

# Hermes

13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Spring Term

Issue No. 410



**“The North wind doth blow and ....”**

Dear Parents

The prospect of the first snowflakes falling since the winter of 2013 sent an excited buzz around the school at the latter part of this week. A cold front moving across from the east promised much and had already gripped most of Turkey, Greece and Italy. Sadly, like many a politician, the forecast promised much but failed to deliver.

My resident meteorologist in Form 8 wouldn't have been at all surprised. Over lunch with his table on Thursday he repeatedly squashed all my enthusiasm for the impending blizzard, sledging and snow balling. Unlike myself, he knew the synoptic pattern and the extent it would penetrate south.

We wouldn't be getting any snow!

There is a slight “but” to my story though, and I may have been the only person to experience it!

I finish writing Hermes very late on a Thursday evening and often my reflections of the week take me beyond Question Time and into Friday. Last night was a case in question. My final job of the night is to take Molly out for a quick constitutional, and in doing so we were engulfed in a small snow storm. I should have rushed out with my camera to get photographic evidence but my mind is a very slow processor and I only thought about it the following morning!

Back to the chalk face, our first full week in school has gone very smoothly.

On Monday and Tuesday we welcomed two experienced ex-heads to give the health of the school an independent MOT test. (That's Ministry of Teaching).

As members of the IAPS we agree to have regular inspections to make sure we maintain the high standards and expectations of the Association. We were last inspected in June of 2014 and expect our next inspection to be in the autumn term of 2017 or the spring term of 2018. No advance notice is given of their visit. I get a phone call from a Reporting Inspector at 9am on the Monday morning and they arrive 24 hrs later. There are likely to be three inspectors with us for two very full days.

To make sure we are fully prepared the governors generously supported my request to invest in a mid-term visit so we could measure ourselves against the standards and regulations set, and have an independent review of the changes we have initiated in the last two years.

They carried out a thorough audit of Health and Safety and checked our safe recruitment of staff. They read all the policies on our website and made suggestions of how we could improve best practice. They watched teachers teaching and children learning and scrutinised how we mark books. They chatted through governance and leadership with our Chair of Governors and met all our key leaders in school. They interviewed small groups of children and even sampled a school lunch.

From their visit we have a dozen recommendations to act upon that will help our drive to keep on improving. Reassuringly, if the real inspectors call today, we would be in very good shape though this won't stop our ambitions to be a better school. I've written this many times before but we're always looking to improve one hundred things by one per cent.

On this front, I hope you enjoyed receiving the new termly calendar? Mandy and I listened to your views on the new version we created for the autumn term and we have tweaked our new design for the spring term. You'll understand the "we" is the royal "we". It was StoneCoast and Mandy of course.

There is a new fold out added that has allowed us to change the font size and format and also add term dates. I hope you have noticed and that it works better?



On the sporting front the girls now have a term of netball to look forward to and the boys have the game of hockey in their sights. Kieran W will be the boys' sports captain and Teisha B will be the girls' sports captain. Harry Y will be our Head boy for the term and Merry P will be our Head Girl. I know they will all do a great job and be excellent role models.

Elsewhere in school, Vishnu in F3 has come out in sympathy with Mr Adams and is also hobbling around on crutches. Not far behind is Ms Thomasson who is hopping around after a hockey injury at the weekend and Dom W has a cast on his arm following a fall. For all those with designs on joining the club, that's quite enough thank-you, especially when you factor in our Chair of Governor's self-inflicted late New Year's Eve injury.

My lips are sealed of course.

All I can say is that it added further burden to an already creaking NHS and his lovely wife was rather cross with him!  
Wishing you a great weekend ahead

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

Mr John Thorpe  
Headmaster

***Tilly swims the channel (across Weymouth Harbour)***



On Christmas day some of my friends and family swam the width of Weymouth harbour, including Lucas and Phoebe and also my older brother Barney.

I decided to raise money for a local charity called KD-UK a.k.a. Kennedys Disease. This causes weakness in the muscle, particularly in the arms and legs. I raised £130.00 pounds for the charity.

*Polina in Form 3 has written a beautiful piece of work that Mrs Breese wanted to share with us all.*

### The Night of the Ticklers

The meteor whooshed overhead and just missed the tops of the trees to our left. Then there was a dreadful crashing sound...

Suddenly a bus appeared out of nowhere with millions of strange creatures in it. Soon I realised that the creatures were aliens!!! The aliens emerged out of their bus and started tickling us, we tried to fight back. Luckily after an hour Katy smacked both of the alien's hands and we ran for our bikes. "Where-where shall we go?" - I gasped to Katy.

"Got to get help!" - She panted back. We swerved onto the road that led to the village. As we raced along, my heart was thudding with excitement. When we got to the village we heard the crazy erupt of laughter which meant the aliens had invaded the village already. Then we saw Mr. Marshall being tickled and we tried to help but it was useless. After we saw that the police station was attacked by the ticklers we decided to drive out of town. We found an empty car and heard the DJ laughing madly which meant the aliens were everywhere. Then Katy had an idea to go to Stoneface that never laughed. When we entered the Head's office we saw him having a chat to three aliens about manners. Soon the aliens fell asleep. And we never laughed in Stonefaces assemblies again!

### Sports News

#### *Sunninghill's Under 12 and U13 netball team (with coaches)!*



#### *U13 Girls Netball v Leweston*

*Result: 12 - 8 loss*

Sunninghill U13's took on Leweston on Wednesday in a fast and furious game down at Redlands. Leweston brought a strong side who were hungry for a win and the first quarter saw Sunninghill in a bit of shock at their aggressive play.

Our girls have great ball skills though and once they'd got to grips marking their partners and intercepting balls, it was a close knit, exciting game.

