



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Headteacher's message

On the 3rd of October we celebrate National Poetry Day. In schools we highlight the power of poetry and the joy of poems when we read them. When poetry is assessed in formal examinations we tend to get bogged down in the dissection of words, structure and meaning and sometimes forget the raw emotion that poetry conveys. I have always enjoyed poetry. I remember back to being a Year 8 student and being drawn into the poetry of Wilfred Owen, marvelling at his amazing work about World War One, composed over a short period of time. As I moved from classroom student desk to classroom teacher desk, my exposure to poetry was reduced but I found similar joy in song lyrics. I feel a poetry purist might roll their eyes at this comment, but song lyrics are, in my opinion, equally poetic and emotional. Take some time this week as families to discuss the power of poetry and for fun, why not try and write your own?

Here is one of my favourites:

White Queen (as it began)



So sad her eyes
smiling dark eyes
So sad her eyes
as it began
On such a
breathless night
as this
Upon my brow
the lightest kiss
I walked alone
And all around
the air did sway

My lady soon will stir this way
In sorrow known
The white Queen walks
And the night grows pale
Stars of lovingness in her hair
Heeding unheard pleading one word
So sad my eyes she cannot see
How did thee fare what have thee seen
The mother of the willow green
I call her name
And 'neath her window have I stayed
I loved the footsteps that she made
And when she came
White Queen how my heart did ache
And dry my lips no word would make
So still I wait
My goddess hear my darkest fear
I speak too late
It's for evermore that I wait
Dear friend goodbye
No tears in my eyes
So sad it ends
as it began





KEY DATES

Thursday 17th October – Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 7th November – Years 7-9 Flu Vaccinations

Friday 8th November – Years 10 & 11 Flu Vaccinations

School Notices

Parents - please ensure your child's uniform is labelled. We have had a large number of students losing their blazers and jumpers with no names this week which has made it difficult to reunite students with their belongings.

Can we also please remind parents not to park/drop off on the neighbouring roads; we have recently had complaints from neighbours and we work hard to remain on good terms with our local community.

Why attendance matters



We aim for every student's attendance to be at 96% or above!

Bugsy Malone – School Show



Introducing the 2025 cast of BUGSY MALONE!

The show will be held on the evenings of 1st, 2nd and 3rd April 2025.

Save the date to come along and see this amazing show featuring over 120 students on stage, in the band and backstage.

Sixth Form Open Evening

We look forward to welcoming prospective Turing House Sixth Form students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening on **Thursday 17th October 2024**, from **6pm**. We invite you to take a tour with our current Sixth Form students around our amazing departments to see our Post-16 study options. The Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form will be hosting talks at 30-minute intervals from 6.30pm. Should you like to join us for this event, please scan the QR code below.



Prince's Trust

The Prince's Trust groups spent their last lesson doing a St John's Ambulance Young Responders first aid course. They learnt how to put someone in the recovery position, how to make a tourniquet, how to respond if someone became unconscious, how to perform CPR and how to support someone's mental health wellbeing following a first aid incident. The students gained valuable life skills to keep themselves and others safe.



English Literary Review

JACK REACHER-KILLING FLOOR: The literary assassin? A Deadly Entry, by Larry G

Well it's been 27 long years since the first publication of a Reacher novel, the infamous debut in the story of the titular protagonist, that changed the spectrum of thrillers for good. Yet only recently, over the short course of our summer, I took it upon myself to relax and open up the contents of 'Killing Floor'. And did I enjoy it? Yes. It was wonderful, expansive, excessively readable – a guilty pleasure.

Who is Reacher?

For those who are unacquainted with the global success of the series, the Jack Reacher novels are a saga of books, novellas and short stories by British author Jim Grant (under the pen name Lee Child). Child has written 28 books, also acting as an Executive

Producer on two Tom Cruise- headed films about the character, and a recent Amazon TV show starring Alan Ritchson. It is safe to say the formula is working!

