

# Hermes

7<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Autumn Term

Issue No. 401/65



*Our new rugby kit*

“A proper Indian summer!”

Dear Parents

What a joy to be still blessed with beautiful weather. The sun really makes such a difference to the spring in the step of a busy Prep school. In fact, I don't think we have had a single wet break or lunch so far this year which must be a record? It really helps as we move towards the end of the first half of the long autumn term, with children getting tired and fractious. That's great news as you can imagine the impact of all that coiled energy being cooped up in a classroom.

This week sees us finally deliver on a long awaited project that has been over a year in the making. Yesterday I wrote an individual letter to you all to let you know our new website will be live from 8am on Monday. At the same time you will also be able to access a parents' page containing lots of up to date information such as menus, calendars, policies and more. You will also be able to log on to the parents' portal which will contain all children's personal details, medical records, reports and effort grades, contact numbers and much more.

Its completion is a tribute to the collaboration of many members of staff and something that I hope will be more than useful to you.

Mrs Brunt and Mrs Sewed plan to hold an information evening for its use after half term if you'd like help with how to use it.

On Wednesday of this week, Mrs Sewed and I made a quick dash to the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) headquarters in London to find out more about the changes to inspection.

I'm glad I don't have to catch that early morning commuter train each day. It was busy going into London but a cattle market coming home. To make matters worse they split the train in half at Southampton and we got caught on the back half and had to move forward.

Anyway, back to inspection, suffice to say there's lots to do to make sure all our policies and practices measure up to recent changes. Thankfully, Eileen our Bursar, is an absolute wiz with compliance and always keeps us on the straight and narrow. Much of the focus is on the Single Central Register which documents everything we must provide to secure safe recruitment procedures of all employees.

I do like the new process. We get notified on the Monday and the inspectors arrive on the Tuesday. You have to be ready. As parents, you will still be involved and will have the chance to voice your opinions on a range of issues via an online questionnaire.

Looking ahead to the final week of the term Natasha Buchan-Moore and I plan to have a small soiree at 7pm next Thursday evening for all parents who would like to chat about being part of a new team taking the PTFA forward. As a special incentive, a nice glass

of something chilled will accompany a cheese board. This event will precede the PTFA AGM on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November where last year's accounts will be presented together with voting in our new "conscripts!"

Next Friday 14th October we will hold our harvest festival celebration at 8.30am in the Sunninghill Community Hall. Form 2 will lead the gathering and you are all invited to join us for the service and for the harvest breakfast that follows.

For Harvest Festival, we ask that all families donate a single item of non-perishable food that can be displayed in the assembly then distributed to worthy local causes.

You will see below a great photo of all the senior boys wearing their new rugby strip. They look incredibly smart and proud, though I'm not sure that big boy in the front row with not much hair will get a game. The shirts were a very kind leaving present by the lovely Douie-Legg family. We were delighted to present Brook with a shirt too.



*A more informal photo*

This morning was our first open day of the year. With spaces in school tight we'll just have one event per term with no disruption to normal timetables. Even so, we welcomed 7 families and indeed just as many existing families who were keen to watch their children in action.

Mrs Breese, Mr Willemsse and Form 3 got the day rolling with a most lovely assembly telling us all about their exped to South Molton in North Devon. They certainly looked to have had a great time and I loved their live news feed from Rock and Rapids.

Wishing you a lovely weekend ahead.

Mr John Thorpe  
Headmaster

### ***Fledgling News***

The Headmaster paid us a visit and couldn't keep his eyes open, however he awoke once there was the mention of cake.

This week Fledglings have enjoyed cooking yum, yum



## *Year 8 dissection class*



Year 8 pupils arrived at their Science lesson last week with some trepidation - there was rumour circulating school of a 'special' delivery from our butcher!

Their fears were realised when they discovered they would be spending the next hour handling, examining and dissecting the internal organs of four pigs!

Despite some initial hesitation (loss of facial colour and nervous chatter) and with a little encouragement, all did manage to at least look at the organs. Nearly all the pupils handled them and most then eagerly put their scalpels into action.

Mrs Baker and I, having seen their scalpel 'skills', are slightly concerned that some voiced their future career choice as surgeons!

*Mrs Brunt*

## *Music News*

Mrs Hawes, violin, will be in on Wednesday and Thursday. Mr Curlett will be on Friday and Mrs Nolan Stone on Wednesday.

## *Orchestral day at Bryanston*

Congratulations to those who took part in the Orchestral Day at Bryanston School on Tuesday. An orchestra of over 70 pupils from local prep schools throughout the county produced a wonderful concert at the end of a full day of sectionals and rehearsals. A very rewarding experience!

