

Hermes

6th January 2017

Spring Term

Issue No. 409/73



The teachers ramble on (and not for the first time).

“A very happy New Year to you all”

Dear Parents

I hope our first Hermes of 2017 finds you having enjoyed a very festive break with your family and friends and that the first week back at school has gone smoothly.

Coming back to school from a long break always brings with it so much news and excitement. Between you all you seem to have explored many corners of the globe to as far afield as Australia, the Middle East, Africa, North America, central Europe, Grenada, Scandinavia and more.

Jo and I found perfect peace in beautiful Dorset. Molly and I even managed a dip in the sea at our favourite beach of Ringstead on Boxing Day. Not to be outdone, Tilly, Lucas and Erin swam across Weymouth Harbour on Christmas Day. Bravo to them!

I've also heard of several new additions to families though they are all of the furry type with sharp teeth and long tails.

In school we have welcomed Jemma Fowler who is going to fulfil three important roles in school. She is working in Nursery, taking responsibility for Prep club and will reinvent holiday club. I know you will join with me in wishing her a very successful career at school.



Mr Adams has arrived back to school with a cast on his lower leg. Alongside Mr Peel I feel partly responsible for his near severed Achilles as we both encouraged him to join us at DRFC's Back to Rugby initiative. It has temporarily curtailed his dancing career and strictly will have to wait until he is fit again!



In Wednesday's start of term assembly we looked back at some of the highs and lows of 2016 and then shared our thoughts for the year ahead. The key word I asked children to think about was that of RESPECT. It is such a useful word as it can be applied to just about every situation; teachers, peers, yourself, parents, faiths, cultures, religions, opinions and more.



We also shared a very special milestone birthday with the one and only Mrs Culshaw.

We have set ourselves a few challenges for the year ahead.

On the 16th January we welcome the Guide Dog Association to our Monday assembly. They will help us launch a major fundraising challenge for the next twenty months, and that is to fund the purchase and training of a guide dog puppy. We'll need to raise at least £2500 and hopefully much more. You would be very welcome to join us for the assembly. With a 6 month old pup in training and a fully trained dog and her owner there too to talk to us, it promises to be a memorable occasion. I would be delighted if you would be able to join us too.

We'd like each form to organise one activity within the coming year. I hope the PTFA might do one event and we'll have a quiz night too.

We have also set ourselves the challenge of walking the Three Peaks in 24 hrs. Starting at Fort William in early May we will set off up Ben Nevis at 5pm, descend in the dark and head straight to Scafell Pike in the Lake District. We'll begin this four hour walk in the early hours of the morning, descend in the light and speed off to North Wales to

climb Snowdon. If all goes to plan, twelve hours of driving and twelve hours of walking will see us achieve our goal within the day.

Over the holidays we did the first two training walks, each five hours long and 18km in distance, taking us over the coastal path. We did fairly well though we all agreed that there is lots more training to complete to get closer to our ambition. I'll keep you informed of our progress and hope you will be able to sponsor us.



Our second challenge is a very topical one and involves the amount of sugar we have hidden in our food. It has been a topic of concern that many of you have shared with me in some form or other.

As a result, we are going to start the ball rolling in three ways:

- Fun Food Friday will be cut back to one Friday each month
- There will be one day each week when pudding will be much healthier with a choice of either yoghurt or fruit salad
- Match teas will take on a healthier look

Please could I ask that you support us by making sure the snack you send your child in with each day is a healthy one (of course this does not apply to the staff room!).

Mr John Thorpe
Headmaster

Music News

All instrumental lessons will begin this week and the timetables are on the website and up on the Music room notice board. A huge welcome back to Denis Curlett, our Brass teacher and a thank you to Tim Wheeler for teaching his pupils in his absence.

Our peripatetic teachers will be teaching on the following days this term:

Mr Vanburgh- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Mr Curlett- Monday (including Brass Group)

Mr Wheeler- Tuesday

Mr Garden- Wednesday (including Guitar Group)

Mrs Hawes- Thursday (including String Group)

Mrs Nolan-Stone- Thursday (including Windband)

Mrs Stell- Friday

Mrs Moss- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

We are able to offer taster lessons on a wide variety of instruments and have many instruments available to hire. Please email Mrs Moss (lmoss@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk) to arrange a taster or for more information.

Upper Nursery, Reception and Form 1 went to see Aladdin at Poole Lighthouse. Oh no they didn't....



Form 4 created a friendship web in circle time.



Sports News

Yesterday 6 pupils attended the Dorset Leadership Academy and Young Ambassador Conference at Bryanston School. 35 schools across Dorset were there from Year 7 to Year 11.

Joe B and Katie S were part of the Dance Team and had an amazing day. They worked on a performance that we all watched to finish the conference and they will be performing this again at the opening of the Winter Sainsbury's Games towards the end of this term.

Teisha, Kieran, Erin and Lucas attended the Young Leaders Workshop which aims to develop leadership skills through a range of games and activities. The workshops were run by students from Weymouth College.

Our pupils were engaging and enthusiastic and this may be the start of them going on to become a Young Ambassador and wanting to work as a volunteer at major competitions.



Two Olympians gave inspirational opening and closing addresses. Kate Grey represented Great Britain as a Paralympic swimmer for 10 years and Chris Gregory is a member of the GB Beach Volleyball Squad.

The Anglo-Scottish championships in Villars were held this week and Bonnie won bronze in slalom. Well done!!



Letters this week:

New parent log-in for website letter
Skiing letter - Form 1, 3, & 4
Diaries letter - Form 3
LAMDA letter - Forms 1 to 6
Aladdin Letter - Upper Nursery, Reception and Form 1

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.

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 - Jan 2017

Wed 11th U13 & U12 Netball v Leweston @ Redlands
U11/10 Netball v Leweston (A)
Thurs 12th Forms 3 & 4 After School Skiing
Fri 13th Toddler Group, School Hall
Forms 5 & 6 Bugfest Enrichment
Form 1 Skiing

Form 8 responsibilities Autumn Term:

Head Boy: *Harry Young*
Head Girl: *Meredith Perry*

Sports: *Teisha Barrey & Kieran Williams*

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*

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