

## “Gung hei fat choy”



Dear Parents

Each and every week in school seems to take on a decidedly different aroma and no two weeks are ever the same.

The theme for this week has been curriculum development and a strong focus on personal development and individualised learning, starting with Pupil Voice on Monday morning.

Mirroring my own Class Reps meeting, one member from each form sits on the committee, which is chaired by Mrs Thorpe. Members bring concerns that have been brought to their attention in tutor groups. Minutes are taken and the senior pupils share both the concerns and the outcomes in the Monday assembly of the following week. Common themes are school dinners and the changing rooms, how the curriculum might change and whether there might be a senior common room.

In this morning's assembly, Form 1 delivered the most fantastic Chinese New Year assembly. This was hastily rearranged from last week when it had to be cancelled due to snow. Despite being so young, I was amazed at the

confidence with which they faced such a large audience, their proud and loud voices and how they were all word perfect. I must congratulate Mrs Sleightholme and Mrs Culshaw for such a brilliant show.

As we were told, “Gung hei fat choy.”



On Tuesday evening, Form 5 parents' evening took place. You will notice that there are extra parents' evenings this term in response to a request from a Class Reps meeting in the autumn term. It was a very productive evening and I was delighted to hear of the great progress with personal development and academic achievement that this group of young people are making. The transition from Form 4 to Form 5 can sometimes be tricky, though this talented group have very much taken it in their stride.

In the classroom I have spent quite a bit of time in the DT room observing the Form 5 children at work. Inspired by Stephen Yates, our relatively new DT teacher, they were exploring ways of harnessing natural sources of energy that are environmentally friendly and sustainable. Particular reference was made to how these forms of energy may be able to help poorer countries and those where clean water is in short supply. There are trainee engineers and humanitarians of the future who

want to make a difference as members of the global community.

We continue to invest in the facilities within this most important subject with the purchase of a laser cutter that will be installed over half term. Children will be able to generate an image on their pc that will translate to an image to be cut out by the laser cutter. Once installed, we'll then order a vacuum former that will add another hi-tech process to the children's experiences.

On Thursday, the governor's academic sub-committee met for our termly meeting. How ICT supports learning and in particular how we are using iPads across the curriculum featured highly on the agenda, which included preparation for inspection, curriculum development, staff welfare and more.

The committee is chaired by Jean Walker who brings with her a vast amount of experience at senior leadership level within schools. She is a trained inspector and highly experienced in child protection. Jean is ably supported by Dr Stephanie Dean (who leads Safeguarding on the Board) and Ian Jefferis (with expertise in coaching and marketing). Together this highly skilled triumvirate are making a big difference to the support and quality control of Teaching and Learning in school. Mrs Sewed and I also sit on the committee with regular guest appearances from staff.

It was Mrs Moss's turn this week, she demonstrated how she is using iPads to inspire learning and to improve the quality of feedback from marking.

The use of our new iPads in school has featured twice already in this week's edition of Hermes and ties in very nicely with last night's PTFA meeting. In January of this year, the PTFA funded the lease purchase of twenty-

five iPads that are now having a significant impact across the school, as demonstrated by Mrs Moss in the meeting noted above.

Such support to learning is possible because the PTFA organise some great events to raise significant funds for school use. One such event is on the near horizon with a re-run of last year's excellent inaugural Barn Dance. Please can I urge you to buy tickets for this event that takes place in Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March. More details later.

On the subject of fundraising, it has been a while since we have had a cake sale in school. Next Friday, the school will support the "Wear a Hat" charity by asking for a small donation on the day and also providing your children with a small amount of money to buy a cake or some small gifts. More details will be sent out later.



On Thursday evening the winners of round one of the Dorchester Rotary Youth Speaks competition headed off to Ditchat for the regional final. They met very stiff opposition in the form of a Form 8 group from Sherborne and a Form 9 group from Castle Cary schools.

