



# Hermes



9<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Autumn Term

Issue No. 408/72



“A very happy Christmas to you all!”

Dear Parents

Welcome to the final Hermes of 2016. It has been a most fantastic week in school and what a bumper edition awaits you.

Last Friday saw an army of ants arrive to help set the school up for its Christmas Fayre. This year Julie Hansen had persuaded even more stall holders than usual to sell their wares. Trees were decorated, the drive lights were installed, fires lit and much more. At 6.55 pm our first guests arrived and were simply stunned by how beautiful the school looked. Kerry and her team wined and dined our guests with liberal amounts of mulled wine, goats cheese tarts and honey glazed cocktail sausages.

Having chatted to the stall holders they seemed very pleased with their nights work and I know our many guests had a fabulous time. I would like to pay tribute to Julie, Natasha and their team for their amazing efforts to make the night such as success and of course to the many parents who supported the event. I will let you know how much money was raised when we return to school next term.

On Monday, Mrs Sewed and Mr Stazicker were invited to County Hall to be presented

with their E-safety Certificate by the Dorset Safeguarding Children’s Board. As I think I have shared with you in the past, Mrs Sewed is one of Dorset’s e-safety tsars and has helped set up this course. We are incredibly proud to be the very first school in Dorset to be presented with the award. We will now go on to help other schools upskill so children across the county can be much more aware of how to use the internet safely. The photo below below shows Henry E and Verity J being presented with the award on behalf of the school.



Tuesday saw Junior Prep carry out their dress rehearsal for “The Midwife Crisis”, their nativity play. There were more than a few glitches and it didn’t go as well as the teachers hoped. Spirits were low and we were thinking of preparing you all for a disappointment.

On the same day reports went home four days ahead of schedule. They were also available on the parents’ portal on the same day. This is a remarkable achievement with so much else going on and I would like to thank all the staff for working so hard to get these reports to you early. The beauty of this early completion is that we can meet up before Christmas if necessary to help snag any problems that may have arisen. We have used this reporting format several times now and it seems to be working very well. I hope

you have found the learner profile and pupil comments good additions and that you can better understand the marriage of letter and grade for understanding and effort.

This may not be quite so true of the new grading system for GCSE's using the grades 1-9. I believe the top grade of 9 is now equal to an A\*\*. I think this was established because it was felt too many children were getting an A\*. Our system here has been to set much higher academic demands and for there to be fewer A\*s handed out, making them highly cherished and regarded. If it ain't broken, don't fix it?

Fast forward twenty four hours from Tuesday and parents arrived in the Drawing Room for a hearty pre-play breakfast at 8.15 am. The toughest job before the play begins is to man the door and not let parents in until 9 am, thus enabling us all to get ready without distraction. This prize plum fell to Mr Stazicker who just about coped. By 8.45 am there was a huge but patient snake winding across the car park and beyond. Thankfully the weather was dry!

Despite our Tuesday woes, the show was an absolute spectacular of the very highest quality. The costumes were stunning, songs so happy sung, lines delivered perfectly, solos nailed with great bravery and dances full of fun.



I must pay tribute to some very talented young actors and actresses and to an amazing team of teachers and assistants who never cease to amaze us all with their total dedication to their children and you their parents. I know you will all give them a heartfelt thank-you when you see them in person.

Thursday was Christmas Jumper Day. The junior children needed no encouragement but it was a 3 line whip for senior boys and members of staff!



We started the day off with our End of Term assembly. Awards were handed out for Sport, Music and Drama and Academics. There were colours and half colours for Sport and Music (for the very first time). The awards all relate to endeavour rather than achievement and recognise the huge efforts put in across the school. In Form 8 we have had the most difficult of decisions to make with a large core of pupils really pushing ahead with their learning and their acquisition of skills.



The highlight of the ceremony was the final house point prize which is the domain of Mr Adams. His prize themes follow Monopoly and for the last few weeks he has been presenting a "Take a Chance" card. Georgina S was the winner and had a choice of a lovely bar of chocolate or taking a gamble for the prize in the box. I thought she would play it safe and take the chocolate but she gambled. Her prize?

A solitary Brussel sprout!

Like the great sport she is, she took it really well.

After a quick break we then welcomed a large crowd of enthusiastic parents for "Carols Under the Stairs". Lead by the much esteemed Mr Vanburgh, we wrapped around the staircase and sang traditional hymns. It was a close call but the men and boys were definite victors in the battle of the carol verses.



Another quick break and straight on to Christmas lunch. As we have come to expect, the kitchen again exceeded all expectations and delivered the most beautiful traditional lunch. We are so lucky to have them as part of our team and we never take them for granted.



After Christmas lunch we moved onto the teacher's favourite part of the whole term - Christmas parties!

Endured/enjoyed?

I'll leave you to put yourselves in their shoes after an incredibly busy term when you are running on chocolate, caffeine and adrenalin and with a fully hyped up crowd of tutees full of sweets and Christmas cheer.

I still didn't managed to get a picture of any of them looking grumpy.

Coincidentally I seemed to have had an awful lot of urgent office business to attend to that afternoon and also skilfully choreographed a new parent meeting that lasted longer than usual!

