



# Wellington Weekly

17th May 2024



## Master's Voice

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds everyone well!

It has certainly been a most productive period since our last Wellington Weekly, with a really good blend of events occurring at the school. On the sporting front, I have loved our competitive

approach in tennis and swimming, with the football fixtures on Saturday 4th May also proving to be a perfect inauguration of our first-class pitch. Indeed, with the V & A Café now open (and please do feel free to frequent – I must say the delicacies on offer are rather tasty!) and the auditorium in Block B nearing completion, it really feels that the school facilities are now conjoining and it is extremely exciting to witness.

This was confirmed by members of the Wellington College International (WCI) team, who visited the school over the past week or so and were very impressed by the progression they experienced. It is always lovely to see the WCI team here, offering reassurance on developments, academic / pastoral and structural, and illustrating that very visible representation of the depth of the partnership between the UK and Pune.



The final few weeks of Term 3, and the founding academic year, will be a very busy affair. It has been super to see so many parents in school to engage in consultation meetings with teachers and these discussions form a useful precursor to forthcoming end of Term academic assessments (and pupil reports). On a linked theme, I believe that our willingness to organise and host events, such as the Music, Arts and Dance Festival and the Literary Week, have been a marked feature of our opening year. Pupils, parents and staff have enjoyed these occasions, with academic enrichment at the very core of the ambitions. I have no doubt that next week's Science Festival, running from Tuesday 21st May to Friday 24th May, will be a similar success and I know how much the whole school is looking forward to it. I also thank all the parents for their contributions, and assistance, at home in the preparations for any science projects. As a mere historian, I am always out of my comfort zone in discussions on high level Science but I will do my very best to contribute (and I thus have weekend homework to do!).



# SCIENCE WEEK

**21 May - 24 May 2024**

With the end of Term rapidly approaching, on Thursday 27th June, I draw parents' attention to my previous note on the outline for that morning. Essentially, all pupils will be in morning lessons, followed by an End of Year Assembly and then departure for all at 12.00 noon. Further details on the breakdown for that morning will be provided in due course. In advance of that, of course, there will be many more occasions to celebrate activities in school. The Friends of Wellington (FoW) parental team have been very proactive in pondering and planning potential events before the end of Term and I am very much looking forward to all this activity coming to fruition in the coming weeks. Please can I thank all the parents, and colleagues, involved – I am extremely grateful for everyone's endeavours and I know the FoW have a number of excellent initiatives planned for the future.

I hope that everyone enjoys the weekend and for families involved in the Mahindra swimming meet on Saturday 18th May, I look forward to seeing you there and wish all competitors the very best of luck!

Best wishes,

Dr Murray

# Early Years

Dear Early Years Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you and your children are enjoying the coolness brought by the recent occasional showers. As the monsoon season approaches, it's a wonderful time for our children to delve into nature and turn it into our very own science lab.

The monsoon in India brings a fascinating array of bugs and minibeasts, offering unique learning opportunities for our children. The increased humidity and dampness attract various insects and creatures, allowing the children to observe and learn about different life forms up close.

As we prepare to embrace the monsoon season, I encourage you to let your children play and explore in the rain whenever it's safe to do so. You might also join in the fun—after all, the best memories are often made when we let ourselves enjoy the simple pleasures of nature.

Monsoon also means more (not so welcome) mosquitoes. Please ensure that your child has the required gear to stay safe during the season like bug spray, welly boots and a rain jacket.

*“Let the children be free; encourage them; let them run outside when it is raining; let them remove their shoes when they find a puddle of water; and when the grass of the meadows is wet with dew, let them run on it and trample it with their bare feet; let them rest peacefully when a tree invites them to sleep beneath its shade; let them shout and laugh when the sun wakes them.”*

— ***Maria Montessori - The Discovery of the Child***

I am happy to share that our first Kahaani Tree session was a great success. Ms Fiona Carter captivated the children with readings of ‘George and the Dragon,’ and ‘Where’s My Teddy?’—some of her daughter's favourite books. The children had a fantastic time listening to the stories and even got the chance to role-play their favourite characters, sparking their imaginations and creativity. Thank you to all who attended the session; your presence truly made it special. Community building through reading allows us to explore diverse cultures, traditions, and perspectives, enriching our understanding of the world. We can't wait to hear more stories from you and around the globe. The teachers will be in touch about available slots so we can continue this wonderful journey together.



I want to thank you all for attending the Early Years Coffee Morning last week. Ms Carter's presence and engagement provided a valuable opportunity for families to share their thoughts, feedback, and insights on various aspects of the school. The feedback gathered will be instrumental in guiding the School's future initiatives and improvements. The event highlighted the strong sense of community within our school and the shared commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in education.

As we progress through the Term, more emphasis will be placed on children transitioning into their next classes. I will be sharing more information regarding this soon. I appreciate your ongoing support and partnership.