We were by far the youngest group who really impressed a large audience

and some very discerning judges. We left with a very creditable second place with Toby J winning the Best Speaker award. Once again, the judges were enamoured with their chosen topic of Welsh Rugby.

I must also thanks Mr Jefferis who went straight from the rigour of the Academic Sub-Committee to chauffeuring the team across and then providing a “match report” afterwards. Above and beyond the call of duty, Sir!

Finally, despite the most terrible weather, we enjoyed a very productive and well-attended Open Morning today. Forms 7s were superb tour guides and we proudly showed off our school to the very best effect. I must thank all our departments for getting the school in such good shape. Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead.

*John Thorpe*

Mr John Thorpe  
Headmaster

## ***Fledglings***

This week in Fledglings we have been celebrating Chinese New Year! Liz very kindly brought her Guinea Pigs in from home to show the children, this tied in perfectly with the year of the pig. We



sat beautifully whilst we petted them on our laps!

The children ate an oriental snack of spring rolls and enjoyed exploring a noodle and rice tuff tray. It got very messy when we made New Year themed slime and went for a muddy afternoon walk, with a play in Nursery's lovely outside area.







On Wednesday before gardening, the children enjoyed hanging up their colourful plant pots that some of the children helped decorate during the Let's Explore sessions. It's lovely to see some beautiful pots of colour in our Foundation Garden.

## ***Nursery***



This week (on Tuesday morning) some of the Nursery children visited the Teddy Bear Museum in Dorchester to start off our 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' topic. They had a lovely time seeing all the different sized teddy bears and telling everybody all about it when they returned!

## ***Let's Explore***

During let's explore, the children have been decorating a dragon for Chinese New Year during the art lesson, making pigs for the year of the pig, dressing up and exploring the role play and finishing off painting the plant pots for outside.



## ***Reception***

Reception have been making gingerbread men as part of their topic in Traditional tales.



2 wrote a fairy tale each, which they sent to Mrs. Thorpe. Mrs. Thorpe then sent a video message back to them, which celebrated the things the children had done well and made suggestions on how the children could make their work even better. The children used this to write their final draft.



## ***Form 1***

Form 1 hosted Friday's assembly with a Chinese New Year Theme, they've worked hard on making a dragon, learning a song and lots of creative things.



## ***Form 5***

The children have been working in the context of raising water from a well and providing irrigation. They were provided with a single solar cell and a motor to provide energy.



## ***Form 2***

We have been using our new ipads to support literacy. The children in Form





## ***Form 8***

The children in Form 8 have been working alongside ambassador engineers from Leonardo Helicopters. In their STEM lessons they have been challenged to design, build and test a glider to meet the set requirements of the competition.

The Flying Start Challenge has been run in schools for over a decade and aims to increase engineering awareness amongst young people and to help schools forge links with local industry.



## ***Gardening Club***

Two garlands created by Bea & Poppy during Gardening Club.



## ***Safer Internet Day 2019***

Co-ordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Sunninghill has joined hundreds of organisations getting involved in a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.



In our recent Screen Time assembly, Mr Stazicker and Mrs Sewed highlighted 50 fun activities children could do in the great outdoors and each child was given a tick sheet to bring home. This week in Computing and PSHCE lessons, Mrs Carr and Mrs Sewed, have been exploring the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community. We are running a competition for children to explore any internet safety issue they choose. They can work alone or in groups and can present their entry in any format e.g. a movie, poem or animation.

The UK Safer Internet Centre is a partnership of three leading charities – Childnet, Internet Watch Foundation and SWGfL South West Grid for Learning - with a shared mission to make the internet a better place for children and young people.

For more information on top tips for parents or to download the parent pack, visit <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/safer-internet-day-2019-top-tips-parents-and-carers>

If you would like any advice on how to keep your child safe online, please contact me:

Nancy Sewed,  
[nsewed@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:nsewed@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk)

## ***Action Mats***

The Form 2, 3 and 4 pupils have been making full use of the Action Mats during PE lessons. They are a great addition to the curriculum and focus on developing functional movement skills.

