

Hermes

5th January 2018

Spring Term

Issue No. 443

“One’s Company, Two’s a Crowd and Three’s a Party!”



Dear Parents

I hope my editorial finds you all having enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and an action packed New Year together.

Much of the break fell before the festive season and then we blinked after Christmas and it was time to be back at school. We try to balance the terms so that no one block is particularly long or short. The date of Easter Sunday has a particular relevance for our long term planning. If it’s early or late is shifts the balance of our terms. It would make our forward planning much easier if it were fixed on say the first Sunday in April. I am sure someone out there will be able to tell me why it moves so much.

Jo and I enjoyed three different locations over Christmas, having first visited my mum and dad on Anglesey for a pre-Christmas treat. My dad was in really great form, was enjoying getting out walking and was finally

able to get in the shower. We are already looking forward to our traditional October trip to Scotland together that we have not been able to do for the last couple of years.

We then went to stay with our eldest son in Falmouth. He had volunteered to do all the shopping and cooking which was a real treat. On Christmas Day, we maintained the Thorpe tradition of having a family swim minus wet suits. It was very parky to say the least. There was a photo taken but it is not fair to scare you all with the joys of the weekend ahead!

Members of the Jones family were not to be outdone and raced across the freezing waters of Weymouth harbour, with Lucas being particularly successful in beating all the other junior swimmers. Congratulations, Lucas. My sources also tell me that Holly K in Form 5 did the swim. It is also rumoured that Mr Peel dipped a toe on the same day. My evidence is not conclusive but I believe he may have been wearing a wet suit. Rest assured I will be sharing my thoughts with him in person when I meet up with him next week!



The more sensible of you headed off to find some winter sun or were very lucky to experience some superb early winter snow conditions in the Alps.

Mr and Mrs Sleightholme welcomed their twins home. Ivy and Violet were born the week after we broke up, both weighing a very healthy 5+ lbs. Duncan and Emma popped into school this week to say hello and have a much needed half an hour of peace and quiet before heading back home. Big sister Mabel was finally able to realise what the large bump was. I am told she is being a very good “big sis” and was delighted with her two interactive toys that Santa brought. She (and her lovely parents) have been looking for the off switch though it has remained elusive. I am sure you will join in with us in sending our warmest congratulations. I will try to send you a regular report as time speeds by.

4 month
Puppy progress report

Puppy name: Sonny
Sponsor: Sunninghill Prep School

Health	Yes	No
Fit and healthy	✓	
Started to use puppy bath	✓	

Behaviour	Excellent	Good	Developing	Needs work
Being greeted		✓		
Being checked		✓		
Acceptance of collar and lead		✓		

Understanding of command work	Excellent	Good	Developing	Needs work
Understanding of 'sit'		✓		
Understanding of 'down'		✓		
Understanding of 'come'		✓		
Understanding of 'walk'		✓		

Feeding routine	Excellent	Good	Developing	Needs work
Appetite	✓			
Sit and wait for food	✓			

Toilet routine	Excellent	Good	Developing	Needs work
House training		✓		
Shying clean overnight	✓			
Establishing toilet routine		✓		



Talking of reports, I received an absolute first earlier this week.

I am sure you remember that we raised over two thousand pounds last year to help purchase and support the training of a guide dog through its first year. Well, this week I received Sonny's first report. It seems he is very good at eating tasty titbits, though less good with a healthy diet. Apparently, there is room for improvement with toilet training and concentration on the task in hand. Sounds familiar!

GUIDE DOGS

Sleeping routine	Excellent	Good	Developing	Needs work
Sleeps quietly overnight	✓			

Social behaviour	Excellent	Good	Developing	Needs work
Getting well with other dogs		✓		
Traveling well in the car		✓		
Traveling on the bus			✓	
in town			✓	
Behaviour in shops/corers			✓	
Behaviour with cats			✓	
Behaviour with other animals			✓	
Behaviour in quiet areas		✓		
Behaviour at hair salon			✓	
Behaviour with different people		✓		
Behaviour when left alone for short periods of the day		✓		

Comments

Sonny is a lovely genuine puppy who unfortunately had to move two weeks after placement due to the Puppy Walker's change in circumstances. Sonny has settled well into his new home and is progressing well in all areas to date. We have just started developing his lead behaviour in quiet areas now, and his Puppy Walker is busy teaching him impulse control so he can learn to control himself around other animals etc. Puppy classes have just started and we are now developing his obedience responses around other dogs. In summary Sonny is progressing well to date.

Elsewhere in school, we said goodbye to Miss Powell in Nursery and welcomed her back as Mrs Beasley, having got married over Christmas. Congratulations to Katie and her new husband!



Fledglings

Welcome back from Fledglings!



On our INSET day on Tuesday, Junior Prep teachers spent time with Mr Adams looking at purchasing a new maths scheme for Forms 1 to 4.

In the senior part of school, we continued to work on adding more creativity to our curriculum, finding more time to study multi-domain subjects such as STEM projects, an extended humanities essay, a conservation project and much more. I will be writing a specific consultation document to share more news of this exciting development with you later this term.

