

Nativity Rocks!



Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to the penultimate Hermes of the Christmas term. Whilst the weather may be getting cooler the temperature inside is positively boiling as the term reaches a crescendo in our busiest and happiest two weeks of the year.

Amidst the absolute chaos that is Brexit, we sent Mrs Fernley, Mrs Smith and the indomitable Form 7s to the House of Parliament on Tuesday. What better timing could there possibly have been?



Democracy was in full fly, large and angry demonstrations were taking place outside and inside it was even worse. Motions of no-confidence, contempt's of court and much more. They all returned having had a fantastic time. It is all part of the new Creative Curriculum that we have developed for our senior students so that they can experience real life and put together their own joined up thinking.

If only the politicians could be anywhere near so talented and intelligent we might not be in such a mess!

On Tuesday the teachers continued their debate on homework. We have decided that over the holidays we will all set a small amount of homework, consistent across the subjects and forms, with the option to avoid if you have other plans.

At the same time, we'd like all children to read voraciously at each and every opportunity. Long car journeys to meet far off aunts could be accompanied by story tapes and a book could be in every stocking.



It has been good to welcome Mr Stazicker back to school. Ian seems to get fitter by the day and managed a "Robin Hood" moment over the weekend by shooting one arrow into the end of another from some distance away. I believe this is the equivalent of a golfer getting a hole in one.

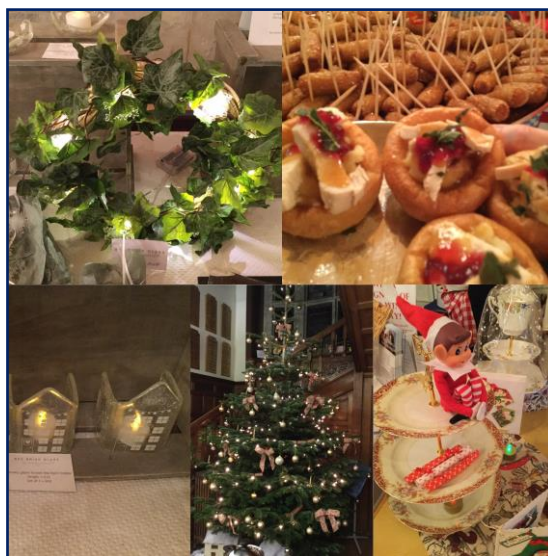
On Thursday Forms 3 and 4 accepted a very kind invitation to Sea Life in Weymouth. Mrs Culshaw's lovely daughter Laura is in charge of marketing there and arranged tickets, mince pies, tea and coffee and much more. Lots of parents joined us for a pre-Christmas sing song and we rounded the morning off with fish and chips (slightly ironic given we were at a marine sanctuary, but I don't think the exhibits noticed).



Staying on the topic of food, many thanks to all of you for sending in so much food to support the Form 6/ Adams/Woollam Food bank appeal. Please keep it all coming as we are trying to donate a thousand items to help those less privileged than ourselves. Do remember chocolate treats and long life milk, and perhaps go easy on baked beans

and pasta. It almost sounds like that marvellous scene from Blazing Saddles!

On Thursday evening we opened the school up to parents and the town for our much-awaited Christmas Fayre. Masterminded as always by Julie Hansen, and supported with great enthusiasm by the new PTFA, the event was a roaring success with many stallholders and visitors reporting a great evening. As always, Ray and Les did an amazing job in transforming the school and Kerry and her team fed us all sumptuously with mulled wine and copious amounts of tasty canapes.



There was even a Thorpe junior there selling his wooden wares!

Having turned the school round late last night, there was no time to spare as many hungry mouths needed feeding at 8.30am this morning.

Junior Prep Nativity is one of our biggest and most expectant audiences. Thousands queued in the rain from first light, despite the lure of Kerry's tastiest treats, a roaring fire and fresh coffee.

It is a particularly busy time for our kitchen staff who do the most amazing job in a non-stop feast of treats.

Every year the Junior Prep staff try to find something unique for us with a different slant around the Nativity theme.

The show was simply spellbinding. Great humour was interspersed with Christmas versions of some of our favourite songs from

the 80's. I have certainly never heard the Pogues, "Fairy tale of New York" performed in a school before and we also had an abridged version of Wham and "Last Christmas.

I must congratulate all of the lower school from Nursery upwards. As you will imagine it is a massive team effort to get a show to such a polished state. It does make life easier when uber-talented children desperate to please and full of confidence are the raw material to work with.

As is always the case at this time of year there is no time to sit back and relax and we are now straight back on the trail with Sunninghill's Got Talent which begins at 7pm in the Sunninghill Community Hall. Please do come and join us if you want to be dazzled with our school's talent.

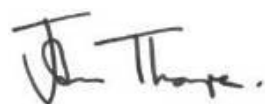
Looking ahead to next week there is a lull before the storm with Thursday being the start of some of the Main Events.

Before then, end of term written reports will be with you via the Portal by Wednesday at the latest.