Orlagh and Teisha scored some lovely goals and Olivia ran her socks off as centre, going for every ball. At half time were just 7-5 down.

In the second half, we made some silly mistakes, tiring of the consistent fast pace and Leweston's lead grew to 9-5. Merry played brilliantly in defence and intercepted a number of their passes, and we saw some lovely quick passing down the court between Olivia, Carmen and Teisha.

Sadly, Leweston were too good to catch on this occasion but it was a good first game of the term and the girls should be really proud of their efforts.

**Contribution award goes to Merry for great marking and interception.**

## ***U12 Girls Netball v Leweston***

***Result: 13-8 loss***

Sunninghill U12's took on Leweston on Wednesday down at Redlands. It was a very fast game and the fast paced play from Leweston in the first quarter came as a bit of a shock to our girls. That said, they held their positions on court and marked the Leweston players well.

Leweston took the lead despite our efforts and were perhaps more aggressive in their play, but there was some great interceptions from Izzy and some good passes down the court from Tilly, Hannah and Izzy.

In the second half we were trailing by a few goals so we moved Imogen and Hannah into goal scoring positions and by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter were almost level at 8-7.

Sadly, this spurred Leweston on and they forged ahead in the last quarter, winning 13-8 but it was a great first game for our girls and lovely to see some of the new netball players in the team.

**Contribution award goes to Hannah for consistent good passing and shooting.**



***Team Talk Time - Go Girls!***

## ***U11 Girls Netball v Leweston***

***Result: 2 - 6 loss***

A tentative start to the girl's first game of the term. We lacked a little confidence which was understandable as there were a few in the team that had little netball experience. We certainly improved as the

game went on. Leweston scored 3 goals in the first quarter which meant quite an uphill climb. We had some good passing moves with both Lily's working hard to get the ball from defence to attack. Amalia and Olivia worked hard in defence. Poppy scored in the second quarter but we do need to practise this skill as we missed quite a few shots close to the post. Leweston just pulled away scoring twice in the second quarter and one in the third. We had an excellent last quarter where Lily B scored and we defended very well to stop the opposition getting any more goals. Onwards and upwards girls, lots to work on but the enthusiasm and the effort were fab!

**Contribution award: Lily B for her determination and effort playing Centre.**

## ***U10 Girls Netball v Leweston***

***Result: 5 - 4 win***

First game of the term, played in windy conditions, not ideal for netball but everyone had to get their netball brain in gear. We went one goal up in the first quarter courtesy of Freya but the play was even. There was a lack of space on court with everyone crowding the player in possession. Some muddy passages of play meant the ball changing sides a lot. We had some good passing moves from defence to attack and managed to get our shot in, although we were not always accurate.

Eleni scored our second and it was 2 - 2 at half time. An exciting second half saw 2 long distance goals from Nikita and one from Esme to make a very close and exciting finish. There was some good defending from Gemma and Erin and Esme and Sophia improved as the game went on. We have lots to work on but an encouraging start, well done girls.

**Contribution award: Erin for some good defending and playing very well at Centre.**

# bugfest

For the last two Fridays, the children had the opportunity to get up close and personal to some amazing exotic animals C/O Nick Wadham, Wild and Deadly Show Presenter, and Director of World Life Conservation CIC and the creator of Bugfest.



He brought giant tarantulas as big as a plate, scorpions seven inches long, stick insects, cockroaches and millipedes just to name a few.



There were also some animals that previously some of the children will only have seen on TV such as Mr Kill - the giant twelve inch long bat-eating centipede - potentially fatal bite, and a safe look alike for the most famous desert scorpion of them all: The dreaded Death Stalker Scorpion.



Of course all was conducted safely and some children were disappointed to hear that they were not permitted to handle tarantulas due to their irritating defensive hairs, and certainly didn't get to handle the scorpions.

## *Fledglings News*

This week Fledglings have been exploring snow and ice. We made play dough Snowmen and used our ICT skills to create very colourful Snowmen.





**Letters this week:**

- Millfield Vocal Workshop Day
- Clubs for Forms 1 to 8
- Diana Award Anti-Bullying
- Reception Welcome back
- Nursery Welcome back
- Form 3 Welcome back
- Lion King Workshop
- Taunton ADC flier
- Tapestry Info for Reception & Nursery
- Form 7 Youth Speaks



**Lost and Found**

Iris (Form 1) has lost her named SPS hat. Missing since Wednesday.

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!

**Form 1's First Visit to Warmwell for skiing went very well. Here are a few of them enjoying themselves.**



## **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 and please take them to your local charity shop.

With thanks  
Lydia

## **Dates for your Diaries - Jan 2017**

- Mon 16<sup>th</sup>** Guide Dog Assembly, School Hall  
U13 Boys Hockey County Tournament @ Castle Court  
Clubs begin this week
- Tues 17<sup>th</sup>** Anti-bullying Ambassadors Training Day, School Hall  
U8 Tag Rugby v BCS (A)
- Wed 18<sup>th</sup>** U13A Netball Bryanston Tournament @ Bryanston  
U12 Netball v Salisbury Cathedral School (A)  
U12/13 Boys Hockey v Castle Court (A)  
U10/11 Boys Hockey v Castle Court (H)
- Thurs 19<sup>th</sup>** Form 8 Geography CE Field Trip  
Forms 3 & 4 After School Skiing  
Form 7 Youth Speaks United Church
- Fri 20<sup>th</sup>** Toddler Group, School Hall  
Form 1 Skiing
- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>** String Masterclass Day @ Bryanston School

## **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 Horton, Charlie Blake & Xan Airy
Drama:	Joni Denne-Loader & Millie Durkin-Jones
Citizenship:	Oliver Shutt & Fifi Collet
Library:	Alexander Valadais Marques

## **School email addresses:**

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