



All Creatures Great and Small



Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to this week's edition of Hermes, which welcomes Lydia back as its regular editor in chief, having been convalescing for a few weeks. It's great to have her back in school. Thanks to Mandy for holding the reins in the interim.



I must start by wishing a happy Norway Day to the Hoyvag family. We very proudly (and deliciously) share this day in school. My cake arrived early in the morning and shouted "eat me" from the moment it

arrived on my desk. I remained totally disciplined until 9.15 am and then gave in. I'm highly determined and can resist everything except temptation!

Form 2s have been busy sitting their first exams of their school life as they faced the challenge of KS1 SATs. Cajoled by the comforting hands of Mrs Thorpe and Mrs Hill and encouraged by supportive parents, they have coped admirably and we're all very proud of them.

They did have some R and R as they joined in one of the highlights of their year, which is the visit of Bugfest. The children all got to experience the first hand "joy" of handling huge spiders and a variety of overly-large insects on steroids.



Forms 3s have had a much more active week, having been on their rearranged exped to Rock and Rapids in South Moulton accompanied by Mrs King, Ms Dingle and the omnipresent expeditioner, Mr Stazicker. The weather has been very kind to them and they seem to have had a great time. I'm not sure the staff have had much R and R and I must pay great tribute to all those who give up all their free time to make the trips such a highlight of any school group.



Hopefully you will see a write up in the soon to be printed inaugural yearbook that Mrs Smith and Mrs Fernley are busy editing.

Form 5s will be heading off on their own exped next week, accompanied by Mr Willemse, Mrs Thorpe and Mrs Sales. In her absence, Miss Dingle will replace Mrs Thorpe in Form 2.

What will I do to survive? Meals in front of the telly, sole jurisdiction of the TV remote and socks and undies left carelessly on the bedroom floor. Not me you understand, never, honest m'lud!

Forms 6-8s have their end of year exams to "look forward" to next week. Their task is rather formidable as they will all sit their exams in the school hall. I am always very impressed at how coolly and calmly they prepare and how well they do.

It is a great relief to us all not having to wait until the second week in June for Form 8's to sit their formal Common Entrance exams and to wait even later for their results. Schools still sitting CE seem to be very much in decline.

Mrs Sewed returned from a very interesting day of CPD this week. Her course was entitled, "What's after Common Entrance". I was delighted to hear that we are a very long way ahead of the curve with our senior creative curriculum and that many schools

were keen to visit us to see the ways in which we are combining subjects to further enhance learning.



Former pupils of the school also seem to feature prominently in this week's Hermes with our alumni having covered themselves with glory in the Ten Tors competition and in the Dorney Lakes Rowing Festival. Elliott was awarded a Ball Cup silver medal. We really value keeping in touch as we gain a great impression of how the skills we helped develop have started to mature.



This was very evident with the Canford team who entered the Ten Tors. It was very clear that Jamie B's experiences on many of



Mr Stazicker's expeds helped support his team. His camping, navigation and team building skills really came to the fore. We'd like to think we played a small part in their success.

Our own teams fared very well in a range of matches this week. I was very pleased to see the girls playing diamond cricket this week. It is a very exciting version of the game which is quick moving and highly skilled and seems to be very well-received by all those playing and coaching it.

Elsewhere, the news this week has been full of the heated debate between learning "parrot fashion" or developing life skills. New exams are moving away from continuous assessment and relying more on one's ability to memorise and regurgitate. It seems more than retrogressive as I am certain very few of us have to rely on pure memory to fulfil the many and varied aspects of our job descriptions. Surely the primary focus of learning should be to inspire those in our care and provide a virtual tool box of skills that can be called upon to solve a particular problem.

That said, there are still a few aspects of learning that need rote, a good example being learning your times tables, for which there seems few substitutes.

On Wednesday we set about part one of filming a short movie of the school through the eyes of a pupil. It seemed to go very well indeed with the added blessing of good weather. Part 2 was due to take place today but the inclement weather put paid to that as the overcast conditions would have prevented any continuity. A second day will



be scheduled soon once we have a better idea of the weather. I look forward to sharing the outcome with you all as soon as possible.

The dry weather has put some of our trees in a semi-state of duress, none more so than Steve's tree. With his Memorial Day forthcoming on Saturday 15th June, Liz has made sure it receives lots of tender loving care to get it in great shape ahead of his family's visit. Older parents and pupils will still hold memories of Steve close to their hearts. Newer parents will be less familiar.