A special visitor arrives on Thursday morning followed by Carols Under the Stairs at 11am then Christmas lunch and Christmas parties in the afternoon. CUTS is an open event so you are all welcome to sing with us. It is becoming ever more popular (and don't forget to wear your Christmas jumper!).

Finally, please join us for our Christmas service held at St. Peters Church at 2.30pm on Friday afternoon. There will be mince pies and mulled wine back at school afterwards. Also remember that there is no after care next Friday and you are very welcome to pick your children up from school after the service.

Wishing you a great weekend ahead.



Mr John Thorpe
Headmaster

Fledglings

This week Fledglings have spent some of a rainy afternoon letting off our exuberance in the ball pool and sensory room.



Thursday was our Christmas party with nursery there was some serious moves and lots of jingle bells! Merry Christmas.





Nursery children are starting to get very excited about Christmas and some of the children have worked together to make a gingerbread house which they all loved and took a bit home to eat!



Nursery

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas. They looked absolutely fabulous in their costumes. Well done Nursery.



Mabel brought in a lovely show and tell, which was a Christmas book which got us all talking together about the story.

They have also made some beautiful homemade Father Christmas logs to take home at the end of next week. Which is a lovely keepsake memory.



Reception

Sasha Mae is visiting family in Washington DC and dad has sent us a couple of photos.



Form 3

They are raising money for the foodbank in Dorchester- hoping to buy essential items for it. They all got together at Katy's house on Sunday and wrapped up soaps and other smellies and plan to have a sale in the Compass lobby next week. So far they have raised over £60.



Forms 3 & 4

Carols and Crustaceans

On Wednesday, Forms 3 and 4, with the help of our musical parents, sang carols at the Sea Life Centre in Weymouth. The children sang beautifully. We were then treated to drinks and mince pies, fish and chips for lunch and exploring the park for the afternoon.





Holiday Club



Form 5

Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum

The pupils followed the story of one local boy - seven year old Harry Parker, finding out about the crime he committed, his apprehension and the subsequent trial he endured. The children worked like real life historians to investigate primary evidence and went on a tour of the old cells and court room, enabling them to walk in the footsteps of this individual, trying hard to imagine how this child must have felt.

It wasn't all 'doom and gloom' though, as the pupils had chance to investigate what a typical Victorian Christmas would have been like and had some time to be creative making their own version of a peg doll which enabled them to reflect on the types of toys poorer children would have had access to at this time.

Final call to book for our Christmas Holiday Club. We are running for the first week of the holidays from Monday 17th December until Thursday 20th December. Booking forms are available from our website.

<https://sunninghillprep.co.uk/information/holiday-club/>

Equestrian Dressage

Jo Telfer competing in her first equestrian dressage event.



West Dorset Open

Freya did well at the West Dorset Open at the weekend - winning 2 golds 2 silvers and 1 bronze and 7 personal bests. So it was worth spending all weekend there!



Sports News

Team: U13/12 Rugby v The Park
Date: 5th December
Venue: Yeovil
Result: 40 - 30 loss

On Wednesday the U13/12 boys faced 'The Park' school in Yeovil. Miraculously the rain stopped and the sun came out when we arrived at The Park School in Chilton Cantelo.

The boys played their first 7's game and did not disappoint. The boys committed to their tackles and passed the ball around beautifully. Every single player in the team worked hard and covered their positions. There were two tries between the two sides. Tom holding scored fantastic tries and Joshua scored a great try using the width of the pitch. A fantastic final game of the term and a huge well done to all the boys.

Contribution Award: Henry T.

Form 8 Responsibilities for the Autumn Term

Head Boy	Lawrence
Head Girl	Verity
Sports Captains	Amalia & Nathan

Prefects:	
ICT	Lawrence and Olivia
Art	Jessie
M&D	Clara and Lily B
Outdoor Ed	Atlanta and Frida
STEM	Verity and Poppy
Languages	Lea and Amalia
Humanities	Olivia
Eco	Jessie and Verity
Publicity	Clara

Lydia: secretary@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk
Mandy: registrar@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk
Megan:
receptionist@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk

Weekly Diary

WHOLE SCHOOL DIARY OF EVENTS	10th	
	11th	Form 7 & 8 Carol Singing in the local community 2.30 pm
		Form 3 & 4 Junior House Tag Rugby 2.30 pm
	12th	Nursery to Form 8 Reports on the Portal
	13th	Christmas Jumper Day - donation for Mosaic Charity
		Carols under the Stairs - all welcome - 11.00 am
		Pupils Christmas Lunch
		Nursery to Form 8 Parties/Trips
	14th	Carol Service St Peter's Church 2.30 pm
		Mulled wine & Mince pies at school
		No Prep Club after 4.00 pm
		Term Ends
	9th Jan	First day of Spring Term
LETTERS ON THE PORTAL	Menu - 10th December	
	Music Timetable Week 13	
Fledglings	No letters	
Nursery	No letters	
Reception	No letters	
Form 1	No letters	
Form 2	No letters	
Form 3	No letters	
Form 4	No letters	
Form 5	No letters	
Form 6	No letters	
Form 7	Cinema Trip	