*Neil Vanburgh*

## *Dorset Schools Biathlon Championships*

Mrs Barrington writes: We all had a lovely sunny day at Leweston on Sunday for the Dorset Schools Biathlon Championships.



Freya, Nikita, Jamie and Khalid all competed in different age groups and represented Sunninghill very well - working extremely hard!

The event consisted of a swim then a run - 50m swim and 800m for the younger ones and 100m swim and 1600m run for Jamie.

Freya had tough competition having to move up to the next age group this year (U11 girls) but finished a very respectable 7th just outside the medals (first 6 take medals), with a swim time of 46.63 and run time of 3.18.12.

Nikita had did very well and had a great race with an especially good run storming in to overtake her opposition and finished 3rd overall (U10 girls). Taking home a medal with a swim time of 52.56 and run 3.19.34.

Khalid was competing in the U12 boys again with some tough competition including Jack Amor! There were a number of GBR suits around that day! So finishing 13th was very respectable.

Jamie again had a to move up to the U14 boys but tried not to let that bother him with a PB in 100m swim and a speedy run time of 6.07.12. Jamie finished 6th overall so was just able to take home a medal.

### ***Great Wall of China Trek***

Departure for the Great Wall of China Trek is nearing closer and with less than one week to go!

I will be joining a group of 15 other local volunteers who like myself, have spent the past twelve months organizing and holding various fundraising activities and training in preparation for a once in a lifetime challenge. Family members and friends have all been very supportive (especially my daughter who will be celebrating her 13th birthday whilst I am away). The aim is to raise as much money for Joseph Weld Hospicecare as possible to ensure that they can continue providing high quality care, love and support to patients and their loved ones across Dorset.

We depart for Beijing on 15th October, after a good night's sleep we head off on a 3 hour bus ride to Gubeikou, the starting point of the trek. Day 1 and 2 are spent on the Gubeikou section of the Great Wall. This section is completely original, quite challenging and one of the lesser visited sections, it is known locally as the "dragon standing on the beautiful green mountain" as the wall sweeps and weaves its way across the land resembling a dragons back.

The following day we set off early to trek through cornfields and farmland and on and off the wall until we reach Jinshanlin.

Day 4 of the hike takes us into the Miyan county where parts of the wall were built in the 15th century, again the terrain will be challenging as the steps and turrets are crumbling. On day 5 we finish with an exhilarating trek below the summit of Mt Simatai, this part of the wall has seen little restoration and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the scenery is vast and diverse. We then return to Beijing for the night prior to returning home on 23rd.

Thank you to anyone who has already or wishes to sponsor me by donating on my just giving page for Joseph Weld.

<http://www.justgiving.com/elaine-taylor13>.

*Elaine Taylor (Fifi's mum)*

I nearly forgot to mention... the temperature will be up to 25 C in the day and as low as 5 C at night when we will be camping. There are no toilet or washing facilities during the 5 day trek!

### ***Macmillan Coffee Morning***

A huge thank you to all the staff who donated and bought cakes for the Macmillan Coffee morning last week. Also a big thank you for the donation from the Mother and Toddler group. We totalled £78.72.

*Claire, Helen, Sarah and Danielle*

## ***SPORTS NEWS***

### ***U11 BCS Football Tournament***

The Bournemouth Collegiate Football tournament had a good turn out once again with schools from Dorset and Hampshire taking part. The tournament started with four groups of four teams. Competition looked fierce. Our first match was against Walhampton School who we hadn't faced

before. The players worked extremely hard and dominated their half. A beautiful goal was produced after a great pass from Robert to Josh. Unfortunately in the last minute our concentration went and we forgot to take care of our defensive duties. Walhampton equalised and we finished with a 1-1 draw.

The second match was against BCS 'C'. The boys played aggressively and dominated once again. Defence was solid and Sunninghill won 3-0.

Our third match was against Hampshire Collegiate. Defensively the boys were extremely solid and we were strong going forward. Even though the cross bar was hit by Stanley and Robert we could not score hence the match finished 0-0.

Sunninghill went through to the quarter final and faced Bournemouth Collegiate School. The opposition was extremely strong. The boys tried their best and encouraged each other. Results 4-1 to BCS.

*Contribution Award goes to the whole team for their outstanding effort. Well done!*

### Year 3 & 4 Swimming Gala



Everyone competed brilliantly.

Sunninghill boys - 34 points  
 Sherborne boys - 25 points

Sunninghill girls - 20 points  
 Sherborne girls - 32 points

Overall scores:

Sunninghill - 54 points  
 Sherborne - 57 points.

Only 3 points in it.

Well done to everyone for swimming so well.

