

# Hermes

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

Autumn Term

Issue No. 407/71



*Happy Christmas from Fledglings!*

Dear Parents

## **“The inspector calls and a senior Head too”**

Welcome to the penultimate Hermes of 2016. Its arrival finds us amidst one of the busiest weeks of our year with a whole host of events about to crescendo in the final week of term.

What do you need when you are clinging on by your finger-tips? The EHO of course. Three letters to strike fear into the hearts of Eileen and the kitchen staff.

Unannounced and a term ahead of schedule. A knock at the front door, white overalls and a head net and straight down to business.

The mind floats away to that brilliant episode of Fawlty Towers entitled, “The Hotel Inspectors” where Basil has to decide which guest is the inspector. Classic tv. Thankfully no Siberian hamsters were found and Molly was safely hidden in my room with the door closed. No need to worry. All’s well. Kerry keeps her 5\* status kitchen. Well done to all her team.

(If you’re still in a quiz mood from last week I may award something red and full bodied for the first person to tell me the name of the hotel. Answers on a post card only please. For full terms and conditions refer to the Bursar)

*(As an aside I wrote the above paragraph late last night and woke up this morning to hear the very sad news that Andrew Sachs who played Manuel had died. Isn’t life full of strange coincidences?)*

Tuesday’s visitors were much more welcome and expected. I was delighted to show Jo Thompson and her Registrar Margaret McCafferty around school. Jo is the new Head of Clayesmore, having taken over the reins from Martin Cooke after his long and distinguished innings at the crease. They were eager to have a look around school and introduce themselves to all our staff and senior pupils. Previous to Clayesmore, Jo was Deputy Head at Christ Hospital School and worked for over ten years at Aiglon College in the Swiss alpine resort of Villars. It’s a place I know very well and know more than a few of you are familiar with too, particularly in the winter.

As I’m sure you know, Mrs Thorpe and I spent five very happy years working at Clayesmore and our two boys benefitted from a wonderful education there. It’s great to keep a strong link with them.

Hasn’t it been great to finally feel a tinge of winter arrive? Early morning dog walks on frozen ground and a need to walk briskly to keep warm. Hats and gloves in school, warm custard with our treacle tart and grayling waking up in the river!

Heat was certainly on Lydia's mind when she lit the wood burning stove in the main entrance on Thursday. It's not really her domain. Anything pyrotechnical or involving a chain saw is usually in my job description. I'm not known as "one match Thorpe for nothing!"

The upshot – smoke in the staircase and the fire alarm screaming for all it was worth, a fire evacuation drill in sub-zero conditions and a red-faced Head of Admin. Enough said though please do nudge her gently about the temperature when you walk past her desk next week.



All the subject reports have now been completed and the tutors have added their comments. Pupils have filled in their own thoughts on the term and I'm adding the finishing touches with my own comments.

Despite the hard yards, it's a process I thoroughly enjoy and look forward to. The greatest joy in a small school is to know the smallest details about the profiles of our learners, their strengths and weaknesses and the progress made with their studies. Little moments that would be lost in a big school, leaps in achievements when children have previously reached an impasse. This is particularly true in Junior Prep with key issues like reading and writing so important to the development of young hearts and minds.

Reports should be with you by Tuesday at the latest so you have a chance to chat with us about concerns you may have before we break up for Christmas at the end of the week.

On the subject of reports please do log on to the academic portal if you have not done so already. In the summer term, our default setting for reports will be to put them straight on to the portal and not print a paper copy. This said, we'll happily print you a copy if you'd like one but you will need to let us know. It will make us a more eco-friendly school, reduce costs and save many hours of envelope stuffing.

I have been particularly impressed with the quality of reports for the majority of Form 8's who have really been pushing hard ahead of scholarships and CE.

For all pupils, we dedicate a staff meeting to looking at the total effort grades each pupil has scored. We have a traffic light system in place. Green says you're ahead of your previous total; amber says you're there or there about and red says you're in decline and intervention may be needed.

For our end of term assembly next week we award the Academic Endeavour Cup to the pupil in each year that has achieved the lowest score. It's a tough decision in Form 8 with two pupils scoring an amazing 23 point total and one close behind scoring 24.

