

# Hermes

8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Autumn Term

Issue No. 431

“Back to the chalk face!”



*Catching up with old friends & making new ones*

Dear Parents

I hope my first Hermes of the year finds you all having enjoyed a fantastic summer together and that peace and quiet and normal service has resumed in your busy lives?

Jo and I enjoyed a week's sailing in Italy then were very busy in beautiful Dorset for the rest of the summer. I'm not quite sure what we've been busy doing but our days seem to have been very full and the time has raced by.

I've certainly spent a large amount of time in my garden and have been refurbishing my “shedquarters” in the darkest corner of the garden under my apple tree. It's a long term project designed to keep me away from my lengthy “to do” list that I expertly steer clear of.

It seems to have been a great summer for growing, with healthy crops of apples, raspberries and tomatoes. The fig tree we planted several years ago has also finally born fruit. It's nearly time to start thinking

about scouring the hedgerows for sloes - a rural Dorset must!

We have also had a very fruitful summer in school with many projects completed that I am sure you have spotted. Eileen and her team continue to work very hard to make the grounds look as beautiful as the old building deserves.

Over the holidays the school held its inaugural golf day at the East Dorset Golf Resort. We were joined by teachers from local schools, current and former parents, staff and governors. We had a great day and will certainly repeat the event next year. Rather embarrassingly, Governor Trevor Blackburn and I won the pairs competition with 42 points. Please do let me know if you enjoy striking a small white ball with much venom and we'll add you to our list!



*Tee time!*

The weekend before we come back to school always finds one of my favourite events of the year taking place. Thankfully Jo and I cannily chose (like many of you) to visit the Dorset County Show on the Saturday. It was great to meet up with so many of you. We were delighted to visit the Craft and

Vegetable tents and see how many of you entered various categories. There seemed to be lots of certificates won by our pupils. Molly and I even made an appearance on a cake!

The first day back in school went surprisingly smoothly. Some years we seem to have several days of weeping and wailing as our youngest ones struggle to part from their lovely mums and dads. Not so this year. Our newest recruits have “taken to the water” like ducklings and seem to be having a great time.

I hope Prince George’s first day at school went as well, though he did seem to be entering a concrete jungle with little greenery or open space to enjoy. Just imagine the pressure of being his class teacher and giving him a detention for failure to hand in homework. Worse still being in charge of site security!

At the beginning of this week all our staff spent a full two days in school before you all joined us.

Mr Stazicker presented a safeguarding INSET to every employee of the school. Despite these issues being thankfully far and few between, we remain more than vigilant with our training. We also all updated our fire training, learning how to use fire extinguishers and which ones to use. The Junior Prep staff enjoyed a Move to Learn course aimed to make learning much more active.



*Practising the correct technique*

We also spent quite a bit of time exploring ways to make our curriculum more creative and ways in which we plan to reform how and when we give homework. I have attached a separate letter on the portal on this topic so you can get a full flavour of what we are trying to achieve.

On the subject of communication we will continue to send you a clarion message on Friday with details of all the letters added to the portal for the following week. We will then repeat these items on the back page of Hermes. A draft copy of the calendar itemising all the events of the term ahead can be found on the website and a paper copy will follow next week.

I will continue to review improvements to communication with the class reps whose first meeting is scheduled to take place in the Drawing Room at 8.30am on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. I am assuming all the reps will move up with their children?

With a new business career ahead curtailing the free time Natasha Buchan-Moore will have, she has reluctantly decided to relinquish the role of Chair of the PTFA and we need to find a willing volunteer to fill the position. Steve Ray is going to stay on as Treasurer and Carol Krosnar as Secretary. Details of the AGM will follow shortly.

We must also find another team of parents who will help Kirsty Humphreys run the second hand uniform shop. Kirsty has very kindly volunteered to open the shop on a Friday twice a month. We would like to open the shop every week and hope somebody else might volunteer for the other two days. Please do contact Kirsty in the office if you’d like more details.

