

Hermes

25th November 2016

Autumn Term

Issue No. 406/70



*Preparations for the Toddler
Christmas Party*

Dear Parents

"I don't believe it"

A few "Victor Meldrew" moments to get off my chest before normal service resumes.

Is it me, or is Christmas an ever more encroaching liberty on our year. Shop windows have been dressed for many weeks, jingles are playing inside the stores and every advert on the TV is bombarding us with their festive offerings. To compound matters, Black Friday is upon us.

(and the editor is eating mince pies wearing a Christmas hat!)



I don't believe it!

We don't officially begin thinking about Christmas until our lovely Junior Prep deliver their traditional Nativity play to us all. Mrs Sleightholme and her team have been rehearsing hard behind closed doors. Nerves are frayed and time is running out. I'm sure they'll have a spectacle to bring a tear to even the most hardened eye.

The feature of the week gone by must be characterised by the sound of many fingers dancing on keyboards across the school. Reports are being prepared in readiness to coming home to you in a couple of weeks' time. Many of our teachers teach to the whole school and have a report to write for every child. It occupies every spare minute they have, evenings and weekends are forsaken and life is put on hold until all is done. As previously, we will endeavour to have them with you early in the final week of the term so you can chat to us about any concerns you may have before we break up for the Christmas holidays.



Talking of fingers dancing across keyboards, I popped into the Drawing Room on Tuesday to listen to one of Mr Vanburgh's regular informal concerts. On arrival I saw a small boy from Reception sitting on the piano stool. There must have been a cushion to get him to the correct height. I thought he

was just trying the position out for fun, pretending to be a senior pupil, but low and behold he began to play a piece for quite a large audience. How amazing after just a few weeks of practice and how brave. Well done, Arthur. Chopsticks next, followed by the Entertainer then Las Vegas!

I managed to watch some great sport on Wednesday. I saw two games of U11 and U10 rugby and a game of U13 hockey. Right across the school from Form 3 upwards, it is clear to see how our long term goal is coming to fruition. Mrs Wilson, with her vast sporting experience, has long canvassed everyone and anyone who will listen, that children need to work harder on their skills and fitness. Improvements don't happen overnight and after three or four years you can really see the rise in standards right across the school.

This was also clear at the swimming gala on Wednesday evening at Clayesmore. There were some excellent individual swims, notably from new girl Tallulah T who showed real panache with her super streamlined stroke. We were all thoroughly delighted to see Douglas B picked for the team. We remember when he didn't want to even dip a toe in the water when he first arrived at the school and now is swimming 50m freestyle in a competitive gala. What a great effort. Scores were neck and neck after the individual events though Clayesmore's strength in depth eventually helped them pull ahead during the relays. I must also thank Mrs Wilson and Mr Willemse for their late night shift and to all the parents who faithfully support us around the county.

I must also congratulate the staff quiz team, curiously named the Top Trumps. Made up of two Vanburghs, a Thorpe and two Hills, they again climbed to the top of the mountain ahead of an illustrious team of parents all eager to knock them off their perch.

The quiz master was rightly toasted by an angry mob for giving a wrong answer for the first president of the United States. A large slice of humble pie had to be eaten. We agreed to disagree on the world's longest river and the mostly densely populated country. Some Form 8 girls took great joy in

asking me the same questions the following day. Little do they know I still have to write my Head's comments for them!

Revenge is a dish best served cold!

I must also thanks Kerry for providing us all with a fantastic curry supper, to David F for running the bar and to Natasha for providing a trophy for the event. This was presented to Mr Vanburgh in Friday assembly and is now proudly displayed in our trophy cabinet.



Not pausing for breath, Julie Hansen and the PTFA are now dashing headlong into one of their major events of the year. Next Friday 2nd December at 7pm sees the Christmas Fayre take place. It really is a fantastic event and I would encourage you to buy a ticket and enjoy an evening of festive shopping. Kerry provides the most fantastic nibbles and drinks to accompany the event. In advertising this event, I may have just contradicted my opening paragraph but it's all for a very good cause.

