. Growing up being called 'four eyes' and 'specky' and 'brains' / nerdy etc .... I soon learned to box, played for my school rugby team for four years and have studied five forms of martial arts over the past 35 years. This greatly helped in a boys schools growing up and had no more trouble after all that. Got me thinking. These young men were guilty of 'Specophobia.' A new form of identity politics that I have just invented. "As a glasses wearer I feel blah blah "..... Valid because cruel name calling really is so much rarer these days among children. Mercifully we live in more enlightened times, hopefully. Many reasons to be cheerful in cold rainy November and roll on 2021.

## Pics of the week:

Remembrance Day Service November 11th 2020

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal:

A record amount collected in 2020 of **£236.27p**

## Security alert:

One of our teachers had her phone snatched out of her hand on Wednesday morning around 7.50am on Tottenham Road outside the Hunter's pub. Police I have to say were great and asked us to alert you about young gangs from near Essex Road end on bikes snatching phones 7.30 -9.00 and 3.30-4.30 i.e. work, school and home times. Daniel and I walked out to the Buckingham Road gate last two nights and 7 people staring at their phones.

**Mr Flood's top tip:** If you are going to use your phone in the road stand with your back against a fence or wall ..... then dial up.

## School news ... this and next week

Thursday 12th ...21 families joined our Google Meets from Year 2 about teaching of Phonics. Thank you great response.

Tuesday 17th - Return of Year 6 from self-isolation. School Nurse in.

Wednesday 18th - New SIP first visit. School Improvement Partner from Hackney Education. (No longer called Hackney Learning Trust).



**and finally** ... so the US Election ...one observer and correspondent wrote: "The US Presidential election has been described as 'in some respects the worst most vituperative presidential campaign ever. A candidate lamented that enough "abuse and scandal" was unleashed to ruin and corrupt the minds and morals of the best people in the world." This described the election of 1800 between John Adams and the first Republican President Thomas Jefferson. It also dragged on for months afterwards with the outcome in dispute so nothing new. I could bore for a lifetime on American Presidents, campaigns and constitutional niceties. Suffice to say I love America and feel it will survive this by far the worst President of my lifetime and I can remember 11 of them. Historians of both left and right all say Warren Harding was the worst President ever but that may well change in the next 70 days .... so who were the top 4?? Clue 3 of them were Republicans and I agree with historians don't Google it answers next week..... anyone see the trailer for Wild Mountain Thyme the new movie out with Christopher Walken, Emily Blunt etc and the worst Oirish accents since John Wayne hilarious .... well done Scotland last night penalty shoot out ...Masterchef the Professionals back and last nights Tom Kerridge saving Britain's pubs was compelling viewing and of course the return of Nigella. Can't stand all the fake friends and post staged dinner parties but her food always looks so delicious and yummy. Made an amazing Brandade de Morue ??? last Sunday so easy ..... basically salt cod, garlic, mash, olive oil and herbs beloved of the Portuguese and French. Recipes on Youtube you soak overnight and is lasts for days .... Jamaicans do a spicier version ...really cheap and kids love it too .... anyway happy Friday the 13th hope its half as good as last weekend ..... cooking with Nduja this Sunday Calbrian fiery sausage and great with pork dishes ...warm and spicy .... enjoy!!