I’d like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families who have joined us this year. Whilst our main audience joins us from local areas there is also a continuing trend for London families to relocate to Dorset and for international families to join us. I think I might ask Mandy to draw up a heat map to show the global extent of our community. I think you will find it fascinating. I really love the cultural flair and internationalism this brings us and the wealth of experiences the children can

share with each other, not to mention new languages spoken too.

We also welcome a number of new members of staff.

Miss Sophie Blair joins the team in the Foundation Stage who have been working so hard over the summer holidays to refurbish the Nursery classroom.

Mrs Steffi Bennett joins us as learning assistant to Form 3 alongside Mrs King. Steffi is also a very talented sportswoman and will coach senior teams too.

Miss Alice Palm, a former Head Girl of the school, joins the learning support department for the next year.

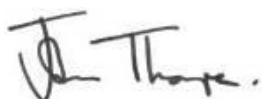
Mr Mark Palmer (a former pupil) and Mr Simon Vesey both join as volunteers two days week. Simon will work with the PE department and Mark will work in the ICT, Maths and Science departments.

I am sure you will join with me in welcoming all new families and staff to school.

The governors have agreed that Eileen can reduce her hours down to four days a week which means she will not be with us each Wednesday. Kirsty will now work each Wednesday so you still have a financial point of contact. Eileen shares my love of gardening and I'm sure she will be putting the time to very good use.

Well, I think that brings you up to speed on the first few days back.

Wishing you a very restful weekend ahead.



Mr John Thorpe  
Headmaster

## *Fledglings News*

Welcome back from the Fledglings team. We have 19 children on the register with 4 new starters, we are very much looking forward to settling them all back in.



*Fledglings using their whole body to paint and create*



*One of our new younger Fledglings exploring the musical instruments*

## *Music News*

Music lessons start back next week please see the timetable on the portal.

If your child would like a free music taster session the booking form is on the portal.

We would like to welcome Kevin Penfold to our music team as our new brass teacher. He is extremely experienced, works within DASP and has been a leader for Dorset Music Service.

We have another fantastic set of music results. Huge congratulations to all of you below, from everyone in the music department.

### ASSOCIATED BOARD OF THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC

#### Results

#### SUMMER 2017

Orlando H	Grade 1 Clarinet	Distinction
Poppy S	Grade 1 Flute	
Erin P	Grade 2 Clarinet	Merit
Poppy B	Grade 2 Piano	
Hannah D	Grade 2 Singing	Merit
Lily B	Grade 3 Clarinet	
Khalid M	Grade 3 Saxophone	
Meredith P	Grade 3 Flute	
Orlando H	Grade 4 Piano	Distinction
Joseph B	Grade 4 Cello	
Orlagh O'D	Grade 5 Singing	
Jamie B	Grade 5 Theory	Merit
Nathan	Grade 5 Theory	
Orlagh O'D	Grade 5 Theory	Merit

### TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Tallulah T	Grade 3 Piano	Merit
Nathan S	Grade 3 Drums Rock and Pop	

## ***In other news.....***

### ***Welcome back from the Languages Dept***

This week the pupils have delighted me with their many stories of cultural discoveries and their attempts at speaking the local languages during their holidays.

With the current situation and formal negotiations to untangle the UK from the intricacies of the European Union now well underway, learning languages is again high on the agenda of the government.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> we will celebrate World languages day by offering the pupils a range of activities to promote languages and cultural awareness.

If you speak another language, would like to share a bit of your culture and would like to take part in our enrichment session, could you please contact me as I believe the pupils would greatly benefit from discovering the diversity of our close community.



A bientôt

Madame Shilliday

### ***Summer Holiday Club***

The holiday club had a great 5 weeks over the summer holidays with lots of children joining in the activities. Despite the changeable weather they went on lots of trips to local attractions.

