

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term – ironically named after the weather I imagine. I hope you all had a relaxing break with not too many arguments over who ate all the nice chocolates or who forgot to set the Sky+ box to record that film. The Gilmour household had a lovely time with our usual Christmas routine of having a birthday instead and opening presents on 28 December...

The children have settled back into the school routine really well and thank you to everyone who shopped for new uniform. Looking ahead, it's quite a busy half term with several special events and lots of exciting opportunities including one that involves winning a bottle of wine – read on!

*Iain C. Gilmour*

### LOOK-A-LIKE LEARNER DAY

The excitement is building ahead of tomorrow's Look-a-Like Learning Day (Friday 13 January). It is amazing to hear how children have linked the Habits of Mind to their choice of learner. The day will be focused on "Me as a learner" and we'll be giving children the chance to practice some important skills that will help them all become great learners themselves. Thank you as always for your support and the inevitable trips to U-Need-Us that I imagine have happened. As usual, look out for photographs on the website.



### CPR DAY

I am proud to announce that Brunel has been chosen as one of five schools in Portsmouth to take part in a pilot programme to teach CPR run jointly by the Portsmouth Music Hub and Southampton University.



On Thursday 26 January, doctors from the university will be coming into school to teach us how to perform "hands only" CPR – you might remember the Vinnie Jones' advert a few years ago. Research has shown that the chances of surviving a heart attack increases rapidly should someone receive CPR straight away but relatively few of us know how to do this. As well as learning CPR, the children have started learning some CPR songs to help remind them what to do with the support of the Music Hub. If the pilot is successful, the plan is to roll the programme out nationally which means that Brunel will have played a key part in a country-wide project!



### THINKING ACCREDITATION DAY

Hopefully you will remember that my December newsletter contained a lot of information about Habits of Mind and Thinking Maps as we prepare for our accreditation as a Thinking School. We are hoping that this will happen on Wednesday 1 February: someone from the University of Exeter will come into school and look for evidence on how we use thinking to



support our teaching and learning at Brunel. We have already submitted a portfolio of evidence and my thanks to Mrs Wise and Miss Paine who compiled this massive piece of work. If successful, we will be only the second school in the city who can officially call themselves a Thinking School after The Portsmouth Academy. So keep your fingers crossed that we get the award I think we richly deserve.

### **SPECIAL SPACE MENU – THURSDAY 19 JANUARY**

ISS, who provide our school dinners, have arranged a special space themed menu for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January. This is an ideal chance to try out a dinner if you have not done so before. You will need to register for Cypad as everything is on the internet now – there’s a link at the top of the school website. Do register in plenty of time to get your username assigned!



### **FACEBOOK AND MESSAGING**

Thank you to everyone who looks at our Facebook page and shares the good news stories we put on there. With the start of a new term, please could I gently remind you that I’ve turned comments “off” – if you do write one, only your “friends” will see it and it will be deleted. This protects the school from anything online that is not suitable for schools and means I don’t have to constantly check to see what’s happening.



Finally we have been told that a number of children have been receiving messages online that have upset them. If you would like to know more information about how to protect them, look for the Kidscape or NSPCC websites that have some helpful advice – I’ll put some links in the parents’ section of the website.

### **PARENTS’ SURVEY**

It being January, it will soon be time to sent out our annual parents’ survey. This is based on the 12 questions Ofsted will ask when we are inspected. Attached to the survey will be two raffle tickets – keep one at home and send the survey in with the other one still stapled on and we will pick four at random to win a bottle of wine. The survey will be out before the end of the month.



### **SNOW TEAM**

Speaking of weather as I did in my opening remarks, I’m trying to put together a “snow team” of people who live locally, have a shovel and would be willing to come in and help clear paths should the need arise. Please could you write a short note with your name and contact number and hand it into the office and with a bit of luck, I’ll never need to call on your help!



### **2016-17 DATES**

**Spring Term 2017 – Wednesday 4 January - Friday 7 April - Half Term: Monday 20 - Friday 24 February**  
**Summer Term 2017 - Monday 24 April - Tuesday 25 July - Half Term: Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June**  
**INSET days – 27 February, 5 June**