Steve was a former chef of the school who died very unexpectedly. He was a very proud Chelsea supporter and would have revelled in both the success of his team recently, and also of the demise of my own team Leeds United who were rather humbled by Derby in the second leg of the semi-finals of the Championship play-offs. The less said the better on this, though I have had to run the inevitable gauntlet of Henry T in Form 7 who supports Nottingham Forest and has been basking in my discomfort.

This morning, Mrs Nolan-Stone and her peripatetic musicians and their students delivered the most amazing musical assembly for us all. They really show-cased their skills and talents and hopefully inspired a new generation of children to take up a musical instrument. Mrs Moss and her chamber choir sang "Bridge Under Troubled water" (according to Lily B) It was a fantastic way to end the week.



We had a wonderful morning with BugFest. The children were very confident and were eager to hold the bugs. They learnt all about the fascinating creatures.

Many of the children were a lot braver than some of the teachers!



Wishing you all a very restful weekend.

John Thorpe.

Mr John Thorpe
Headmaster

Nursery



Arthur, Benjamin and Sholto enjoyed a sunny afternoon making 'ice creams' using shaving foam and sand!



Junior Prep

More BugFest Fun!



Form 3 & 4

Last term, Form 4 read 'Who Let the Gods Out' by Maz Evans in English as part of their cross-curricular topic on the Ancient Greeks.



We were extremely lucky that Maz Evans came to visit our school on Tuesday this week and run a creative writing workshop with Forms 3 and 4. Maz is a best-selling author and she was actually born in Dorchester!

For more information visit <https://maz.world/>

Music News

Please check lesson times carefully as they have been planned around exams. Mr Wheeler will be teaching on Monday and Tuesday, Mrs Hawes will be teaching on Tuesday, Mrs Nolan-Stone will be teaching on Monday also next week.

Congratulations to all our pupils who performed in this morning's music assembly. The music department thoroughly enjoyed performing for you and we found out that Daisy H is the same height as a baritone saxophone!



Ella Earns Her Wings

Ella (from Fledglings) popped into SPS to catch up this week and share that she has finished her training with BA and earnt her wings. She began her flying career yesterday, travelling to Stockholm, before moving onto long haul in a few weeks.

Congratulations and we look forward to flying with you in the future!



Sports News

Team: **West Dorset Year 4**
Swimming Gala
Venue: **1610**



The Form 4's competed in the West Dorset Swimming Gala at 1610 on Tuesday.

Each participant raced in either a relay or individual event. The effort was formidable and fantastic personal times were achieved. We are eagerly awaiting the results to see who has qualified for the county finals after half term.

Well done to all swimmers!

Team: *U10 Rounders v BCS Prep*
Venue: *BCS*
Result: *24 ½ - 11 ½ loss*

After a quick reminder on the rules of Rounders the girls were raring to go, all 6 of them against a full team of 9. They lost the toss so were in to bat first, keen to get as many points on the board in their first innings. Imogen hit a corker of a shot between 2nd and 3rd base to score the first rounder for Sunninghill. Some inconsistent bowling from BCS boosted our score as we took full advantage of consecutive no-balls. Polina and Amelia managed to hit the ball far enough to get to second and finished the first innings on 5 ½ rounders. We were just a bit hesitant moving off the posts in time for the next batter.

BCS had some strong hitters which really upset our fielding as they were having to cover another 3 positions. Izzy. S had a really fast bowl which put the batters off, and Imogen's rapid fielding decisions managed to get a couple of players out at second post.

The second innings and the girls were producing some good hits, but BCS fielding was tight and they were getting the ball back to second post quicker than we could get there. We managed a few half rounders but just couldn't get the ball far enough to make it a full rounder. A tough game with limited players but the girls kept their spirits up.

Contribution Award: *from the opposition was Polina, and I'd like to award Imogen for her efforts in both batting and fielding.*

Team: *U11 Rounders v BCS Prep*
Venue: *BCS*
Result: *19 ½ - 13 ½ loss*

We went to Bournemouth CS with our cricket bats and all geared up to play pairs cricket after practicing hard. Arrived at their field to find 2 rounders pitches set up!!!

After a very quick revision of the rules and with the girls quite excited to play we fielded first. Mia stepped up to bowl and did really well and the opposition struggled to hit the ball at first but they got their eye in and managed to score 11 in their first innings. We then batted and also could not hit the ball at first. Holly ran well to score a rounder with Georgie, Zuzanna and Indi picking up half rounders to make 8 ½ making it fairly close going into the 2nd innings. Bournemouth hit well scoring several whole rounders to achieve 8 ½ and we managed to make 5 with some good running from first to second post on backward hits. Well done to everyone for switching games and tuning in to the rounders rules.

