



Acts of Courage

This week I was delighted to welcome Dr Clare Ives, the Head of The Leys, to our school assembly. It was an important reminder of the strength of our Schools' Foundation, and we wish Dr Ives every success as she takes up her new post.

Mr Davenport led the assembly which focused on the theme of *courage*, and he began by asking pupils to consider what courage means to them. Their answers ranged from "bravery" to "lions"—a natural symbol of strength and boldness. To bring the theme to life, Mr Davenport then shared two memorable real-life stories, each illustrating courage in different forms.

The first described an England cricketer who, despite a dislocated shoulder, returned to the pitch to bat—using his non-dominant hand. His resilience and determination drew applause from both sets of supporters. At the same time the opposing captain of the India team showed another form of strength—genuine compassion and remarkable sportsmanship—by choosing not to take advantage of his opponent's vulnerability.

The second true story explored moral courage, as pupils learned about **Rosa Parks** and her quiet but world-changing act of defiance in 1955 Montgomery, Alabama. Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat became a spark that helped ignite a movement for civil rights, demonstrating the power of individual conviction in the face of injustice.

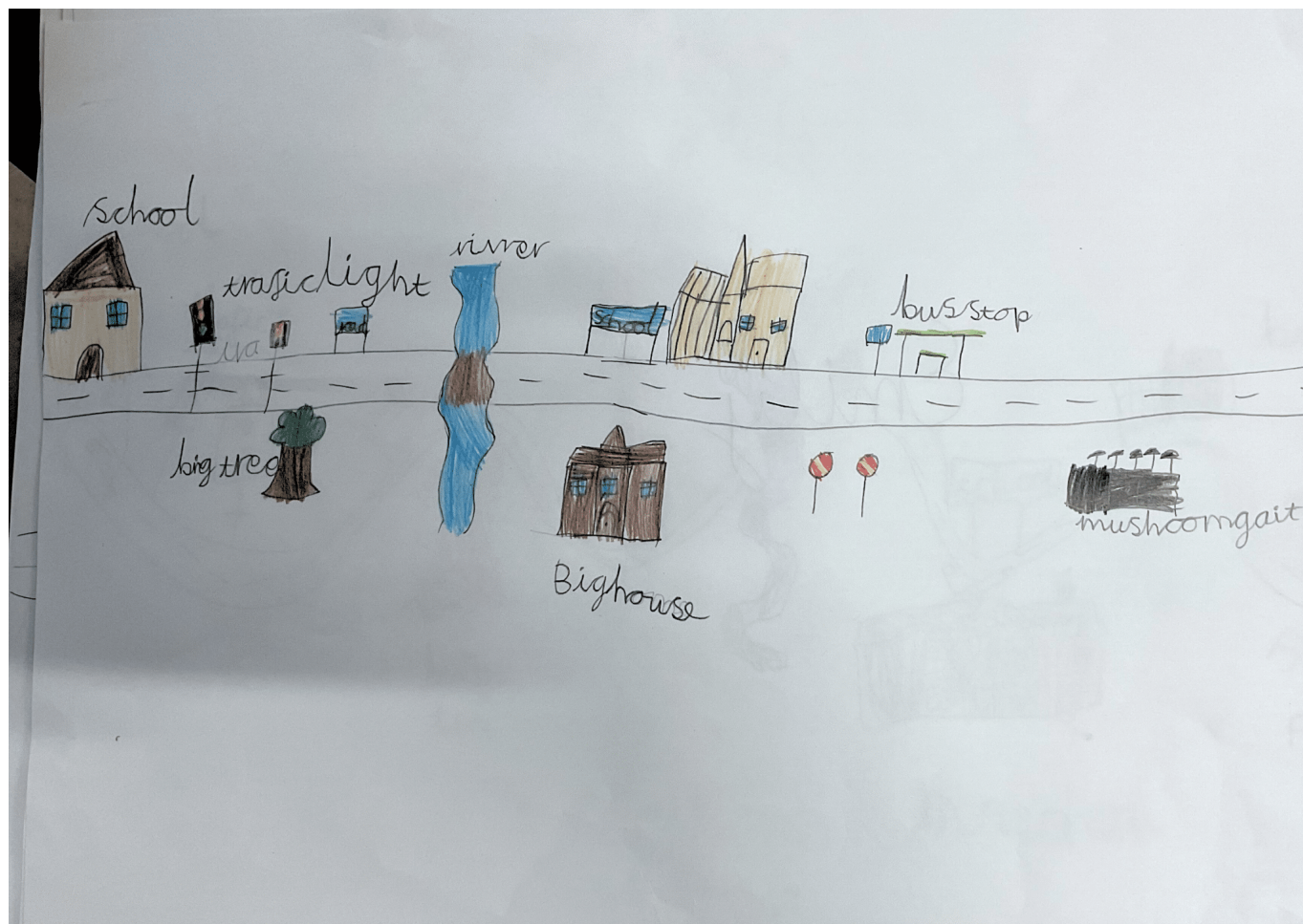
To conclude, Mr Davenport reminded us all that courage often means choosing what is right over what is easy. His challenge—"Will you do what's easy, or do what's right?"—gave us all pause for reflection. The assembly ended with a prayer and hymn, a fitting moment to consider how we might each practise courage, large or small, in our own lives.