Finally, in this morning's assembly, Mrs Nolan-Stone's wind band entertained us with some jaunty Christmas tunes. They were really great.



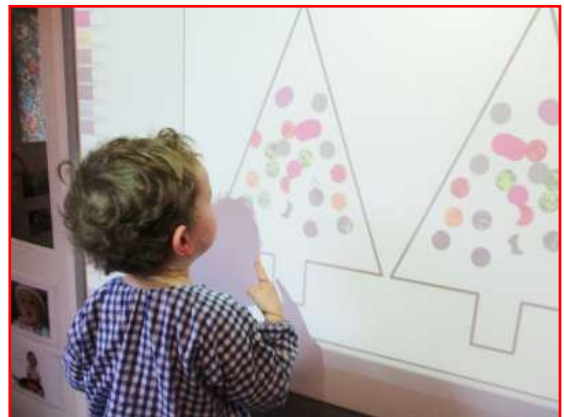
We then made a Christingle together which means "Christ's Light". It is a custom which began in Germany in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and continues to this day. I think all the children in Junior Prep will be coming home with one. They should also have a small money box in the shape of a candle. We are hoping you will be able to fill them with 1p and 2p coins that we will then send on your behalf to the Children's Society to help support many children in need. After this, Santa Claus visited Junior Prep and gave each child a small present. Seldom have I ever seen such a tall Santa. He did a really great job at the beginning of his busy season.



Finally, finally school is awash with PTFA members today all getting ready for tonight's shopping extravaganza. Christmas trees have been decorated, rooms moved around, mulled wine is soaking and mince pies are warming. It is going to be a superb occasion that I am sure you will support.

### *News from Fledglings*

This week Fledglings wholeheartedly embraced the Christmas spirit, not a bah humbug in sight, ho, ho, ho!"



Finally, finally, finally we're also getting ready for our own children's fayre this afternoon. Each tutor group have arranged their own stalls and children will be able to visit each classroom and spend their tokens. As a cherry on top of the icing, they'll be entertained by the fabulous Mr Merlin. They are very lucky children!



Wishing you a lovely weekend.

*John Thorpe.*

Mr John Thorpe  
Headmaster

the Roman invasion of Britain and tried writing Roman numerals up to 100! We ate our bread and butter with dates for snack and listened to music from Ancient Rome.



### ***Nursery News***

The children enjoyed choosing what to decorate their pine cone with.



### ***Children in Need***

A big thank you to everyone who dressed up and donated – we raised over £400. Well done!

### ***Poppy Appeal***

Thank you to everyone who bought poppies and donated – we raised £409 for the Royal British Legion.

### ***Form 3***

There was a Roman invasion in Form 3 this week! Dressed in Roman attire, we made Roman bread and butter, bracelets and shields and had a go at making natural dyes from fruit and vegetables. We completed a 'Roman Challenge' to test our knowledge of



## **Music News**

We've been very busy this week in the Music department! We had the ABRSM music exams on Wednesday (well done to everyone!) and Wind band played beautifully for us in assembly this morning. Thank you very much to Mrs Nolan-Stone.

We've held our annual carol competition auditions today, and more than 36 budding composers entered. The chamber choir have been singing their hearts out preparing for the carol service and many have auditioned for the solos.

There will still be many instrumental lessons next week, however, some teachers have now finished for the term. Please look on the website and outside the music room for days and times. Mrs Nolan-stone will be in on Tuesday, Brass group on Monday and Mrs Hawes (and string group) will be on Wednesday.

### ***Carols Under the Stairs***

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 11.00 am (you are welcome to wear your Christmas jumpers too!).

Children will also enjoy their Christmas Lunch on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### ***Orienteering***

Forms 5 and 6 children have been orienteering this half term and have really enjoyed the lessons. Di Tilsey from the Wimborne Orienteering Club has been in school giving the children lots of interesting and different activities.

Orienteering is a great activity for the whole family. If you would like to have a go there are a list of events on the back page. Each event provides help and support if you are unsure but of course you have your son/daughter who can show you the way.

Many congratulations to Teisha on being selected for the Dorset U14 Hockey Academy. Teisha plays her first game for Dorset this Sunday against Wiltshire.



