



*Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh*

Welcome back

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays. The students have returned to school enthusiastic smart and ready to learn.

We have an exciting term ahead with a host of celebration and inspirational events planned. This week we celebrate Vaisakhi. Children and staff have enjoyed a celebratory lunch, followed by collective worship. We welcomed our guest speaker from The Sikh Relief charity. The Vaisakhi celebration assemblies on Monday 18th April will be a wonderful moment for our parents, visitors, staff and pupils to come together and celebrate.

We would like to thank you for your support of World Book day and Sports Relief, where we raised £136.28 and £140.61 respectively.

The Easter Bonnet parade was a wonderful spectacle along with the project models. We have some very talented children and parents, well done all!

The school is growing rapidly both in size and pupil numbers. We are pleased to confirm that we have secured external land. The plans for the external development of the school which are displayed in the Reception area include landscaping for play and learning, sports area, social play and picnic areas are included. The EYFS outdoor learning area will be reconfigured to support outstanding learning through play. Plans are in place for internal remodeling of the school to accommodate additional classes, offices and secondary changing facilities.

Consultation feedback in relation to timing of the additional holiday week was overwhelmingly supported by parents with it being added to the October Half Term break.

Once again many thanks for your ongoing support and I hope to see many of you on Monday 18th April 2016.

Mrs. P Hammond  
Executive Principal

### **Attendance**

<b>Attendance Year 7</b>	<b>SEVA Target</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Authorised Absence</b>	<b>Unauthorised Absence</b>
September - April	98%	97.6%	2%	0.6%
Week beg 11 <sup>th</sup> April	98%	99.5%	0.5%	0%

### Staffing update

At the end of last term both our secondary Spanish teachers (long term supply) secured full time permanent positions. We offer them our congratulations, wish them good luck in the future and are delighted to welcome Miss Gramunt who will be teaching Spanish and Dr Mansoor who will be teaching Chemistry, Physics and Biology until Mrs. Kaur returns from maternity leave.

We are also really excited about the quality of appointments we are making for September; newly appointed staff are keen to be part of our exciting and unique journey.

### Seva Studies

The Thought of the week is Courage.

I have courage, I am willing to try new things. I admit mistakes and learn from them. I listen to my heart. I have the courage to do the right thing.

**dhheeraj dharam guramath har paaeiaa nith har naamai har sio chith laavai**

Through the Guru's Teachings, I have obtained courage, faith and the Lord.

He keeps my mind focused continually on the Lord, and the Name of the Lord.

### Vaisakhi - Birth of the Khalsa

During the time of Guru Gobind Rai, the rulers of the land were very cruel to people. They wanted everyone to join the same religion as them. They even took the life of his father. The time had come for the Guru to show how to bring.... THE LIGHT!! , Guru Teg Bahadur ji. A feeling of darkness and unhappiness spread through the land.

Guru Ji: "**I will turn my Sikhs... from sparrows to HAWKS!**" So Guru Gobind Rai called for all the colourful and different Sikh communities to gather near his home in Anandpur. Vaisakhi means "spring" and in the spring of 1699 a humungous group of people had gathered! Some were farmers, some were shop-keepers, some were half-naked yogis, some were Hindus, some were Muslims, some were singers, some were warriors, some were mothers and some were children. Along with all the people, there were many different beings from the unseen worlds that also came to witness the event. Of all the beings there, some were average.... and some were fearless, perhaps even as fearless as Guru Gobind Rai himself! Guru ji stood on a hill and revealed himself to the huge sangat. He looked perfectly radiant. **People always felt good in his presence.**

Guru Gobind Rai was actually preparing a great test for his Beloveds. He knew that the darkness in the world needs to be healed by pure people who are unbreakable. **He knew that for us to be unbreakable we have to be fearless of death.**

Now for the test!! Though he was still merged in bliss, Guru ji made himself appear very stern. Guru Gobind Rai unsheathed his sword and ROARED! "**IS THERE ANY LOYAL SIKH WHO WILL GIVE THE GIFT OF THEIR HEAD??!**" At first, most people didn't know what to think. Again Guru Gobind Rai roared, "**WHO WILL GIVE THE GIFT OF THEIR HEAD!??!**" **The Guru's powerful voice shocked people to their very bones.** Again Guru ji roared, "**WHO WILL GIVE THEIR HEAD??!**"

There was a man named Daya, **whose fear did not rule over him. His eyes glowed with devotion.** Without hesitating, hands clasped together, he moved towards Guru ji saying, "Guru ji, my head is yours." **The Guru always challenges our fears so that we can be free from fear.**

Even though they'd heard of the Guru's miracles, most people didn't understand what was happening. Sometimes when we don't understand something we get afraid. In the same way many people allowed fear to take over their minds. Most people were scared, some were in awe and some felt the vibration of the heavens. Again Guru ji raised his sword and asked for another head. Another man, Dharam Chand, moved towards Guru ji saying, "I will offer my head to you... my Guru!" Guru ji did the same as before. People started leaving.

