

# Lucton News

FROM THE HEADS  
PREP SCHOOL  
SPORT  
EQUESTRIAN  
NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

Nov 6th 2020  
Issue 9



Contingent Commander Major C. Derrigan preparing the cadets ahead of next week's Remembrance Day parade

# From the Heads



**While the renewal of lockdown no doubt has many of us experiencing déjà vu, things are different this time; and very much so for schools.**

We are delighted to remain open and to provide that routine and sense of normality that are so important to both educational progress and mental well-being.

Obviously, we have had to up our COVID security, but the signs are encouraging that everyone is getting on with the stricter environment, especially the absolute need

for mask-wearing in all communal areas, in the Middle and Senior parts of the Schools, and high levels of hand cleansing. While mindful of the present, in truth our thoughts have been directed towards the future this week.

We have seen a mock-up of the school's impressive new website, ready for its launch after Christmas. High-quality, professional photographs have been taken in order to update the prospectus.

The filming for a new

promotional video had to be cancelled this week, but it has been rescheduled for as soon as possible after the lockdown ends. The parental survey to identify priorities for the future development of the school will be circulated in the near future. In short, we are looking ahead with optimism, confidence and anticipation to a prosperous future for Lucton, despite the rather dreary short-term situation.

**John Goode & Elmien Niblett**

# Prep School



**Welcome back from half term! The children appear to be well-rested and full of beans.**

I would like to remind you of the Year 3 assembly, *The Little Beaver and the Echo*. A lovely tale about friendship and discovering that, although we might be different (in this case a beaver, a duck, and a turtle), we do have similar needs and would all like to be friends. Well narrated and well acted. Thank you, Year 3, for reminding us that we should all try and be friends with each other.

Before half term, Year 5 went on a trip to Carding Mill Valley. We are really pleased that we can continue our trips, although not indoors for the

next month, as these are an important part of school life. They enable us to extend our teaching and to have real-life examples; in this case mapping a river. As the restrictions ease, we will be visiting museums and even hope to welcome the odd visitor as well.

Year 4 enjoyed their trip to Carding Mill Valley as well, this week; they were studying maps in greater detail. Perhaps they have discovered what happens when the contour lines are really close together!

Meanwhile, we are back and there's a lot to look forward to whilst we continue teaching. The first thing to mention is the Book Fair. We are really

pleased about this, as are the children. Although parents cannot come in, the children can still choose books and buy them (having had the books vetted by us, of course, and with your permission). We are also looking forward to judging the puppets and hope to have them on display for everyone to see.

Next week is Remembrance Day (Wednesday) and the school will be having the parade and reading of the fallen. The Prep School will be attending the parade (as spectators). Please ensure that your child has a red coat; we always look like a field of poppies. Although some of our younger children are not sure why we

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are doing this (we do explain!), the sombre tone of the event, the silence and the march past, never fails to have an emotional impact.

Unbelievably, it is also Children in Need next week, so keep an eye out for a request for cupcakes. We always sell them (50p a cupcake) and see no reason why we cannot do the

## Carding Mill Valley Trip Y5

**On the Thursday before half term, Year 5 were delighted to be able to spend the day at Carding Mill Valley.**

We spent the morning conducting an investigation of the river, taking measurements of width, depth, and speed. After lunch, we walked, climbed, and scrambled our way to the source of the river, taking in the beautiful waterfall on the way.

As we came back down the valley, along one of the tributaries, we were very pleased to see some wild ponies with their foals.

It was an excellent opportunity for teamwork, and applying knowledge from our lessons to a real-life setting; we were able to identify many of the river features that we had learnt about in the classroom, as we enjoyed our walk. We were also very lucky with the weather, as it was the only dry day in a very wet week!

**Mrs Wall, Prep School**

same this year. The children come down in their classes, don't mix, and receive them in a bag. What's not to like? To top it all, I understand that the nativity production has been ordered! This year will be slightly different as, due to "bubbles", Transition cannot join us; however, they will be taking part in their own, so do not despair. The

nativities will be filmed and put up on TEAMS for you to enjoy.

Although outside of the school might be different, inside we are very much the same, thank goodness. We even have the same lost property, the same mud inside and the same sound of laughter. Tonic indeed!

**Mr Bicker-Caarten, Head of Prep School**



# Sport



**As storm Aiden travelled eastwards, high pressure settled over Lucton, bringing some welcome Wednesday sunshine, ideal for the start of this term's couch to 5km fitness programme.**

This term, all pupils in the Senior School will aim to improve stamina with weekly runs and, if we are lucky, a Lucton end of term version of the Park Run! The running was followed by sessions of skills drills and small sided games.

The Middle School girls focused on spatial awareness on the lacrosse field, whilst the Year 9 and 10 girls coped with sticky underfoot conditions on the hockey pitch.

The Sixth Form and Year 11



girls added some agility and suppleness to their fitness programme before working on attacking moves, which were implemented into game situations.

The boys had a swap around, with the Middle School boys working on basic rugby skills with Mr Cowley, whilst some Year 9 and 10 boys honed their skills under Mr Cheshire's eagle eye.

Some of the Sixth Form and most of the Year 11 boys enjoyed a session of football skills and drills with Mr Pepper, Mr Goode and Mr Wolstenholme, whilst the rest further developed their badminton skills with Mr Richmond.

The afternoon finished with some timed GCSE PE swimming in the pool, before the swimming leagues return in two weeks' time. Next week, the Sixth Form can look forward to a much-anticipated badminton tournament!

**Mrs Connop, Head of Sport**

# Equestrian



## The half term break proved to be quite successful for the Lucton School Equestrian Team.

On Monday 26th at Kings Equestrian, we attended the NSEA show jumping competition, which was a qualifier event for the Championships (venue and date yet to be confirmed due to Covid).