Contribution Award: *The opposition chose Holly for her fielding and Zuzanna for her batting.*

Team: *U12/13 Cricket v Clayesmore*
Venue: *Martinstown*
Result:

SPS 81-9 (after 20 overs) – 82-9 (after 19,2 overs) **Clayesmore**

This was a hugely exciting and entertaining game that ended in one of the closest T20 games I have ever umpired. But for tiny margins this could and would have gone either way.

On a glorious afternoon we had a short photo session and went into bat. Our top order started steadily with **Harry** and **Henry** opening and frustrating their bowlers - **Henry** hit three beautiful boundaries. Captain **Tom** came in at three and try as he might could not get himself out. We finished our innings with a very respectable 81. Our bowling figures were led by **Tom** with three wickets and Nathan picked up two and **Harry** and **Toby** grabbed a wicket each. There was some great fielding notably two superb catches from **Lawrence**. In a parallel universe we took another wicket or scored another boundary and this match would be chalked up as a win. If we don't

make it as cricketers we can always fall back on our modelling careers.

Contribution Award: Lawrence - for his two superb catches in the field.

Team: U11 Pairs Cricket
Venue: Clayesmore
Result: 238 – 229 loss

Though the match started shakily with the Sunninghill boys batting, it soon picked up. Fantastic batting work from all quickly racked up the runs. A few unfortunate bounces for us from fantastic Clayesmore bowls resulted in a few outs. Great teamwork and coordination with the runs meant that not a single Sunninghill player was run or stumped out. William and Orlando in particular worked incredibly well together.

The boys did not allow the Clayesmore batters to be so fortunate. The fielding was equally as good with Henry and William providing some excellent cover. Stunning bowling by Valentine and Gethyn was accompanied by some stupendous bowls by Leo and Daniel. The match was incredibly close, with Sunninghill leading into the last Clayesmore pairing.

Contribution Award: Leo and Daniel

Team: U10 Pairs Cricket
Venue: Clayesmore
Result: 279 – 260 win

The U10 boys enjoyed their first away match of the season at Clayesmore. Special mention to Vishnu for his solid and accurate bowling. Overall the bowling was very good although perhaps a few too many wide balls.



Batting was solid with Sam and Max scoring lovely 4's. James defended his wicket brilliantly whilst Tom also batted well.

Contribution Award: William for his excellent cricket etiquette off the pitch and lovely bowling.

Team: Sainsbury's Games Mini Tennis Year 3 and 4 Qualifier
Venue: Dorchester Tennis Club
Result: Win

A strong tennis team consisting of Felix, Carolina, Iris and William travelled to Dorchester Tennis and Squash Club on Monday afternoon to take part in the Sainsbury's Games tennis tournament. They played 4 matches each and all improved as the tournament went on. Carolina played very well for her first event whilst Iris showed her opponents every corner of the court. Felix and William both noted tough victories which made the team overall winners. They have now qualified for the area finals.



Team: U8/9B Mixed Cricket
Venue: Sherborne
Result: 68 – 62 win

Sherborne put us into bat first with Rex and Oliver as our opening pair scoring 10 runs in their 2 overs. All our batsmen hit the ball

well at times but everyone was hesitant with running between the wickets. We could have got a few more runs if we had been more positive. Clara and Kitty, Charlie and Mark also scored 10. Felix and Freddie scored 15 with Felix hitting the ball hard and making the Sherborne fielders work. As the highest scoring pair they batted again and this time scored 23 which was brilliant making our final score 68. Sherborne then came into bat and we bowled in the same pairs. Our bowling was pretty accurate and although we gave away wides and no balls, the majority were on target. Charlie made the batsman play with some good length bowling and Mark took a great catch. Felix and Freddie bowled well and although our concentration was a little wayward in the field everyone chased after the ball and threw into the wicket. A great game and a close score in the end. Well done to everyone.

Contribution Award: Felix for some great batting and bowling.

Water Safety in the Summer

You may be interested in a few ways to help keep the SPS children stay safe this summer.



Why not invite in the RNLI to come do a fun session about sea safety this summer?

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/contact-our-youth-education-team>

There is also swimsafe.org.uk - SPS families can sign their children up for sessions this summer.

Get children aged 7–14 ready for safe swimming in open water with Swim England and the RNLI's free water safety sessions. Choose from inland and coastal sites throughout the UK.

Book your free session today at swimsafe.org.uk.