The children will also enjoy their own Christmas Fayre event during Friday afternoon. They will also have a visit by Mr Merlin. I believe another famous Christmas gent may also be in attendance.

On a less positive Christmas note, I have received some emails this week expressing disappointment and a common lack of enthusiasm for the individual photos taken in school. This is a real shame as I know you rely on these photos to send to members of your extended family. I can only apologise for this. We have tried a number of different companies in the past few years and seem to

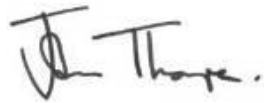
continue to have problems. We enjoyed more success with last year's photographer but the distance they had to travel to us made it unrealistic for them to continue. I will write to the company on your behalf to see how they may be able to help.

In our assemblies this week we have continued to talk about pastoral issues and have focussed on celebrating difference and diversity. A bag of liquorish allsorts helped.

In today's assembly, Mrs Moss and Form 6 showed us the role play work they had been working on in their Music and Drama lessons. We also watched a short film produced by a young film making team. It is called, "In my shoes" and hopes to inspire children to be themselves and not want to anybody else. It can be found on You Tube if you would like support our key message this week.

Olivia K, Verity J and Tallulah T also performed, "Ladles and Jellyspoons" to us which was great fun and very well done.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.



Mr John Thorpe
Headmaster

The Bursar's Byte



I hope you have noticed how lovely the school grounds have been looking lately before we were deluged with leaves. We have been carrying out some major jobs around school but we have also

been doing some small ones. Last week, I spent Friday afternoon with a few children planting tree saplings that I had successfully secured from the Woodland Trust 'Trees for Schools Scheme'. The scheme aims to improve schools' grounds and to encourage wildlife.

We were lucky to receive 420 saplings to plant a mixed hedge of Elder, Dog Rose, Blackthorn, Hazel and Crab Apple which now have a new home along the iron railing

perimeter. We look forward to seeing them come alive in the Spring!



This week also proved the wide variety of problems that my team has to deal with in school. On Tuesday the girls had successfully blocked the toilet with a banana. Les & Ray to the rescue!

Year 1 at the Dinosaur Museum





Carol Competition

- ✿ Are you the next composer of the Winning School Carol of 2016?
- ✿ All children from Reception - Form 8 may enter
- ✿ Individual and group entries are allowed
- ✿ As well as a prize, the winning entry will be performed in the Carol Service at the end of Term
- ✿ The 'auditions' to find the winner of the Carol Competition will be held in the Music Room on Friday 2nd Dec at morning break

Any questions? Just ask Mrs Moss

Children in Need

A big thank you to the Form 2 girls who made the cakes last week. They made a total of £48.30. Well done!

Nursery learn about the Post Office



The post office has been popular, lots of parcels to send.

Form 8

Form 8 simulating a gas attack in WW1 trenches to help their understanding of Wilfred Owen's poem "Dulce et Decorum Est"



*Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
 Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed
 through sludge,
 Till on the haunting flares we turned our
 backs,
 And towards our distant rest began to trudge.*

*Men marched asleep. Many had lost their
boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all
blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.*

*Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and
stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.—
Dim through the misty panes and thick green
light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.*

*In all my dreams before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking,
drowning.*

*If in some smothering dreams, you too could
pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—
My friend, you would not tell with such high
zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori.*



Music News

Mrs Nolan Stone is in on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday next week, and Kate Hawes will be in on Wednesday. Please remember your instruments - thank you.

ABRSM Music exams are on Wednesday 30th November - held in the Durnovaria Hall in Fordington.

The following children have been entered:

Erin P, Clarinet - 15.22
Nikita M, Singing - 15.50
Mia W, Piano - 16.00
Freya B, Singing - 16.12
Iola C K, Piano - 16.22
Frida K, Violin - 16.32

Candidates will be escorted to and from the music exams.