Reacher himself is a former Major in the United States Military Police, now a loner, roaming the US, taking odd assignments and investigating suspicious and frequently dangerous situations: in short, he's everybody's tough guy, that no baddie can knock down.

'Killing Floor' centres around the remote town of Margrave, Georgia where our drifter turns up looking for a small time Blues musician. Unsurprisingly, trouble seems to find him quickly, even in a place like Margrave. The first thing you'll notice about 'Killing Floor' (and the other novels following it) is the fast-paced, first person narrative tone and short passages of writing. The way it's written therefore is the very essence of Reacher: not trying to stick out, not attempting anything too mainstream, describing briefly with purpose whilst leaving no detail unaccounted for.

It is an easy read. However, this is a large strength and allows readers to connect and pick up each novel continuously, as evidenced by its worldwide acceptance. 'Killing Floor' introduces several supporting characters: namely state trooper Roscoe Conklin and chief detective Oscar Finlay-who both act as Reacher's go-to crime-solving assistants, but also reflect the life that he never really can have, a social one.

This leads me onto the possible negatives about the book. A story centred around a lawless vagrant, exercising his own form of brutal justice, without (in most cases) the green light from the authorities, can imprint an unrealistic view on actual society. And that is not the only bad influence from the thriller...

Gratuitous violence throughout the first novel and its contemporaries has been proven to draw in more readers, which is slightly controversial in itself, yet some may argue that kind of novel nowadays calls for a certain style of action. Find it out for yourself, but personally the gore and vigilante style sold it to me!

Inspiration and Child

Born in Coventry, 1954 the author moved early to the post-war city of Birmingham. When asked about his upbringing, Child described it as 'dour and repressive', his parents were desperate to achieve the status of the middle-class and apparently used their three boys as: 'accessories in an aspirational dynamic'. This Calvinistic attitude paired with the bleakness of a bombed and fractured city played a vast role in the author's life, ingraining the idea of escape.

Fortunately, he found it: through fiction. In an interview on the BBC podcast 'This Cultural Life' Child remarked that his parents always provided books and information. Early inspirational works that had an impact included: a copy of David and Goliath and a picture book, My Home in America. The writer always had a soft spot for Goliath and realised early that despite the giant's loss, the fiction was there to be absorbed and rewritten for each individual, therefore every time he read the story, Goliath won. This is clearly influential, as Reacher (over 6 foot four, having a 50 inch chest) is really his manifestation of the character, however the paradigm is reversed, and he is the hero. Similarly, the picture book also foreshadowed Lee Child's later works, as the stories are mostly set in America. Being trapped in a slowly rebuilding area with little to no expansion and then reading the glossy, hopeful pages of architectural style and accommodation in the US, became etched in at an impressionable age. Reacher is a wanderer, traveller, skulking over states and borders – therefore encapsulating the author's longing to explore freedom during his childhood. All these influences give a satiable weight to the novels and season 'Killing Floor' especially well.

A Success

Though many literature lovers would disregard the extreme savagery and illicit adventures in 'Jack Reacher: Killing Floor' it must be praised for its ability to entice all kinds of reader – weak or strong.

It may be a literary assassin, not adhering to the 'correct' connotations of decent fiction, but it sure as hell takes you on a bloody, vengeful trail that leads to a climactic and fulfilling resolution. Watch out, when

there's a Reacher novel on the shelf, pick it up, don't hesitate, for in the words of the man himself: 'Hesitation can get you killed'.

Craft Club update

This week in Craft Club, we made models from salt dough, which we are going to paint and seal next week. The finished items range from trinket dishes to model snakes, and I am looking forward to seeing them painted once they have hardened! We do a new craft each week in Craft Club, and everyone is welcome.



Scouting Air Activity Badge



In support of my Scouting Air Activity badge, I went to the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) at RAF Fairford, one of the biggest air shows in Europe. I have attended for three consecutive years, and this year I was there to earn my Air Activity Badge Level 3 for Scouts. While at RIAT, I met an F-15E Strike Eagle gunner named Rally Ramirez, who gave me a private tour of the aircraft. I was also privileged to witness the Spanish Sea Harrier and an F-35 Lightning II performing, as well as the world-renowned Red Arrows, showcasing their Diamond 9 formations and high-altitude climbs and drops. Overall, it was a very educational experience, and I enjoyed it thoroughly.
By Thomas K, Year 8.