Mr Taschner

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

Lunch Menu

Monday 20th May

Margarita Pizza
Wedges
Cucumber
Dessert: Iced Coffee Cake

Tuesday 21st May

Roast Chicken Breast
Vegetarian Option: Spinach Tortellini
New Potatoes
Broccoli & Carrots
Dessert: Flap Jack

Wednesday 22nd May

Tuna Pasta Bake
Vegetarian Option: Mediterranean Vegetable Pasta Bake
Salad Leaves
Grated Cheese
Dessert: Apple & Blackberry Crumble With Custard

Thursday 23rd May

Beef Burger in a Bun
Vegetarian Option: Beetroot & Feta Burger
Chips
Baked Beans
Dessert: Cherry Bakewell Slice

Friday 24th May

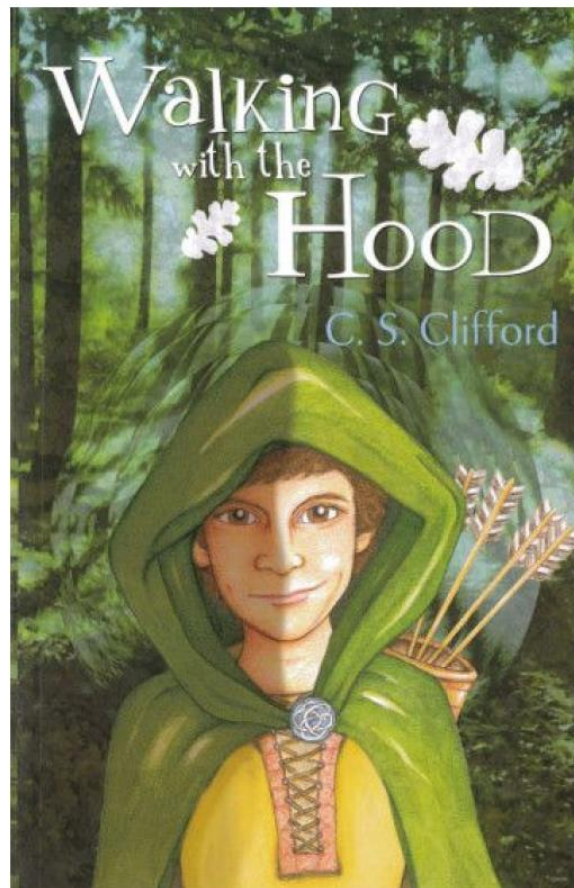
Brenden's Birthday Lunch Choice

Chicken Fajitas
Vegetarian Option: Halloumi Fajitas
Peppers, Onions, Guacamole & Salsa
Dessert: Red Velvet Cake

Kids Book Event!

Popular children's author C.S. Clifford will be joining us for an author event and book signing. Come along and have some fun!

Recommended for ages 6 - 12. Booking essential.



Dorchester Library
Saturday 1st June
1.30pm - 3.00pm

Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer

For more information Tel: 01305 224440

www.dorsetcouncil.com/libraries

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook @DorsetLibraries

Weekly Diary

WHOLE SCHOOL DIARY OF EVENTS	20th May	Form 6-8 Exam week (Monday-Wednesday) U13 & U12 Cricket Practice @ Martinstown
	21st May	Form 5 Exped (Tuesday-Friday) U9 & U8 Mixed Pairs Cricket v Salisbury CANCELLED
	22nd May	Forms 1&3 Forest Schools U13 & U12 Cricket v Knighton House@ Martinstown 2.30 pm U11 Cricket v Knighton House @ Knighton House 2.30 pm Form 3-8 effort grades on portal
	23rd May	IAPS U13 National Sailing Championships Reception trip to Lorton Meadows 9.30 - 3.00 pm Informal Music Concert 4.00 pm Golf @ Dorset Golf & Country Club 4.30 - 6.30 pm
	24th May	Form 3 Assembly- Parents welcome -Breakfast to follow Parent & Toddler Group 10 -11.30 am Forms 3 & 4 Sailing 2.00 pm Inter House Biathle 2.30 pm Form 5 Exped returns @ 4.30pm
LETTERS ON THE PORTAL		Music Timetable- Week 5
		Menu - 20th May
		Fixtures of the Week and Team Sheets
Nursery		Routine Checks
Reception		Routine Checks
Form 1		Routine Checks
Form 2		Routine Checks/ Next Week
Form 3		Routine Checks
Form 4		Routine Checks
Form 5		Routine Checks
Form 6		Routine Checks
Form 7		Routine Checks
Form 8		Routine Checks