PTFA News

Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our quiz night. We managed to raise £400 and had lots of fun in the process! Congratulations to team "Top Trumps" who were the champions of the evening and managed to take home our new fabulous trophy. Well done guys.

Our Christmas Shopping Event is rapidly approaching on Friday 2nd December at 7pm. It is shaping up to be a wonderful evening, with lots of great stalls, ranging from Boo's toy shop to Phaedra of Purbeck candles to The Yard (to name but a few). In fact this year, we have had so many businesses wanting to attend our event it will be a squeeze to fit everybody in. So many gifts to buy for all your family and friends all under one roof. Please spread the word and bring your loved ones to join us in our Christmas extravaganza. The more the merrier! Tickets cost a mere £3 and are available to purchase on reception, via email (lynn@stover.biz) or alternatively you can buy your ticket on the door. Upon your arrival, you will be transported to the magical world of Christmas. Your ticket will instantly enter you into a prize draw and also includes a tasty glass of mulled wine and Christmas canapés. If only all our Christmas shopping was as relaxed as this.

To help run this event and maximise its potential for the school we are looking for volunteers to help with creating the magic. Please, if you feel you can help us on the night or to prepare in advance, please contact me (necmoore@hotmail.com). Any

offers will be greatly appreciated, we really do need your help.

The PTFA have organised for our dear friend Father Christmas to visit the younger children (Fledglings to Form 2) next Friday 2nd December. I know that his elves have been working especially hard to make some presents for our children. To top it off we have Mr Merlin performing for the children that afternoon. All in all Friday 2nd December will prove to be an exciting day for the children and a fabulous evening for the grown-ups. Let the Christmas festivities commence!

There is still time to buy more draw tickets. The grand draw will be at 4.30 pm Wednesday 7th December in Compass Lobby.

Many thanks

Natasha Buchan-Moore, PTFA Chair

Movember!

Martyn Peel is fundraising for Movember and would like to raise a lot of money by auctioning off the 2016/17 signed premiership ball by the 2016/17 Harlequins first team. If you would like to bid for the rugby ball please give your sealed bids to Lydia. The highest bidder will win the rugby ball - winner to be announced at the grand draw on Wednesday 7th December.



Advance Notice

On Thursday 8th December all children and staff are invited to wear their Christmas Jumpers to school.

Also on this day parents are invited to join us for Carols under the Stairs at 10.30 am

(you are welcome to wear your Christmas jumpers too!).

Children will also enjoy their Christmas Lunch on 8th December.

Wedding in Bermuda!

Dylan has just come back from a family wedding in Bermuda. The wedding was fantastic, and they all had an amazing time. The beaches were spectacular and the water still quite warm, so the boys loved it! A snapshot below!



Alumni - amendment

Haadi Iftikhar (Canford) is studying medicine at University College London (UCL).

SPORTS NEWS

U12/13 A Hockey v Sandroyd

Result: 7-2 loss

The A team had a really tough game against Sandroyd on Wednesday. The girls played really well as a team, with great passing and ball placing all the way through. Milly bravely, stepped in to play goalie as Joni was away but faced a very attacking side and by half time we were 5-1 down.

The team rallied in the second half and Bonnie and Carmen had some brilliant runs up the pitch, passing Sandroyd players. Orlagh and Erin were a strong defence and Izzy showed great skill, always running and trying to get the ball into the D. Sandroyd

were relentless though and scored another two in the second half while we managed one more taking the final score to 7-2 which definitely did not reflect the closeness of the match and some of the super hockey Sunninghill produced.

U12/13 B Hockey v Sandroyd

Result: 4-3 loss

The B team played a very close match against Sandroyd on Wednesday. Sandroyd were a strong team and our Fifi and Hannah had their work cut out in defence. Imogen and Rosie worked well together on the right hand side, passing the ball well to each other and Merry ran her socks off and played with great determination.