I'm not as daft as I look!

You would imagine Thursday evening would be a time for rest but none of it.

Jo was singing with her Rock Choir at the opening of the Christmas Cracker so off to that at 6.30pm followed by a quick evening shop to buy a few thank-you treats for school then home to finish off my editorial bit ably supported by a glass of Irish peat water (purely medicinal you understand).

And so to Friday!

Early morning rehearsals, calm tutor time in school and collecting our hearts and minds for the afternoon service.

I'm not sure how they do it, but Mrs Moss, Mr Vanburgh and Mrs Brunt have that uncanny knack of being able to squeeze an extra 1% out of all those performing - 150 pupils taking part in the service - an amazing feat!

Merry P had the most testing job of the afternoon, singing the solo to Once in royal David's city. I think we all held our breath during that one though we needn't have as she sung in really fine style.

I must say a very big thank you to St. Peter's Church who so warmly share their lovely church with us and to Canon John Wood for presiding over the service.

It was a truly moving service of the very highest standard and I am so pleased so many of you were able to celebrate with us. The mulled wine and mince pies back in

school seemed to go down really well. A final task before breaking up for Christmas. I can't leave this term without saying a big thank you for Orlagh and Aman who have both been amazing Head Girl and Boy this term. They have, without doubt, set the bar incredibly high.



Finally, the whole of our community will head to the splendour of Athelhampton House on Monday evening for our own staff Christmas Party. It's highly unlikely I will be able to share any of the photos with you!

Weather permitting, eight of us will have been At Came Down Golf Course earlier in the day for a "friendly" four ball trying to resist the on-course banter of Mr Peel.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your families and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Wednesday 4th January.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Thorpe".

Mr John Thorpe  
Headmaster

### *News from Fledglings*

Seasonal  
felicitations  
from Fledglings



### *Christmas Lunch - enjoyed by all!*



## Christmas Fayre



## West Dorset Water Polo

Two Dorset water polo players from West Dorset SC, including a former SPS pupil, Phoebe, helped the ASA South West team to victory at the weekend at the 2016 U14 Inter Regional Water Polo Championships held in Walsall. The ASASW team played and won all five of their matches to become 2016 Champions by beating the Midlands team in the final 13-7.

Training with West Dorset WP at Dorchester and at Osprey LC with Weymouth and Portland WPC, thirteen year old Phoebe and eleven year old Amelia were both selected during trials held earlier in the year in Exeter. This was Phoebe's first major competition although she has represented both Dorset and West Dorset in water polo previously, and regularly swims for Weymouth Swimming club. Being a year younger than the rest of the team, Amelia was a surprise selection and the event her first taste of competing. Both girls have now been nominated to attend for training selection trials at the ASASW Regional Water Polo Academy.



*The head of pyrotechnics also managed to set the fire alarm off!!*



### **Christmas Poem by Stanley**

*The reindeers' bells make a loud sound,  
As Santa's sleigh lands on the ground,  
We bake mince pies all warm and sweet,  
And filled right up with nice mincemeat.  
Old Saint Nick doesn't use the door,  
He jumps down the chimney and onto the floor.  
He fills our stockings with chocolates and toys,  
For all of the little girls and boys.  
And in return we give him cookies and beer  
So you can have them before he disappears.*

### **Nativity - A Midwife Crisis**



### **Weldmar Hospice Santa Run**

Following on from the successful Children in Need cake sale, Lucy of Form 2 took part in the Weldmar Hospice Santa Fun Run and raised a further £80.00 for charity.



Charlie and Molly took part in the Santa fun run for Weldmar on Sunday. They ran 2 miles. They've currently raised £120 and the just giving page is still open if anyone would like to donate.



## Carols Under the Stairs



10<sup>th</sup> Prize: Tap Tap Art: 0348

11<sup>th</sup> Prize: DVD: 0745

12<sup>th</sup> Prize: Recipe Book: 1610

13<sup>th</sup> Prize: Recipe Book: 1385

### Letters this week:

Sports letter

Tennis letter

Skiing - Forms 1, 2, 3 & 4

Aladdin - Upper Nursery

### 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: 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.

### 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



### PTFA Prize Winners

First Prize:

Dream Cottages Weekend Break: 1622

Second Prize:

£100 cash Poundbury Wealth: 1388

Third Prize: PTFA Hamper: 0007

4th Prize: Canape Party: 1617

5th Prize: Massage: 0296

6th Prize: M&S Biscuits: 0796

7<sup>th</sup> Prize: Bottle of wine: 0618

8<sup>th</sup> Prize: Milk Tray: 0534

9<sup>th</sup> Prize: Wall poster: 1539

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 - Jan 2017***

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Bank Holiday  
Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Staff Inset Training Day  
Wed 4<sup>th</sup> First day back for pupil  
Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Upper Nursery, Rec - Form 1 Aladdin  
Forms 3 & 4 After School Skiing  
Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Toddler Group, School Hall  
Forms 3 & 4 Bugfest Enrichment  
Form 1 Skiing

***Spring Term commences on  
Wednesday 4th January 2017***

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

Head Boy: Aman Iftikhar  
Head Girl: Orlagh O'Donnell

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

### ***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)

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