The next holiday club will be held in October half term during the second week. Details will be on the school website in due course. But any enquiries please email Jemma Fowler -

[jfowler@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:jfowler@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk)



*Holiday club trip in the sunshine*



*Down at the farm*



*Despite the rain and coats, there's still lots of fun to be had!*

## ***Dorchester Youth Theatre***

We are thrilled to announce that we will be starting our musical theatre sessions (MT@DYT) in September. These sessions will be run on an approximate 11-week term for three terms. We shall be working towards a performance in January; following that, in the remainder terms, we will be focussing on singing and acting skills.

MT@DYT will be run by Jo Simons, Director of Dorchester Youth Theatre and Alistair Dean, Musical Director of Deans Academy.

When: Wednesdays 5.00-7.00pm

Where: Manor Park School Mellstock Avenue, Dorchester DT1 2BH

Cost: £120 per person per term; £100 per person for DYT members continuing with DYT sessions on a Monday or Thursday; £100 per person for siblings.

If you would like to request a place for your child, please email Jo on:  
[dorchyouththeatre@talktalk.net](mailto:dorchyouththeatre@talktalk.net)

With your booking, we will require a £20 deposit.

## ***Year 9 Update***

We have received photos of Harvey, Charlie, Elliot and James signing the Milton Abbey Registration Book, a tradition since 1954. All boys are settling in well and enjoying the start of term's activities.



Jamie B also started at Canford this week and here we see him on his first day before catching the bus.



## Hermes Editor: Mandy Jones

*Our Contact Details:*

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Mandy: [registrar@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:registrar@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk)

### ***Form 8 responsibilities Autumn Term:***

Head Boy:	Douglas Bowering
Head Girl:	Imogen Douie
Sports Captains:	Erin Philips Tom Swanton
Prefects:	
Outdoor Ed:	William Hortin
English:	Lewis Rowbotham
Maths:	Douglas Bowering
Science:	Imogen Douie Khalid Miah
Humanities:	Tom Swanton Khalid Miah
Art:	Hannah Davis
ICT:	Lucas Jones Dominic Woollam Lewis Rowbotham
Music & Drama:	Joseph Burdge Katie Shovlar
Citizenship:	Rosie Reynolds &Tilly Jones Tom Swanton
MFL:	Sebastian Pas
Eco Schools:	Tilly Jones
Pupil Voice:	Tilly Jones Khalid Miah

# Weekly diary and communications

WHOLE SCHOOL DIARY OF EVENTS	Mon 11th	
	Tues 12th	
	Wed 13th	U10 Dumpton Hockey Festival (A) 2.00 pm
		U12/13B Hockey v The Park (H) 2.15 pm
		Forms 5 - 8 Inter House Football (H) 2.30 pm
		U12/13A Hockey v The Park (H) 3.00 pm
	Thurs 14th	Rec - Form 4 Swimming @ 1610
	Fri 15th	Parent & Toddler Group, School Hall 10 - 11.30 am
		U9 Mixed Football v St Mary's, Swanage (A) 2.00 pm
		Form 6 - Sailing
		Form 7 - Windsurfing
		Form 8 - Shakespeare
LETTERS ON THE PORTAL	Tennis Lessons Pupil House List Welcome back from the Head Autumn Term Calendar Music Taster Sessions Music Timetable Week 2	
Fledglings	No letters	
Nursery	Nursery Indoor Shoes Welcome Back Letter	
Reception	Welcome Back Letter & Timetable Homework Information Letter	
Form 1	Homework Information Letter	
Form 2	Homework Information Letter	
Form 3	Welcome Back Letter After School Sailing Homework Information Letter	
Form 4	After School Sailing U9 Mixed Football Team Sheet Homework Information Letter	
Form 5	After School Sailing Homework Information Letter	
Form 6	After School Sailing Homework Information Letter Form 6 Sailing	
Form 7	After School Sailing Homework Information Letter Form 7 Windsurfing	
Form 8	After School Sailing Form 8 The Tempest Homework Information Letter	