In the next couple of weeks, we will also send home a survey that will ask you some brief questions about what you think of various aspects of communication in school. Please can I urge as many of you as possible to spend a few minutes to send feedback so that we can continue to look for ways in which we can improve this most important aspect of school life.

Wishing you a drier and less windy weekend together.

Mr John Thorpe
Headmaster

Reception

The children were extremely excited to come back to school on Wednesday and were bursting with news about their holiday adventures!

The children have been learning all about New Year celebrations around the world, looking at the customs and traditions that take place in different countries. We have even recreated our own firework dances, using sparkly steamers!



To celebrate the beginning of a new year the children have been creating eye catching 2018 calendars; card stitching with embroidery thread.



After a Circle Time focusing on the past and looking forward to the future, the reception children have written out their new year resolutions! Louis wants to learn how to be a gentleman. We also have budding cyclists, ballerinas, mechanics and even a wannabe Gruffalo and magic fairy! Watch this space!

In other news.....

Music News

We are pleased to confirm the AB results for the Autumn Term 2017. Congratulations to all those who have achieved such great results.

Neve C	Violin	Prep Test
Katy N-S	Violin	Prep Test
Joshua R	Clarinet	Grade 1
Verity J	Singing	Grade 2 (Merit)
Georgina S	Guitar	Grade 2 (Merit)
Khalid M	Saxophone	Grade 3
Erin P	Theory	Grade 5

Enrichment Friday 12th Forms 3-7

We are very fortunate to have Mr Oliver Vincent (<https://www.olivervincent.net/>) coming to run a vocal enrichment next Friday afternoon. The session will finish at 4.15pm in the hall, with a brief sharing for parents and family of what we have covered and learnt in the afternoon and you are very welcome to attend. Please also note that it will be a slightly late finish for Forms 3 and 4.

Lecca Moss

PTFA - Notes from the Chair

Welcome back everyone! I hope you've all had a lovely festive holiday and are raring to go for the Spring term....must confess I needed a day or two to get myself straight after a very busy break, so I'll be keeping this bulletin short and sweet.

Just two items to draw your attention to today -

Firstly, the PTFA Committee Meeting on Thursday 11 January 2018, 6pm, in the Drawing Room, all welcome. We will be cracking with on this term's planned events plus we will looking to future events for academic year 2018/9 including of course our May Ball with Auction of Promises in 2019. We are looking to form a working group for the May Ball this term, come and join us and get involved; it's going to be a blast. As usual, please let me know if you'd like to attend so that we can make sure suitable quantities of cheese and wine are on hand. If you're unable to attend but would like to contribute your ideas, please be in touch.

Secondly, our events for this Spring Term are lining up as follows:

Friday 26th January	School Disco for pupils
Friday 16th March	Barn Dance for all
Thursday 22nd March	Easter Egg Hunt for pupils after End of Term Assembly

We will be working on the finer timing details for the School Disco and Barn Dance and doing our utmost to enable all to enjoy them, juggling off site enrichment plans that we have. I will update you here in the weeks ahead.

Here's to a great Spring Term.

Lynn Strover
PTFA Chair
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Sports News



Six Form 7 pupils along with nearly 400 other pupils from all schools in Dorset attended the Dorset Leadership and Young Ambassador's Conference at Bryanston on Thursday. At this leadership academy the students completed four young leader's workshops to develop skills to lead sports and inspire young people back at school. Sport's leaders from Weymouth College delivered the workshops and were themselves full of energy and enthusiasm. An introductory talk was given by Craig Figes Captain of the England and Great Britain water polo team.

Pupils attending; Sports Leaders - Tom H, Amalia S-M, Lily R and Lily B. Verity J and Giselle W were part of the School Games Dance Team working with a professional dance teacher to prepare a dance for the opening ceremony at the Level 3 School games Finals in March.

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Our Contact Details:
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Form 8 responsibilities Spring Term:

Head Boy:	Lucas Jones
Head Girl:	Isabella Hopps
Sports Captains:	Hannah Davis Khalid Miah
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

School email addresses:

Lydia: lhampshire@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk
Mandy: registrar@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk

Weekly diary and communications

WHOLE SCHOOL DIARY OF EVENTS	Mon 8th	
	Tues 9th	Form 4 - Pizza Express, 9.00 am
	Wed 10th	
	Thur 11th	Reception Swimming
		Form 3 & 4 After School Skiing
	Fri 12th	Form 3 Assembly - all parents welcome, 8.30 am
		Parent & Toddler Group, 10 - 11.30 am
		Form 2 Skiing Enrichment, Warmwell
		Forms 3 - 7 Oliver Vincent Tenor Workshop, School Hall
		Parents invited to the end of the Workshop, 4.15 pm
LETTERS ON THE PORTAL		
		Menu
Fledglings		No letters
Nursery		No letters
Reception		Welcome Back letter
Form 1		No letters
Form 2		No letters
Form 3		No letters
Form 4		No letters
Form 5		No letters
Form 6		No letters
Form 7		No letters
Form 8		No letters