The 70cm team consisted of Freya on Trooper, Amelia on Brit, Oliver on Romeo and Sophie H on Poppy.

The team finished on a score of zero and came 2nd, which meant they qualified as a team. Oliver also came 5th individually.

In the 80cm class, Oliver on Buddy, Amelia on Brit, Hannah on Lucky and George on Cleo finished on a score of four. This gave them 2nd and a qualifying place. Amelia also came 6th individually.

Hannah on Lucky, George on Cleo, Meg on Frank and Oliver on Buddy all competed in the 90cm competition. Hannah had a great clear round on Lucky. Sadly, however, they did not achieve a team place.

On Wednesday 28th, it was the turn of our grassroots team all from Year 7! In what has been a particularly drizzly few weeks, we were blessed with glorious sunshine for this year's NSEA qualifier.

Amy on Spirit and Ted on Georgia completed lovely clear rounds each in the 50cm, before Ted had a second clear round in the 60cm. Ted was particularly thrilled with his steady double clear, proving that all the hard work that he has done in his lessons with Miss Coates and Georgia has paid off!

Sophie H also jumped the 60cm, but sadly we had no placings that day despite some great and very determined riding from them all.

Over the last couple of months, we have also welcomed some new additions to our equestrian team. William H has a lovely new pony called Prophet, and we are looking forward to him joining the grassroots team. Sophie D has a great new jumping pony called Cloud, Sophie H has just got a bigger pony called Bertie, who is a 14.2hh Welsh Section D. Hannah L has got a 6-year-old mare called Bluebelle.

We are looking forward to seeing these all progress further once the lockdown is over and we can start competing again.

**Mrs Lawry**

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# Lucton School Pony Club Rally



**The Pony Club Rally was so busy this year that we actually had a waiting list!**

We began with the younger children, who were joined by two of our external members. As well as doing their E Test, they played some gymkhana games and 'round the world'. They also completed some general exercises, including "Simon Says", before doing a little bit of stable management.

Emily-Grace and Rebecca helped out with brushing and tacking up the ponies. Everyone quickly became great friends and it was an event enjoyed by all.

The older ones then had a more structured session, including jumping and

working on canter with rhythm. They also enjoyed the general grooming and tacking up ready to ride, and working on their D+ test theory, which we hope they will be able to complete at the Christmas rally.

We also had a go at listening to the heart and gut using a stethoscope, and taking respiration and heart rates. We decided that Jake had no pulse so must be dead!

We are currently aiming to run another rally at the start of the Christmas holiday, which will be a fun day for the younger ones and a test day for the older ones. As membership continues to grow, spaces will be limited. You will need to book early with payment to confirm your place.

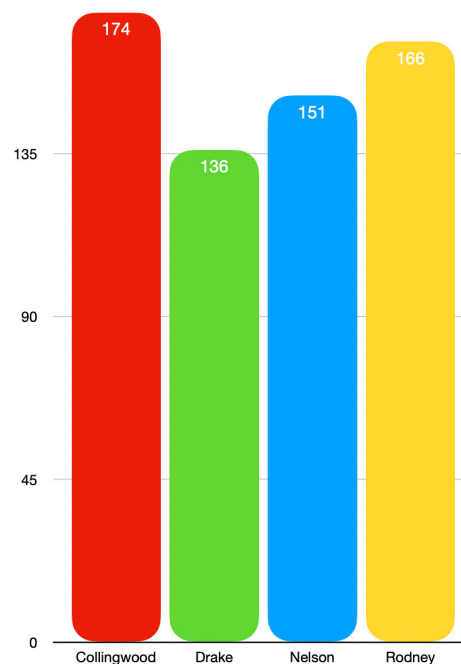
## E test passes

- Edwin
- Carissa
- Hettie

**Ms Coates, Equestrian  
Manager**



## House Merit Totals



\*Numbers accurate 6th November 2020

# News from The Friends

**I just wanted to take some time to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Friends of Lucton School.**

This will be my second time as Chair, (clearly once was not enough!) but the situation and circumstances this time around are very different to last time. As I write, we are once again planning to go into lockdown for four weeks, and all non-essential activities have to stop, including planning for events or activities we were hoping to hold in the lead up to Christmas.

The Friends of Lucton School is set up to raise additional funds for the school to provide those little extras. Last year the Friends funded mobile staging at the Prep School, a pirate ship for the Nursery area and books for the Senior Library, amongst other things. We always welcome requests for funding from the staff and pupils, whether it's for small items or larger projects.

Despite the fact we are unable to hold any fundraising events this year, I do want to write and give you some positive news. The Friends committee have agreed an amount of money to be donated to the school for one or more projects of the pupils' choosing. Mrs Goode is currently working with the

School Councils to provide us with different options that the students would like to use the money for, and the Friends committee will make a final decision on which project(s) to fund. We are excited to see the different projects that the children come up with.

In addition to the donation, we are also looking to create a "Reflection Garden" for the students, to support their mental health and wellbeing. This is where you as parents and staff come in. We would like to be able to create the garden with the help of "parent power"; and it is something we would like to do as soon as lockdown restrictions are eased.

We would love as many parents and staff as possible to get involved, so whether it's some digging, some planting or full-on garden design, we would love to hear from you. We will be looking to design the garden alongside the children, to include what they would like to see in their "Reflection Garden". We will communicate these plans as we go along. If you would like to get involved please do email me at: [luctonfriendschair@gmail.com](mailto:luctonfriendschair@gmail.com).

All that is left for me to say is stay safe and stay well. Naturally, however, as and

when restrictions ease I will be in touch to let you know of any events we will be looking to plan.

**Jade Stock**  
**Chair of the Friends of Lucton**