**Guru Ji : "I NEED ANOTHER, WHO WILL GIVE ME HIS HEAD?!"**

Many people started to run away. The crowd became smaller. They listened only to their minds and became convinced that this was scary and wrong. **Very few felt the truth, that Guru ji was giving us a great gift.** Not everyone understood this heavenly test of devotion. The mind always convinces us in various ways of things that may not be true. On this day, minds were going crazy with endless thoughts of doubt. They saw the blood and became scared. But there were some who were SO in love with Guru Gobind Rai that they WANTED to offer their heads. **Three more men came before the Guru, their hearts answered Guru ji's call,** Himmat, Mokam, and Sahib offered their heads saying, "my head is yours and has always been yours..."

Next, a large bowl was brought out and water was poured into it. The Guru put his double edged sword in the bowl and started stirring. As he stirred he sang in his warm and heartfelt voice: "ik ongkar, satinam, karta purkh, nirbao, nirvair, akal murat, ajooni, saibhang, gurprasad, jap, aad sach, jugad sach, hai bhi sach, nanak hosi bhi sach...."

The heavens erupted in cheers at this incredible gift to us. **The seal of victory had now been given! Guru ji's wife, Mata Sahib, came over and put some sugary sweets in the bowl of water.**

She put in the sugar because she knew that whoever drank it would be so powerful that they must never forget their sweetness! **That is the love and wisdom of our mother, Mata Sahib ji!**

**Finally Guru ji recited the song of Bliss, Anand Sahib:** "Anand bhia mere mai satguru mai paia..."

We are now blessed to be happy and successful.

Infused with the vibrations of the Banis, the water turned in to nectar. Nectar mixed with the Guru's sword in the steel bowl and was blessed with the loving sweetness of Mata Sahib. The nectar, the Amrit, includes the blessings of heaven and earth!

Daya was the first to give his head. Guru ji came over to him and sprinkled the Amrit on his head and into his mouth.

"WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHEGURU JI KI FATEH!"

THE BODY OF DAYA ROSE UP!... AND ROARED!!

"WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHEGURU JI KI FATEH!"

Everyone became totally silent. Everyone was completely enchanted by this miracle.

One by one, Guru ji gave the nectar to each of the 5 Beloved Ones.

"Waheguru ji ka Khalsa Waheguru ji ki Fateh!" said the Guru. "Waheguru ji ka Khalsa Waheguru ji ki Fateh!" said the five beloveds.

Reverently, he sprinkled the water on the top of their heads. We call it the 10th gate, a sacred place on the human body. It's on the top of the head right where babies have a soft spot. After blessing their divine 10th gate and blessing their mouths and eyes, he gave the Khalsa invocation to all the bodies one by one.

"Waheguru ji ka Khalsa Waheguru ji ki Fateh!"

One by one, they all got up and answered.

"Waheguru ji ka Khalsa Waheguru ji ki Fateh!"

Rarely does one person pass the crucial test of faith and take the opportunity to give their life. On this day five men gave up all fears and became their true selves. **They became divine humans. They were born in to a new life; a new life of light. Free from fear of death.** They would no longer be convinced of anything but the Truth. They will always be awake as pure spirits, in a physical body or beyond it.

**There is no way to count how many angels were singing and cheering at this time!!**

The Guru's wonders hadn't finished yet! Guru Gobind Rai brought them out of his tent. After giving them another life, do you know what Guru ji gave to them? He gave the priceless gift of being one with him. **Guru ji dressed in the most beautiful clothes, the Guru's Bana!** The robes of a warrior-saint. The five beloved ones, with bright faces, are now the shining image of the Guru!

From that day on, these five beloved ones are honored as being royalty. They are called kings, they are called lions... They are Singhs!

