



# Flourish!

Developing deep roots for bearing fruit through our school magazine, written by pupils for pupils.

## Amazing Facts About a Very Special Date: 21st May

Last week, a special request was submitted for an exclusive article in *Flourish!* — and for very good reason too! Why? Because 21st May happens to be the birthday of someone extremely important within our school community.

As you may (or may not!) already know, 21st May is the birthday of our very own Headteacher, Mr Theobald! After interviewing this VIP, the *Flourish!* team can now exclusively reveal some fascinating facts about how he enjoys celebrating his special day.

Firstly, Mr Theobald explained that he loves spending quality time with his family. Whether it is enjoying a delicious family meal together or heading out on a memorable day trip at the weekend, family time is clearly something he treasures greatly. Furthermore, he revealed that heartfelt phone calls from loved ones are one of the highlights of his birthday celebrations.

However, our curious journalists at *Flourish!* did not stop there. We decided to investigate which other remarkable people share this very special birthday...

- Mary Anning — the pioneering palaeontologist who made extraordinary discoveries and preserved to helped pave the way for women in science.
- Tom Daley — the Olympic gold medallist who dives into every challenge with determination, courage and resilience.

Amazingly, 21st May is not only linked to inspiring people — it is also International Tea Day! This worldwide celebration honours tea as one of the most popular and widely consumed drinks on the planet. Officially recognised by the United Nations in 2019, the day highlights the cultural and economic importance of tea across the globe.

So, why not celebrate by enjoying a comforting cup of tea whilst raising a toast to our wonderful Headteacher?

Happy Birthday, Mr Theobald!



**Alder Grove — A Place Where We Truly Flourish** This week, we were given the exciting assignment of describing the setting of our school. Not only did we want to describe the impressive physical features of Alder Grove, but we also aimed to capture the inclusive, nurturing and tolerant atmosphere that makes our school so special.

Let us begin by exploring the wonderful facilities our school has to offer. If you are fortunate enough to be a pupil at Alder Grove, you will experience the vast outdoor spaces that encourage adventure, creativity and wellbeing. Here are just some of the incredible outdoor areas we are lucky to enjoy:

- The youngest pupils benefit from a purpose-built Early Years playground, filled with colourful and educational equipment designed to inspire curiosity and imaginative play.
- We have not one, but two wooden adventure play areas which challenge our courage, climbing abilities and confidence whilst also encouraging teamwork and resilience.
- In addition, our nurture garden is a newly established and much-loved feature of the school. This peaceful area provides children with a calm space where they can regulate their emotions, reflect quietly and regain focus. In fact, last week's edition of *Flourish!* even included a thoughtful poem celebrating the positive impact of this special environment.

Now, we turn our attention to the heart of our school: the learning spaces. Our classrooms are far more than simply places to work; they are vibrant environments where we are encouraged to learn, grow and thrive. Around each room, you will discover engaging educational displays which support and celebrate our learning, alongside carefully chosen resources tailored to suit the individual needs of every pupil. Furthermore, every classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard and visualiser, allowing lessons to become dynamic, engaging and accessible for all.

However, the true magic of Alder Grove lies not only in its facilities, but also in its atmosphere. Although every adult in our school has their own unique personality, they all consistently model and promote our core values: kindness, courage, service, forgiveness, truthfulness and perseverance. As a result, pupils are inspired to demonstrate these qualities each and every day. Consequently, we are all growing into valued members not only of our school community, but also of the wider world around us.

Without a doubt, Alder Grove is far more than simply a school — it is a place where we genuinely flourish. We are incredibly proud to be pupils of Alder Grove!

Dear Flourish,

My name is Harry and I recently started at a new school. It has been a magical experience so far; however, sadly, there have been some incidents that have left me feeling rather downhearted. Due to my past, a few students have been treating me differently and I have even heard some unkind comments about the unique scar on my forehead. I do not want to create further conflict with these boys, yet I would really appreciate some advice about how to deal with the situation calmly and maturely. Have you got any ideas? Many thanks, Harry P

Dear Harry,

First of all, we would like to express our deepest sympathy for your situation; it certainly cannot be easy to endure. The entire Flourish team felt truly melancholy when we heard about these upsetting events and we sincerely hope that our advice will help you overcome this difficult time.

Firstly, you should speak to a trusted adult, such as a teacher, parent or mentor. Sharing your worries with someone responsible can help you feel supported and reassured. Secondly, continue to show kindness towards these children, even if they are not showing it towards you. Sometimes, people behave negatively because of their own insecurities or emotions. By remaining respectful and compassionate, you are demonstrating true courage and maturity.

In addition, it is extremely important that you do not retaliate. Although it may feel tempting to respond angrily, reacting negatively could unfortunately worsen the situation. Instead, remain calm, confident and dignified.

Hopefully, once you take these sensible steps, the problems will begin to dissipate, and the children involved may start to reflect upon — and ultimately change — their behaviour.

At our school, we follow a key code which encourages respect, empathy and responsibility. By following these important values consistently, unkind situations such as this can often be prevented from reoccurring.

We would also like to remind you of the important difference between unkindness and bullying. Bullying occurs when hurtful or undesirable behaviour is repeated deliberately over time. Therefore, if these incidents continue, it is essential that you inform an adult immediately so they can support you with the next steps.

Finally, Harry, always remain true to yourself. The way others treat people is often a reflection of how they are feeling inside and is seldom a true reflection of you. Continue being courageous, resilient and proud of who you are — your uniqueness is something to be celebrated, not criticised.

Yours truly,  
Flourish