Mrs Wilson and Mr Willemse would like to thank the PTFA sincerely for purchasing the Action Mats as well as six Gymnastics mats.



## ***Notes from a Small Garden***



Two dry weeks in the garden! This one slightly warmer than last! The ice from the bird bath had some serious investigation.

Lots of seed sowing, flowers for our borders and miniature broad beans for pots this year. The greenhouse gradually filling up with trays of promise. Our sweet peas already showing their fragile green tips.

Our annual trip to the spectacular compost heap this week, where we gathered some super fertiliser for our veggie beds. Also a 'giant turnip' moment as we dug up last year's spinach roots, some proved harder than others to remove!

Next week more seeds, and mulching!

*Mrs Foote*



## ***Music News***

Mrs Hawes will be teaching and taking String Group on Wednesday next week.

We are looking forward to the first informal music concert of the term on Thursday at 4pm in the Drawing Room. Please do come along to support our wonderful musicians.

Congratulations to Recorder Club for performing in assembly this morning, you all played beautifully.

*Mrs Nolan-Stone*

## ***Sports News***

**Team:** *U8 High 5 Netball*  
**Venue:** *Sherborne Prep*  
**Result:** *6 – 0 loss*

This was a fairly even game although some of the Sherborne girls were quite a bit taller. This highlighted itself when Anna and Scarlett were playing GD and GK with their opposition towering above them. Several times Anna really jumped for the ball but it went way over her head. We managed 6 rotations which meant everyone played in lots of different positions. There was some good passing at times with Clara, Kitty S, Izzy and Katy working well together. Sherborne were more accurate in the circle and scored a goal in every quarter. Iris, Izzy, Kitty T made some good interceptions but everyone was shouting for the ball which confused the person in possession. We must remember to run into space and not just stand and shout for the ball. We did have a few attempts on goal but we need much more shooting practice. Lots of enthusiasm which was lovely to see.



***Contribution award: Izzy for her determination and good interceptions.***

***Team: U9 High 5 Netball***  
***Venue: Sherborne Prep***

Sometimes the final score is deceptive and this match was no exception. Sherborne came out of the blocks quickly and at the end of the first quarter it was 4-0. The beauty of High 5 netball is rotating the players each quarter or in our case fifths. Sherborne only scored twice more in the rest of the game and in the third fifth we had 6 attempts on goal but sadly none went in the net. Movement and positioning around the court improved through the game and the girls gained in confidence and never gave up. Well done! My top bit of advice is practice shooting at break time!

***Contribution Award: Mirabelle, as voted by the Sherborne girls as girl of the match.***

***Team: U12 Netball***  
***Venue: Hanford***  
***Result: 15 – 4 loss***

This was a very fast and competitive game with Hanford having the edge in their attacking circle. They were 8 – 1 up at halftime and although we managed to get the ball to our shooters we did not take every opportunity to score. Meena worked hard at GK trying to stay with her opponent and intercepting several passes. Gemma was marking probably the best Hanford player at GD but cut out several key passes and used her height effectively. Megan and Erin worked their socks off in the centre court and again Freya used her height to gain an advantage for the shot. Eleni was tightly marked and found it difficult to make herself available in the circle. Hanford scored another 4 goals in the

third quarter but in the last quarter the score was level on 3 goals each. Great effort girls but we do need to slow the game down at times and practise our shooting.

***Contribution Award: The opposition chose Megan for her effort. Meena for stepping in as GK and working hard.***

***Team: U13 Netball***  
***Venue: Hanford***  
***Result: 10 – 2 loss***

This was a really close and competitive game all the way through despite the score. At half time the score was 2 – 2 although Hanford did have more opportunities in their attacking circle. Olivia and Amalia in defence worked together superbly taking the ball from a missed shot or rebound. With Tallulah at WD they worked the ball well into the centre court where Lily was motoring at C and having to work hard as her opposite C was very quick. Our shooters Poppy and Jessie found it difficult to receive the ball in the circle and they were often at the edge with a more difficult shot. Verity tried hard to create space as WA and made some good passes into the circle. In the second half Hanford changed their shooters and they got their eye in scoring 8 goals. We do need to get out and practise our shooting. Great effort though girls for our first competitive match. Well done.