### Inter House Hockey & Rugby

Results of the Senior Boys Rugby Inter house Matches:

Purbeck: 1st  
 Frome: 2nd  
 Ridgeway: 3rd  
 Maumbury: 4th



All very close matches with lovely tries and high standard of evasive attacking and organised defence!

Results of the Senior Girls Hockey Inter house Matches:

Frome: 1st  
 Purbeck: 2nd  
 Ridgeway: 3rd  
 Maumbury: 4th



### **Letters this week**

Menu, website  
Music Timetables, website  
Sports Fixtures, website  
Reception Thorncombe Woods  
Year 3 - 8 Parking Permit letter  
Year 3 & 4 Stokewater Meadow trip  
Year 3 & 4 Parents' Evening  
Year 7 Parents' Evening  
Year 1, 3 - 8 Curriculum Maps  
New website and parent portal  
Year 5 - 8 Skiing at Warmwell  
Attachment: 2 x posters

Extra copies of all letters are available from the School Office.

### **Lost and Found**

Please remember to name all clothes and equipment so they can be returned to the correct child. If you are missing any named clothes please check in the lost property box, now situated outside the boys changing room and girls' toilets.

James has lost his swimming kit - please check your child has the correct one.

Please check that your child only brings home their uniform each week, and please return any items not belonging to your child. Thank you.

### **Multi-coloured Swap Shop**

Don't forget the swap shop in Compass Lobby - swap and return your books, wellies and trainers.

This is working very well - thank you to everyone who is swapping!

### **Second Hand Uniform Shop**

Our second hand uniform shop is based in our medical room at the front of the school. Please contact me if you would like to buy any uniform.

If you would like to sell or donate any **good quality uniform**, please ensure everything is washed/dry cleaned before leaving it with me. Please remember to remove your child's name labels.

We sell second hand uniform with proceeds going to our PTFA. If you would like to receive 50% of the sale of your items please clearly label and price each item. Please pin or use luggage labels (sticky labels tend to fall off and get lost!). If you would like to donate the clothes, no labelling is required.

We only sell clothes with the school logo on, so if you have any trousers, shirts or blouses you no longer require, please take them to your local charity shop.

With thanks

Lydia

### **Dates for your Diaries -October 2016**

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Year 3 & 4 Stokewater Meadow trip  
Informal Music Concert 4.00 pm

Tue 11<sup>th</sup> Reception to Thorncombe Woods  
U8 & U9 Hockey v The Park mixed  
U11 & U13 Swimming Gala @ Leweston  
Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.45 – 7.00 pm

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Year 8 Shakespeare @ Weymouth Pavilion  
U12/13 A&B Hockey v Clayesmore (A)  
U11 Hockey v Clayesmore (H)  
U10 Hockey v Clayesmore (H)  
1<sup>st</sup> XII Rugby v Salisbury Cathedral (H)  
U12/13 6 aside tag Rugby v Salisbury Cathedral (A)  
U11 IX Rugby v Salisbury Cathedral (A)

Thur 13<sup>th</sup> After School Sailing

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Year 2 Harvest Assembly 8.30 am.  
All parents welcome!  
Toddler Group 10 – 11.30 am  
U8/9 Hockey v Clayesmore (A)  
U8/9 Football v Clayesmore (A)  
Year 6 Sailing  
Year 7 Windsurfing  
Year 8 Shakespeare  
Break up for half term

Return to School on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October

## **Form 8 responsibilities**

### **Autumn Term:**

Head Boy:	<i>Aman Iftikhar</i>
Head Girl:	<i>Orlagh O'Donnell</i>
Sports:	<i>Jordi Murphy &amp; Bonnie Davenport</i>
Outdoor Ed:	<i>Bonnie Davenport &amp; James Cook</i>
English:	<i>Brook Michael-Beale</i>
Maths:	<i>Elliot Raybould &amp; Teisha Barrey</i>
Science:	<i>Jamie Barrington</i>
Humanities:	<i>Peter Message</i>
Art:	<i>Rachel Williams-Schoeller &amp; Hannah Stanhope</i>
IT:	<i>Brook Michael-Beale, Jacob Hortin, Charlie Blake &amp; Xan Airy</i>
Drama:	<i>Joni Denne-Loader &amp; Millie Durkin-Jones</i>
Citizenship:	<i>Oliver Shutt &amp; Fifi Collet</i>
Library:	<i>Alexander Valadais Marques</i>

### **School email addresses:**

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

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

Hermes Editor: Lydia Hampshire

#### *Our Contact Details:*

South Court, South Walks, Dorchester, DT1 1EB

Tel: 01305 262306

Prep Club Mobile: 07437 891994