

The Travelling Headmaster Returns



Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to the first edition of the Summer Term. I hope your Easter holiday was full of excitement and family time together.

Some significant projects have been completed over the Easter vacation. The pool has been completely drained and an extra sump added to improve filtration. The Hall floor has had a very expensive refurb and the top corridor has had a complete professional makeover, bringing it up to the splendour of the two floors below. Over the past five years we have systematically been painting the whole of the school to restore the beauty of this majestic building. We are getting to the end now and like the Forth Bridge will no doubt be starting over.

I must also congratulate Liz as the grounds look ever more beautiful. It remains a privilege to be the custodian of such a wonderful site. I know it inspires our teachers and children to want to reach the highest of heights.

I managed to sneak back to God's second home this week, after Yorkshire that is! I spent another exciting fishing trip with our ex-chair of governors exploring the glory of the southern uplands of South Island, New Zealand. We spent most of the time far from the beaten track, in mountain huts and "batches" and had an amazing time.



It did allow me to temporarily forget my heartache. I must thank you all for the lovely messages of support and the fond memories you shared with me of Molly. She certainly touched the hearts of many who got to know her. Looking small children in the eye this week and explaining why she is not in school has not been easy.

New SPS "recruit" Baxter came to visit and did his best to cheer us all up. He's a very handsome twelve week old schnoodle with glorious silver stockings. I'll let you work out what he's made up of. Answers on a post card please. Susie and Lydia N in F5 are the very proud owners.



The cricket season is now upon us and it can always be relied upon to bring cold and rainy weather. This year has been no exception. We should really pretend to the rain gods that we are playing rugby and the sun would shine endlessly.

We have welcomed two new pupils to school this week. Abel F has joined Form 1 and George W has joined Form 5. I thank both their classes, teachers and assistants for making them feel so welcome. They have both made great start to their school careers with us.

We have also welcomed back Atlanta D fresh from her ski race season in the Alps. To prove this is not her only skill, we were delighted to read this week that Atlanta's short story submitted to the Rotary Youth writer's competition not only won the local round but then went on to win the regional vote of the judges and now goes forward to the district round of the competition.



Leon, Max and Indy J also returned fresh from a term spent in a Spanish school. Having chatted to them, they certainly noted big differences between the two systems. Their acquisition of spoken Spanish must be quite superb. Indy was thrilled to tell me all about her horse riding and the bravery she has in jumping high fences. Now that's not for the faint hearted!

Not returning immediately, is the lovely Lydia who is recuperating from a fairly major operation that will not see her return until mid-May. Lydia is in good spirits and is making a great recovery. I know you will all want to join me in sending her your very best wishes.

We also returned to hear fantastic news about three of our swimmers. Poppy S, Freya B and Tallulah T have all qualified for the IAPS national finals to be held at the O2 arena in London. Special mention must be given to Freya B who qualified as the fastest finisher in the U12 25m butterfly, ranking her as number 1 in the competition to be held on Saturday 8th June. Mrs Wilson, Mrs Thorpe and I will be there to cheer them on.

Pictured below is a lovely photo of Mrs Brunt and former pupil Orlando Bailey, who has made further appearances for the England U18 Rugby team.



Mrs Brunt has been a loyal and devoted member of the school since joining at the same time as Eileen in 2011. She has made significant contributions to the subjects of Science and STEM and Games and has Sunninghill running through her veins.

Sue has notified me of her intention to retire at the end of this term. With great health and fitness on her side she has set herself the task of travelling the world both for pleasure and to complete voluntary projects in far flung places. I will share more of her achievements with you when we muster for Speech Day and Prize Giving on Friday 12th July. Ben Vessey, Headmaster of Canford School, will be our guest speaker for the day.

I will be advertising the post shortly and will keep you up to speed on how we are progressing. It is rare that we get the opportunity to replace key posts in school and I will endeavour to search far and wide to find an outstanding Science and STEM teacher who also wants to actively contribute to the vibrant extra-curricular life of the school. Do feel free to ask any interested persons to contact me if you think they may fit the bill.

Whilst on the subject of staff, I must congratulate Mrs King for completing the whole of the South West Coast Path. This 630 mile epic runs from Minehead in Somerset to our own Poole Harbour in Dorset. It has taken Karen several years to tick off the whole route.



Hot on her heels are the redoubtable team of Mrs Thorpe, Wilson and Jackson who have about 100 miles left to go. A bit of on online research shows a total elevation change of 114,931 feet along the route. It really is only for those made of stern stuff!

Looking ahead to the next few weeks, please could I ask you to bring our forthcoming Open Day of Friday 10th May to the attention of your friends and family. Also do remember you are most welcome to join us should you wish to share the learning journey of your children. All you need to do is sign up with Mandy in the office ahead of the event.



Beyond this, please put our Summer Fayre into your diary. This most fantastic PTFA event will take place on Saturday 6th July and is an absolute highlight of our year.

If you are a keen golfer and interested in joining me for a Sunninghill golf day on Wednesday 17th July, please make contact with me. When the clubs letter comes out this week, you will see that Mr Adams and I have invited parents to join our Thursday golf club.