***Contribution Award: The opposition gave this to Amalia for some great defensive work.***

***Team: U8 Hockey***  
***Venue: Sandroyd***  
***Result: 4 – 2 loss***

Although a thick mist clung to the pitch, the objective was clear; to play some top quality U8s hockey. It was

clear from the start of the match that this would be a well-fought encounter. Sandroyd School had the luxury of having a full bench for rolling substitutions. Despite this, the Sunninghill boys fought valiantly. Stalwart in defence and unrelenting in attack. I was extremely impressed by the way Gregory and Alex covered the ball and threw themselves into the match. A sublime shot from Charlie at the edge of the D and a fantastic reverse shot from Rex on the right-hand dead ball line were sadly the only goals for Sunninghill. The 4 Sandroyd goals were the result of immense pressure which barely made it through our stoic defence.

***Contribution Award: Rex was perhaps the hardest working player on either team. A fantastic goal and a bastion in defence.***

***Team: U9 Hockey***  
***Venue: Sandroyd***  
***Result: 2 – 2 draw***

The U9's were forces to wake up quickly against Sandroyd in what was a wet and cold afternoon. Sunninghill got going and kept their shape much better this week. Max and Felix were outstanding in midfield trying to find a gap through the Sandroyd defence. Sunninghill controlled play and launched ferocious attacks onto the Sandroyd defence. Freddie and William were outstanding in defence whilst Alex and Freddie H tried to attack on the wings. The U9's battled very hard and fully deserved the draw. Well done!

***Contribution Award: Oscar for displaying excellent individual skill and understanding of tactical positions.***

***Team: U12/13 Hockey***  
***Venue: Dorchester Middle***  
***Result: 4 – 3 win***

The U12/13's had to adjust to the size of the pitch and rules quickly as DMS stormed to an early lead by displaying some fantastic some incredible individual skill. Nathan steadied the ship in defence and Tom led his crew forward into the DMS defensive area. Gabriel showed lovely skill and found Henry and Joshua on the wing who attacked out wide. Tymon was ferocious in attack and scored lovely goals. DMS tried hard to equalise at the end but Ben and Nathan stood firm and cleared any danger. All the boys contributed well and won a hard fought battle of street hockey.

***Contribution Award: Gabriel for improving the pace of his play.***

### ***Easter Holiday Club***



We are now taking bookings for our Easter Holiday Club that will be running for almost two weeks over the Easter holidays. We welcome children aged 3 to 13 as well as children from other schools

Further information and booking forms are available on the school website at <https://sunninghillprep.co.uk/information/holiday-club/>



Please ensure that your forms and payment are with us by Friday 22nd March to secure your place. If you have

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

### **Form 8 Responsibilities for the Spring Term**

Head Boy - Tom  
Head Girl - Poppy  
Sports Captains - Lawrence & Tallulah

#### **Prefects:**

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

**South Court, South Walks,  
Dorchester, DT1 1EB. Tel: 01305 262306.**

**Prep Club Mobile: 07437 891994**



# SUNNINGHILL PTFA BARN DANCE



**DECLARED BY PARENTS AND STAFF TO BE THE BEST  
PTFA SOCIAL EVENT EVER HELD AT THE SCHOOL!**

## **ROOTIN' TOOTIN' BARN DANCE**

Join us for amazing music, a delicious Western Hog Roast, fabulous accompaniments and bar

## **WHERE & WHEN**

Sunninghill Community Hall, Friday 15th March 2019 from 7pm - 11pm

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

Live Music By The Black Sheep Band so wear your best boot scootin' gear

## **TICKETS**

Tickets available from Megan, Class Reps, PTFA committee members, from [ptfa@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk) and in Compass Lobby at pick up