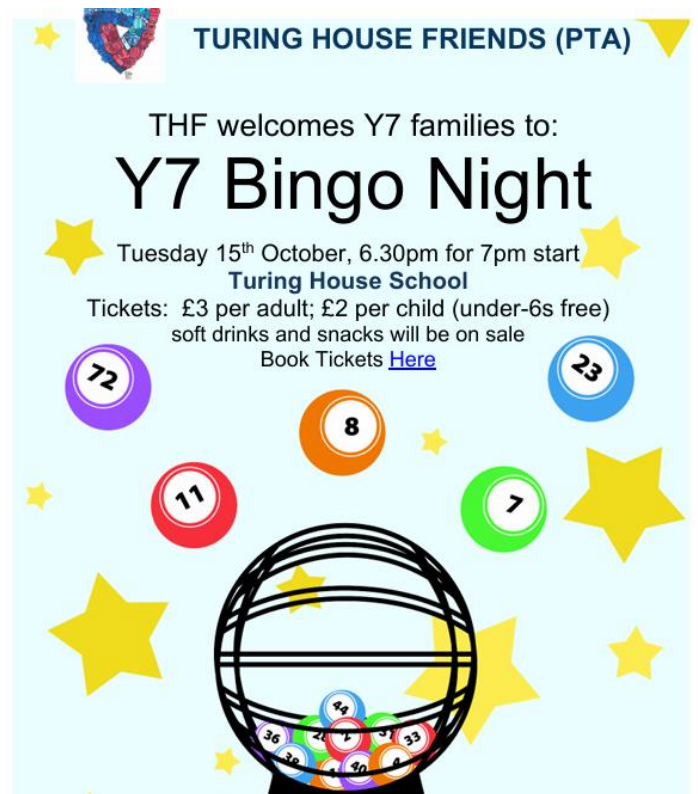
Year 9 English

Year 9 students have been diving into George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, exploring its allegorical links to Communist Russia. To bring the novel to life, Year 9 explored how to dramatise key moments. In the image, you can see Oliver M playing Old Major, delivering the initial concepts of 'Animalism' to the other animals to their celebration and excitement!

At the back of the image, you can see director James M and assistant director George N making notes on their peers' performance.



Year 7 Bingo Night



TURING HOUSE FRIENDS (PTA)

THF welcomes Y7 families to:

Y7 Bingo Night

Tuesday 15th October, 6.30pm for 7pm start
Turing House School
 Tickets: £3 per adult; £2 per child (under-6s free)
 soft drinks and snacks will be on sale
 Book Tickets [Here](#)

Sporting fixtures

Year 11 Boys Rugby v Richmond upon Thames

The Year 11 boys were in action on the rugby pitch last week, taking on Richmond upon Thames away from home. You may struggle to find a team currently more enthusiastic about rugby fixtures than this group and they certainly made the most of this occasion, with some playing the first fixture of the year for the final time in THS colours. Intentions were made obvious by the Turing team from the get-go as they regathered their own kick-off and broke down the wing to cross



the line. That seemed to set the tone for the rest of the game and a flurry of tries rolled in to ensure victory was theirs at the final whistle. They even managed to keep a clean sheet in the second half. They next take on Orleans Park. Well done to all involved!

Year 7 & 8 Girls Football v Teddington

The Year 7/8 girls football team got their borough league underway when they travelled to take on Teddington earlier in the week. The Turing team arrived with nothing but determination in their eyes and played with an attitude that did the school proud. The home side managed to establish a foothold in the game early on, however, and proved to have more of the accurate edge upfront. Despite this initial loss, the girls look forward to their next game which will be against Twickenham next week. They'll look to build on the valuable lessons gained from this match and go again. Well done to all involved!