Year 1 Local Area Walk

Year 1 pupils have been making the most of the autumn sunshine with a local area walk to support their Geography topic. Their route took them along Trumpington Road and Coe Fen, where they spotted familiar features such as post boxes, bus stops, and traffic lights. Afterwards, the children drew simple maps of their journey—an excellent way to connect classroom learning with the world around them.







Wild Place Forest School

Miss Harder writes,

"This half term has seen the exciting extension of our *Wild Place Forest School* to include Year 1 pupils, who now join Reception in enjoying this unique outdoor provision. Every Tuesday, each of the groups, named after British trees, take part in sessions that build on the outdoor skills they have been developing in Forest School. These skills range from tool work to bushcraft, inspiring and love and appreciation of nature in the children.

This week, pupils revisited their *whittling skills* to create "forest friend" sticks. It has been wonderful to see their growing confidence, curiosity, and creativity in this new phase of our Forest School adventure."



History off the Page: The Great Fire of London

On Thursday, Year 2 travelled back to 1666 for an immersive day with *History Off the Page*. The session brought to life the drama of the Great Fire of London, allowing children to explore questions such as: What was life really like for people in London in 1666? What factors contributed to the Fire of London getting out of hand? How did people manage to stop the Great Fire that raged for four and half days? And what lessons were learned as the city was rebuilt?

This truly immersive experience was delivered in a workshop format, where the children were transported to the bustling streets of 1666 London and the bakery in Pudding Lane where the fire started. Learning to be apprentices in a number of jobs from weaving to embroidery, pottery to ink making, leather work to metal work, and even making potions as apothecaries, the children gained experiences of how Londoners lived and worked in the 17th century. The enthusiasm and engagement in the room made clear how much they relished this vivid and hands-on journey into the past.





The Eco Committees

This practical and imaginative work of our Eco Committee continues to connect our pupils to the natural world in the most rewarding ways.

Mrs Scott writes,

“For the last two weeks the Pre Prep Eco Committee has had a bit of an Acorn theme. My husband collected lots of acorns from an oak tree behind our house. The first job was to see if they were viable to plant. To do this we put them in water – if they floated they were no good (and went to the squirrels to eat) and if they sunk they should germinate. Within the collected acorns we spotted some which were misshapen (oak galls). Oak galls are actually caused by a special type of wasp (oak gall wasp), which lays its eggs on the tree and encases them. When hatched the oak gall remains (the children were fascinated). I went on to say that in times gone past the oak galls were used to make ink.



Last Friday we went to the greenhouse. My husband had prepared some homemade special mulch. Each handful of mulch contains billions of microorganisms (the children loved this fact) and I explained that in their hands they were holding the equivalent of every human on the planet. The children put on gloves and each planted three acorns in a pot. Hopefully some of them will germinate and eventually we can plant our home grown acorns in the school grounds.

On Thursday in Eco Committee, after an al fresco lunch, we decided to tidy up the vegetable beds which were planted with the help of [Cultivating Change](#) in March. The committee was very excited to harvest a few carrots and some potatoes. These goodies were taken to Chef Malcolm to use in the kitchen. A lot of fun was had by all and everyone is very keen to get back into the garden again soon."







Scholarship Talk

It was a pleasure to welcome back **Old Fidelians** on Tuesday, when six scholars from The Leys—two of whom are former pupils—visited to speak to our Year 8 pupils about their scholarship experiences. Accompanied by Mr Johnson, Director of Drama and Theatre, and Dr Ives, they shared reflections on the process and the benefits of holding scholarships at senior school.

Our pupils listened attentively, posed thoughtful questions, and clearly found the discussion inspiring—a valuable insight as they begin to consider their own next steps.





Pop-in & Play and Preschool Settling in Sessions

On Wednesday, the Early Years playground and classrooms were filled with the happy sounds of visitors to our latest Pop-in & Play session. These exploratory playtimes give our prospective families the opportunity to 'feel at home' with us and experience at first-hand what a St Faith's education offers.

On Thursday, we held the first of two *Settling In* sessions for new Preschool pupils joining us after half term. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm as they explored their new surroundings and began to make connections with staff and classmates ahead of their start on 4th November.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

This week we were pleased to welcome parents of pupils in Years 3, 4 and 8 parents to Ashburton Hall for their parent-teacher meetings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. These evenings are an important opportunity for parents and teachers to meet face-to-face to discuss pupils' progress and achievements. These conversations are invaluable in strengthening the partnership between home and school. Next week, it will be the turn of Pre Prep parents on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

Year 8 Tour Guide Practice

As we look forward to our Prep Open Morning next Tuesday, we are fortunate to be able to draw on such an excellent and enthusiastic group of Year 8 pupils to lead the tours for prospective families.



This is one of the many leadership opportunities available to our senior pupils, and I know they will rise to the occasion and will enjoy being ambassadors for St Faith's.

And Finally...

This evening I look forward to attending the **Year 7 Poetry Recital**, always a highlight of the calendar. Tomorrow, our Reception families will enjoy the long-awaited *Scavenger Hunt* – previously postponed due to poor weather. This is a long anticipated opportunity for our youngest children to show their parents around their new school – and perhaps discover a few hidden treasures along the way.

It feels fitting that a week that began with an assembly devoted to *acts of courage* should end with poetry recitals and a scavenger hunt — both requiring a little bravery of their own. Whether standing on stage, or leading the way with a treasure map in hand, it is very heartening to see our pupils meeting new challenges with growing confidence.

Wishing you a peaceful and enjoyable weekend,

With all best wishes,

C. Hyde ~ Dunn

Crispin Hyde-Dunn