### ***U12/13 1 Hockey v Colfox***

#### ***Result: 3 – 1 win***

This was our first visit to play Colfox school in Bridport. We played 2 games and the girls coped well in the cold. We were a little frustrated with the smaller sizes D's and football goals and in the first game it took us a while to score. Colfox scored first and this seemed to kick us into action with Bonnie scoring 2 and Erin 1. This settled everyone and we then began to move the ball around and created many more chances.

### ***U12/13 1 Hockey v Colfox***

#### ***Result: 6 – 1 win***

We played much better from the start in this game. Hannah and Rachel in defence played higher up the pitch and tackled well. Lovely distribution with 'eyes up' Hannah. Teisha used her close stick skills more effectively and scored 3 goals. Bonnie, determined as ever scored another 2 and Hannah D slotted a really good goal in from the left. We could have scored many more but we were definitely on top.

### ***U12/13 2 Hockey v Colfox***

#### ***Result: 3 – 1 win and 7 – 0 win***

## **U10 Hockey v Dumpton**

### **Result: 2-1 Win**

The U10's had a close match against Dumpton. The girls took a while to warm up into the game and sometimes missed opportunities in the D to strike. Dumpton took control in the first half and our defence had to work hard to keep the ball from the goal. Luckily Erin read the game fantastically and was always at the back with her stick down to stop it getting through. Eleni made some great tackles too and showed good passing play with Freda to get past the Dumpton midfield.

By half time, the score was 0-0 but we knew Sunninghill were the stronger side so they had a good team talk and came out on better form.

The second half saw some strong play from our Forwards. Nikita and Gemma had some great runs down the pitch with Freya always close behind to support. Freda scored the first goal but it was closely followed by a Dumpton goal taking us to 1-1 with only 5 minutes to go. The cheering squad of parents were out in force and cheered the girls on, seeing a really strong last few minutes and fabulous goal from Nikita giving us the win.

*Contribution award goes to Erin for consistently strong defence.*

## **U11 Hockey v Dumpton**

### **Result: 3-1 Win**

Sunninghill U11's played a great match against Dumpton. The girls played well as a team with some lovely passing shots. The first half was a very close game, with Dumpton making a few shots on goal but Amalia made some brilliant saves and Verity, Olivia and Lily cleared well to the sides. Lily B and Atlanta played well together up front, and Lily had a great goal just before half time.

Sunninghill dominated the second half, with lots of attacking play. The girls were really looking around and finding the gaps to pass into and the midfielders ran their socks off. Dumpton managed to get one past Amalia but Sunninghill rallied and scored 2 more before the end of the game, by Poppy and Lily. A super end to the term!

*Contribution award goes to Lily B for great ball control.*

## **Inter House Mixed Tag Rugby**



On Tuesday year 3/4 played Mixed rugby house matches.

The atmosphere was great with some excellent rugby being played. Passing and positioning were good. The matches were very close with Purbeck ending the tournament with 14 tries, Maumbury with 16 tries, Ridgeway with 18 tries and Frome deserving winners with 19 tries. Well played to all players involved.

### **Letters this week:**

Menu, website  
Music Timetables, website  
Sports Fixtures, website  
Morning bus run emails  
PTFA Christmas Fayre  
Form 8 Bowling  
LAMDA letter

### **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  
Lost: Gemma's named red hat  
Lost: Orlagh's blue hoodie

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.

## **KD-UK**



Everyone at KD-UK would like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to Mrs Wilson and all the children at

Sunninghill for taking part in the Sunninghill Atlantic Challenge in aid of Kennedy's Disease. An amazing £535.43 has been raised, this will go towards research at UCL and raising awareness around the country of this horrid disease. Your marvellous and continued support is greatly appreciated, thank you.

Karen Woollam (KD-UK)

## **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 – Dec 2016**

*Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Reports home this week  
Nursery to Poundbury Garden Centre*  
*Tue 6<sup>th</sup> Nursery – Form 4 Nativity dress rehearsal*  
*Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Nursery – to Form 4 Nativity. All parents welcome*  
*Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Carols under the Stairs  
Christmas Lunch  
Form 8 Bowling  
After School Skiing*  
*Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Carol Service, St Peter's Church, 2.30 pm  
School end at 4.00 pm with no Prep Club*

## **Spring Term commences on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

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

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