Finally we send our thoughts and prayers to members of our community who have their roots and family in Sri Lanka.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend with your family.

Handwritten signature of John Thorpe.

Mr John Thorpe
Headmaster

Nursery



Nursery have had a great first week back! We started off our mini beast topic by looking at slugs and snails. The children have made patterned snail pictures using a sequence of coloured stickers.



We also enjoyed a trip to the Borough Gardens on Thursday afternoon to make the most of the nice weather.

Extreme Falconry

During the Easter holidays I went on a 3 day falconry course at West Stafford. I have a particular interest in the owls.



The above picture shows the owls at just three weeks old. There are three of them but one of them was bought by another falconer so now there are only two. They are long eared owls, one of the five native owls to England.



The owls are now almost five weeks old. I am also extremely lucky because I witnessed them hatching, which isn't something you see every day. I don't have any pictures but there are also two Lanner falcons which hatched only two weeks ago, I got to see them hatch too!



I will be visiting every Sunday to help acclimatise the owls to the outside world.

It would be wonderful if at some point we could organise something for the school as I would *love* for them to see what an amazing place it is.

The Extreme Falconry Centre is hoping to open to the public by the end of May and I highly recommend a visit!

Olivia Form 8

Karen King's Epic Coastal Walk

In April 2014 (photo below) I walked 130 miles of the SW coastal path from Exmouth to Studland, with my border collie, Ruby, in order to help raise money for the Joseph Weld Hospice, who had taken such excellent palliative care of a wonderful friend and colleague, Debbie Haywood, during her final battle against cancer. Along with various other fund raising events organised by the staff, we managed to raise almost £2000.



I enjoyed the magnificent views and freedom of walking the path so much that I decided to complete the whole 630 miles from Minehead to Studland over the course of 5 years, doing about 2 weeks each year and completing it this April. Ruby accompanied me for the majority of it despite being over 13 years now!



On the final day of the walk I wore the same top, embellished with "Debbie's Coastal Trekkers 2014" in her memory. Here's to the next challenge- all suggestions welcome!

Karen King

Music News

All music lessons will commence next week. Please note Mrs Hawes will be teaching on Thursday and Mrs Stell will be teaching on Friday.

Congratulations to all the pupils below who worked hard towards their music exams and passed!

ABRSM Spring Results –

William H	Prep Test	Piano
Kitty S	Prep Test	Singing
Isadora RW	Prep Test	Singing
Aaron H	Grade 1	Piano
Henry B	Grade 2	Piano
Erin P	Grade 3	Piano (Merit)

Trinity College of Music Results –

Samuel H	Grade 1	Piano (Merit)
----------	---------	---------------

Quiz Answers from the Costa Rica Fundraising Evening Last Term

1. If Shakespeare's plays were placed in alphabetical order which would be first (disregarding the indefinite article)?

All's Well that Ends Well

2. What is Miss Marple's first name?

Jane

3. Who painted the Sistine Chapel?

Michelangelo

Form 8 Responsibilities for the Summer Term

Head Boy –Nathan

Head Girl – Lily

Sports Captains – Tom & Frida

Prefects:

ICT – Lawrence & Olivia

Art – Jessie

M&D – Clara & Lily

Outdoor Ed – Atlanta & Frida

STEM – Verity & Poppy

Languages – Lea & Amalia

Humanities – Olivia

Eco schools – Jessie & Verity

Publicity – Clara

Lydia:

Secretary@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk

Mandy:

Registrar@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk

Megan:

receptionist@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk

South Court, South Walks, Dorchester,
Dorset. DT1 1EB
01305 262306

Weekly Diary

WHOLE SCHOOL	29th April	NO CLUBS THIS WEEK
		Mini Beasts & Habitats- Bug Fest
DIARY OF EVENTS		Form 5 Creative Arts Day with Darrell Wakelem
	30th April	Form 8 Creative Curriculum to East Stoke 1.15 - 5.00 pm
		U10 Tennis v Millfield @ Millfield Prep 4.00pm
	1st May	Forms 1 & 3 Forest Schools
		U10/11 Cricket v The Park @ SPS 2.00pm
		U12/13 Cricket v The Park @ Martinstown 2.00 pm
		U13 & U12 Girls Pairs Cricket v Clayesmore @ Hanford 2.30 pm
		U11 & U10 Mixed Pairs Cricket v Sandroyd (A) 2.30 pm
	2nd May	Reception Forest Schools 8.30 am
		Twelfth Night performance @ SPS 4.30-6.00pm
	3rd May	RNLI Wear your Wellies to School - charity event
		Parent & Toddler Group 10.00- 11.30 am
		Forms 3 & 4 Sailing, 2.00 pm
		Friday Sports Enrichment 2.00 pm
LETTERS ON THE PORTAL	Music Timetable- Week 2	
	Menu - 29th April	
	Fixtures of the Week and Team Sheets	
Nursery	No letters	
Reception	Summer Term	
Form 1	No letters	
Form 2	No letters	
Form 3	No letters	
Form 4	Welcome back to Form 4	
Form 5	No letters	
Form 6	No letters	
Form 7	No letters	
Form 8	No letters	