Kind regards,  
Rashmi Dixon

# Head of Junior School

Dear Parents,

Incredibly, we find ourselves entering the final part of our first school year. Although there is still a great deal to look forward to, our attention has also turned to preparing for next year and planning a smooth transition for all children.

The House system, CCAs and a close teaching team means that changes year on year are incremental and pupils are well prepared for their next step.

Beginning in the next few weeks, pupils will start familiarising themselves with their next year groups. This will be especially important for children moving from and into different parts of the school. Year 6 will begin spending time with the Senior School and we will be welcoming Year 1 into the Juniors.

Information on the next Class Teachers will be shared with parents on Friday 14th June.

As the Term draws to a close we will be celebrating all the progress and achievements that have been made across the year and marking the end of a very special year. I hope you can join us on Thursday 27th June.

Kind regards,

Katie Byrne

# Head of Senior School

Dear Parents,

I hope that this note finds you well. It was lovely to see you at the Parent Teacher Consultations. I hope that you found the meetings productive and purposeful.

The students are excited to partake in our inaugural Science Festival next week on Tuesday 21st May to Friday 24th May, where they will enjoy a diverse range of activities designed to help develop their critical-thinking skills and foster their intellectual curiosity. On Tuesday, the Senior School students will be involved in a debate competition addressing the following questions: 'Are electric vehicles really worth the hype?' and 'Is AI in healthcare a boom?'. On Wednesday, they will take part in a house-wide Science quiz and on Thursday, they will present their Science exhibits to their teachers. On Friday an external provider will conduct a cyborg Robotics workshop in the afternoon, where students will assemble and programme a working motorised model using a high-tech robotic kit.

It promises to be a hugely enriching and rewarding week and many thanks to Ms Vyas and Mr Kachawaha for putting everything together. There is no doubt that encouraging students to engage and explore STEM subjects will play a crucial role in preparing them for an ever-evolving future and it will equip them with the skills to adapt and be imaginative problem solvers – a key part of a Wellington education.

Just a couple of upcoming events to put in your diaries. On Wednesday 29th May 3.30-4.15pm there will be a Parent information Session on our Well-being programme in the library on floor 3 and on Tuesday 4th June there will be a session on US Universities (3.30pm-4.15pm) in the same venue. I will send out another reminder nearer the dates.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Iain Sutcliffe

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# Events Gallery

## Parent Information Session (PIS)

The Early Years hosted another successful Parent Information Session on Friday 3rd May ('Empowering Growth: Nurturing Mindsets, Language, and Children's Image') led by Ms Adina, our pre-nursery teacher, who delved into the keys to fostering a growth mindset in children. She also spoke about the power of using appropriate language for learning and explored the image of the child in early education. Thank you to those who attended, and we hope that you gained valuable insights and strategies to support your child's development and learning journey.



*"If you want to give children a gift, the best thing you can do is teach them to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning."*

*(Carol Dweck "Mindset: The New Psychology of Success")*





## Football Event

On Saturday 4th May, Wellington College International Pune hosted another successful Football Event but with a twist – the event took place on our new world-class all-weather football astro!

Six teams, including two teams from Mahindra International School, two teams from FC Pune City, and two teams from WCI Pune, competed in a carousel of matches, displaying exceptional commitment and football skills. All pupils and parents thoroughly enjoyed the competition, led by our passionate PE teacher, Mr Amid Esmaeili, and the event certainly highlighted the virtues of sportsmanship through our Wellington values.



We firmly believe in the transformative power of sports. We are committed to fostering an inclusive and inspiring environment where everyone can thrive!



## Taste Of India - Junior School Class Event



As part of our theme topic for this term, Year 4 took part in a 'Taste of India' event on Wednesday, 8th May. We were very lucky to be joined by staff from across the school to help make this event a real success! The children set out to explore how India can be similar and different across its many regions. The presenters displayed various cultural aspects of their region, including local animals, vegetation, fabrics, games and more! We were also lucky enough to have some of the region's specialities cooked up for us to try by the chef! The children enjoyed learning more about many aspects of India and made lots of connections to their previous learning. We thank all those involved in making this event meaningful and supportive of our theme-based learning.



## Early Years Coffee Morning

The Early Years Coffee Morning held on Thursday May 9th, with Ms Fiona Carter, Director of Education - WCI, was a resounding success. We extend our gratitude to all those who attended and contributed to the event's success. Ms Carter's presence and engagement provided a valuable opportunity for parents to share their thoughts, feedback, and insights on various aspects of the school. The discussions were rich and insightful, offering a comprehensive view of the school's strengths and next steps.



The feedback gathered during the event will be instrumental in guiding the school's future initiatives and improvements. The morning highlighted the strong sense of community within our school and the shared commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in education.



# Tennis Match

We hosted another successful tennis match between our Senior School pupils and players from Radhika's Tennis Academy on 11th May. Our pupils displayed all our Wellington values through showing great sportsmanship and it was evident that they used their past experiences to improve their performance. Well done to them!

We believe that sport has the capacity to support the development of life skills, and thus supports the college's aims of developing a holistic model of education.



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