The score at half time was 3-2 to Sandroyd but we came back with great strength in the second half and Hannah D scored a lovely goal bringing us level.

Tilly made some good saves but just missed a Sandroyd shot in the last few minutes of the game.

U10 Hockey v Sandroyd

Result: 4 - 4 draw

A fast end to end game which either team could have won. We scored first with a cracking goal. Nikita took the ball down the right, looked up to pass to Gemma at the top of the D. Gemma controlled the ball and slammed it into the corner of the goal. Sandroyd equalised soon after, then we went ahead with a goal from Nikita and at half time the score was 2-2. Game on. Eleni and Erin were strong in the tackle and were determined not to let anything through. Sometimes our clearances were not good and this let Sandroyd attack again. We also needed to get the ball out wide and didn't use our wing players enough. Both goalkeepers made some excellent saves. Freya played defence in the second half and along with Eleni won the ball and then made a good pass by looking up. Gemma and Nikita scored again and into the last 3 minutes we were leading. Sandroyd scored in the last minute and in many ways a draw was a fair result.

Contribution award: Eleni for some excellent defensive work and improvement after the half time talk.

U11 Rugby v The Park

Result: 13 - 7 win

The U11's faced the Park school on Wednesday for a tag rugby match. Sunninghill kept position in their channels well, making it difficult for the Park to break through. The team worked hard and on occasions passed the ball beautifully. Excellent tries were scored by Sunninghill using the whole width of the pitch to stretch the Park's defence.

Contribution award goes to Henry E for his commitment and excellent passing. Well done.

U10 Rugby v The Park

Result: 12-10 win

Sunninghill started the game slightly flat, mainly due to the team having to play tag rugby rather than contact.

The Park started the game organised and had some wonderful runners. Sunninghill matched their offensive game with some outstanding tries from Tymon, Adam and Stanley.

As the match went on, Sunninghill started to pass the ball around beautifully and took control of the game. Excellent defending from Archie and Josh meant that the Park found it more difficult to score tries.

Contribution awards go to Adam and Tymon for their beautiful tries and excellent team spirit.

Clayesmore Swimming Gala

On Wednesday the Form 6, 7 & 8 went up to Clayesmore for their swim gala. Form 6 competed against Clayesmore and Yarrells. We were short of a full team with illness and injury but everyone stepped up and offered to swim an extra race and they were all brilliant.

Special mention goes to Douglas B who two years ago was reluctant to even go near

water! He has made tremendous progress and it was fantastic to see him in the swim team.

Great performances from everyone and fantastic support from parents.

Form 6 finished 2nd with Clayesmore 1st and Yarrells 3rd.

Form 7 and 8 finished 2nd behind Clayesmore.

Letters this week

Menu, website

Music Timetables, website

Sports Fixtures, website

Theatre Trips

Amended Theatre trip email and text

LAMDA

Behaviour and Anti-bullying Policies

Preventing and dealing with bullying booklet

Form 3 & 4 House shirts email

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

Lost and Found

Lost: Elliott's named rugby boots

Lost: Khalid's named blazer

Lost: Niamh M's named rain coat

Lost: Oliver's named school coat and sweatshirt

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.

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 - Nov/Dec 2016

<i>Mon 28th</i>	<i>Form 4 Library visit</i>
<i>Tue 29th</i>	<i>Rec – Form 4 Christingle Assembly No Fencing Club tonight</i>
<i>Wed 30th</i>	<i>U11 Hockey v Dumpton (H) U10 Hockey v Dumpton (H)</i>
<i>Thur 1st</i>	<i>No After School Skiing</i>
<i>Fri 2nd</i>	<i>Whole school Christmas Fayre PTFA Christmas Shopping Event</i>

Form 8 responsibilities

Autumn Term:

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

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