

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to report that the children have settled back into school really well this week. It is fantastic to see them showing such pride in their work and enthusiasm with their learning. We are very proud. The children have excelled in our work with area and perimeter in maths, and continued to channel their brilliant writing skills in our second week of our writing unit on Anne Frank.

Your children will have received their mock SATs results this week, which is their scaled scores for each of the papers they completed. We were so pleased to see the progress that the children have made in each of their assessment areas and we hope you found some time to celebrate the positives with them at home. Working under these conditions is invaluable practice, so we will be scheduling a final set of mocks later in the spring term. We will communicate this with you in due course.

Next week, we will be completing our writing unit on Anne Frank by allowing the children to choose one of the characters' perspectives to write from, on the day of their capture. We know that their maturity and empathy will produce some powerful writing. In maths, we will be working with co-ordinates, translating and reflecting shapes on a grid.

As part of our learning for life curriculum, we have been exploring the concept of what is considered 'normal', diversity across society and celebrating how we are all different. We feel that it is a proper time to discuss the LGBTQ community in an age-appropriate manner, given that this is something that the children are already aware of and curious about. In doing so, we will be sharing a life story of Robert Cowell, which is attached to the bottom of this document. We wanted to give you the opportunity to read this before we share it with the children. If you have any questions or concerns, please raise this with your class teacher by Friday 4th March.

PE days will now revert back to **Monday** and **Tuesday** this half term. The Harlequins Foundation had to cancel their scheduled visits. We are hoping to reschedule these later in the year.

A gentle reminder to sign up to a parent's evening slot. These are taking place on 9th and 10th of March. You will have received a parent mail invitation but please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any issues securing an appointment.

Best regards,

Mr Djadali, Mr Clifton & Miss Bennett

Robert Cowell

This is an amazing story about a real person called Robert. He led an incredible life in lots of different

ways as you will find out. There are some BIG surprises in the story too!

Robert Marshall Cowell was born in London in 1918. His father was a famous surgeon, who eventually

became the doctor for the Royal Family.

Robert went to an all boys' school and during his time there he became keen on cars and motor racing.

He spent as much time as he could learning about motor sport and how to fix cars. He was so keen he

even used to sneak into motor racing events disguised as a mechanic! After leaving school

Robert went to

university to study engineering, and eventually became the motor racing driver he had always dreamed

of being. He competed in the 1939 Belgium Grand Prix, but his motor racing career was cut short by the outbreak of World War 2.

He was drafted into the Royal Air Force to fight for the British forces in the war. Because Robert was an expert engineer he learnt how to repair and fly aeroplanes. He became a skilled fighter pilot and was involved in several air battles, where he flew a special type of fighter plane called a Spitfire. Towards the end of the war Robert was involved in an attack on enemy cannons and his plane was hit by gunfire and crashed. He escaped with his life but was captured by the enemy army and imprisoned until the end of the war. Robert planned two escape attempts from the prison camp but he was caught each time. He was a very brave and courageous person.

What are your impressions of Robert so far?

Once the war was over and the world was peaceful again, Robert returned to motor racing and he

competed in other Grand Prix events. But then Robert had to find a different sort of courage.

Three years

after the war was over, Robert became sad. Very sad. He was diagnosed with depression (which is like

being sad all the time) and doctors couldn't work out the reason behind it. He became so depressed that

he had to leave his wife and children as they were being upset too. Eventually Robert saw a doctor who

helped him work out why he was depressed.

Robert had always felt different from the other men he knew. Robert was transgender, which meant

that he was born with a male body but felt like a female. The doctors helped Robert realise that this was

the reason behind his depression and helped him start a special process called transitioning, where he

changed his male body into a female one.

Robert felt much happier living as a female and changed his name to Roberta. People made nasty

remarks to Roberta and made fun of her, but she had to use all the courage she had shown in her earlier

life to stand up for who she was, and make the changes she needed to be happy and healthy.

At that time

people didn't understand that some people are born transgender, unlike nowadays where it is recognised

that transgender people are a welcome part of our society. Unlike Roberta some transgender people

feel male but are born with a female body, and some transgender people are happy not to transition but

stay with the body they were born with. There are a whole range of transgender people, and this called

gender diversity.

Roberta carried on driving in motor sport events and had a very successful career until she died in 2011

at the age of 93!

What an incredible life!

What are your impressions of Roberta?