Daya Singh

DharamSingh

Himmat Singh

Mokam Singh

Sahib Singh

The five beloved ones manifest the full glory of being human! They realized the great experience of living while liberated. They became masters.

The house of Nanak now carries on in the Khalsa. The Khalsa are the fearless Sikhs who love the Guru so much, they merge with the Guru and become like the Guru.

**With high actions and humble minds may we all be so humble as to obey the Guru and manifest the same greatness as he.** Then, believe it or not, another amazing thing happened. Like a mountain transforming in to a swan, Guru Gobind Rai knelt down on one knee, asked them to honor him, so he too could receive the Amrit from their hands. The Five Beloved Ones had sacrificed their heads, they had offered their lives to receive this gift!.

Bhai Daya Singh asked the Guru: "What do you give as an offering to receive Amrit?" Guru Gobind Rai replied, "**Oh great Khalsa, I would sacrifice my parents and my children for your sake.**"

The five beloveds were convinced of this truth and agreed to give him Amrit. They sprinkled the water on him, just as he had done for them. "**WAHIGURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHIGURU JI KI FATEH!!**"

From this day on Guru Gobind Rai was now Guru Gobind... **Singh!!!** Every soul there beamed with light. It was such a beautiful scene that even the angels longed to receive the holy Amrit. After this incredible miracle, the sangat started coming forward to receive the life-giving Amrit. On that day, thousands of men became royal lions and thousands of women became graceful princesses.

**The Khalsa had been formed! Corruption and darkness cannot stand in the face of the Khalsa who live beyond the fear of death and radiate the strength of God's Light.** Guru ji, along with the Amrit, gave us the discipline to hold that blessing. Guru ji knew that it is only with discipline that one can remain Khalsa. Just as many people make a New Year's resolution, Guru Gobind Singh encourages us to be resolute! To stay fearless of death, and be divine humans.

## **Vaisakhi Celebrations**

As part of the whole school celebration of Vaisakhi on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April, students in year 7 will be presenting art work and literary pieces as well as using IT in their assembly to parents. Students have been working very hard and are excited about showcasing their work



Mrs Khalsa and year 7 preparing for the Vaisakhi assembly

## **PE**

Students will be embarking on a program of summer sports. Pupils will be partaking in cricket and athletics on rotation throughout the course of the summer term.

## **Astronaut visit- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

Dr Michael Foale OBE will be visiting Seva School to inspire and motivate our young people. The students are very excited about an astronaut coming to see them and have prepared a piece of creative writing about their own undiscovered world.

### **Maths Challenge**

Some of our year 7 students will be participating in a national numeracy morning. The Junior Challenge will take place on Thursday 28 April 2016 and is aimed at pupils in Year 8 or below in England and Wales, Year 9 or below in Northern Ireland and S2 or below in Scotland. The challenge involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour and is sat in school under normal exam conditions. The top 40% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate and each institution receives a Best in School certificate. Moreover, approximately 1200 of the highest scorers will be invited to participate in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad.

### **Easter Egg Collection**

Seva School collected 212 Easter eggs for the Coventry Food Bank. This is an exceptional amount and has given people less fortunate a treat over the holidays.

### **Revision evening for parents – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

In order to assist students with revision we would like to invite parents to a revision evening offering techniques and advice on how best to assist your child. Year 7 will be having 'Exam Week' beginning 20<sup>th</sup> June and we encourage all parents to attend the revision evening in order to support your child with their learning.

### **Trip to Warwick Castle – TBC**

Year 7 will have a trip to Warwick Castle, this compliments the history curriculum but will also be a nice treat for the students to look forward to after exam week. More details to follow.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Vaisakhi Celebration Assembly 9.15am – 10.15am – KS1 (Reception – Y2) 10.45am – 11.30am – KS2 (Years 3 – 4) 2.30pm – 3.00pm – KS3 (Year7)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Astronaut Visit Dr Michael Foale OBE
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Queen's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Nagar Kirtan
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 7 Exams (all week)
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Warwick Castle trip

### **Remaining Term Dates:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Teacher Training day – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

In the next Standard we will include 2016/2017 term dates.

#### **From the students**

- We are excited about celebrating Vaisakhi this week and are looking forward to presenting our work to our parents on Monday.
- Dr Michael Foale OBE is visiting us next week and we are thrilled to be meeting an astronaut.