



Popp-ees

8th November 2019

Autumn Term

Issue No. 507

We will remember them.



Wreath created by Dorset Flower Farmer

Dear Parents

Welcome to a bumper edition of Hermes. There is so much news to share and you may need to read this week's edition over several days.

Firstly, a happy bonfire week to you all. I'm delighted to see all your children arrived back in school apparently safe and sound. It is always a big relief.

It was interesting to read the RSPCA's take of this event on the impact on our animals. Ivy is completely oblivious to bangs and crashes. It would require her to awaken from her many slumbers. Whilst she can never replace Molly in my heart, she has played a very important role as a "substitute" school dog and I know the children love her gentle shyness and never ending good humour, not to mention her naughty mischievousness.



On the subject of bonfires, I'm from a long line of very happy pyromaniacs. My beloved Granny always used to tell me she knew exactly where my lovely dad was because a part of the hillside above their house in lower Wharfedale would be smouldering. On one particularly bonfire night, I vividly remember a Catherine wheel that flew off the fence post and whirled around our lawn to our great delight and an aeroplane firework that flew through the sky that landed in a nearby tree and set it on fire. The fire brigade were called out to deal with said burning bush and our raging fire was extinguished for good measure, much to my dad's chagrin.

Pie and peas and treacle toffee – all home-made. It were reet grand it were!

I was thus delighted, to see that Junior Prep were having their own bonfire in school this week. They even had a few sparklers that the Form 1 children could just about see from their safe stance 25 metres away! I'm certain that "safe" exposure to danger is one of life's great treats and prepares you for the real

world. My holiday clubbers got in on the act too with their “twizzle breading”.



My many fishing expeds are seldom organised without a “kelly kettle”. If you don’t own one it’s a must for your Christmas present list. These storm kettles light in the strongest of winds and can be set alight using heather, dry dung and just about anything else that is combustible! They are also brilliant at keeping away the many “no-see-ums” if you are frequent visitor to Scotland.



Perhaps not so good for global warming but great to supply your very best fishing buddies with a bank-side brew on a very cold day when the line is freezing in your rod rings!



I mention GW because two passionate eco warriors came knocking on my door this week asking if I knew anything about palm oil and oil palms. I noted their branches burnt very well which was met with great exasperation. Anyway, as often happens in school I was quickly educated in the wrongs of my ways. They asked if this scourge of modern world could be eradicated from the school menu. Kerry is on to it and the boys plan to alarm the rest of the school in Monday’s assembly. Be prepared for the discussion at home and to have the ingredients of your food supplies scrutinised.

Oil also featured heavily (lightly?) in the holiday project given to Form 3’s over half term. One such specimen was brought to me by Hamish F who not only provided the most amazing home-made experiment but also was able to explain the scientific principles behind the densities of oil and dyed water. He refused to entertain my discussions about flammability.



Half term was a very busy two weeks for school too. We added new lights down the school drive and our contractors continued to work on the lead work over the Dining Room.

We ran two very successful holiday clubs, with the senior team really enjoy their adventures including a surfing trip to Croyde Bay which really was outstanding (in the cold). Surf



South West equipped us with 5mm winter wet suits, neoprene balaclavas and booties and we were “toasty” all day. A gentle off shore breeze and a two foot swell gave perfect conditions.



A fish and chip supper (with mushy peas) really topped off a brilliant day.

The younger children had a visit from the Action Van with a bouncy castle, they went to Lemur Landings soft play and went bowling at Tower Park. The children enjoyed pumpkin carving and had a Halloween party.





We hosted the Royal Naval Association's Trafalgar Dinner which was a lovely event for the school to be part of. Forty-one veterans and their partners joined us for a wonderful meal cooked by Kerry and her team.

I was also delighted to welcome seventy members of the Chamber of Commerce for breakfast last Friday, brilliantly organised by Mrs Jacky Walker, our new events co-ordinator. Sir Oliver Letwin MP was our guest speaker.

We also had two events as part of our increasing commercial developments. One of our strategies for the coming months and years is to earn more revenue from non-academic aspects of school life, particularly during holidays when the building is vacant and safeguarding worries are less of an issue. As an example, we have agreed to host an 8 day conference next summer for the Thomas Hardy Society which includes the use of our facilities, mini buses, providing two gala dinners and more. Every spare penny of course will be reinvested in facilities and resources.



He was charmingly frank and somewhat demob happy given he will not stand for re-election next month. He has been West Dorset's representative in the Houses of Parliament since 1997. On a salutary note, he warned about the abuse that he and his fellow MP's across the house have suffered in recent months, many having received death threats that have been taken seriously by the Police.

What a terrible state of affairs – which leads me on to the small matter of a shock General Election taking place the day before we break up for Christmas. That will be a very nervous evening for me and every other independent school Head, given the manifesto pledges.



I completely agree that every child is entitled to a brilliant education, but surely the effective measure is to take our “small is beautiful” template of individualised education and rise the standards of state schools to similar levels. Smaller class sizes and greater investment would have an immediate impact. Quite where 600,000 independently educated children would go I simply do not know, as all our local schools seem to be over-subscribed. Also, the £2.5 billion of business generated (included significant revenue from overseas) must surely be a great source of pride to the country as we are one of our most successful businesses. Just think of the number of people we employ and the many services we buy in.

One thing I do know, whoever you vote for the government will always get in.

Prime Ministers of the UK from the Second World War onwards may well be a topic for our PTFA Quiz Night to be held on Thursday 21st November at 7.00 pm, kindly catered for by the Kao San restaurant (Leo’s mum). This evening always has a small but loyal following which we’d love to expand. My suggestion is that every form tries to put out a team. If this happens, I’ll do my best to persuade (bribe) each form teacher to join in with their form group. Some parents say they don’t come because they’re worried it might be too hard. With rounds like, “Guess the Flavour of Crisps” and which spirit each mahogany coloured drink might be, this couldn’t be further from the truth. I know Carol Krosnar and her PTFA will be selling tickets in Compass Lobby soon.

They’re also very busy getting ready for their Christmas Fayre, spearheaded by the redoubtable Julie Hansen.

Talking of getting busy, Karen Woollam will once again be championing worthy causes and supporting the Portland Foodbank. She will be sending a separate letter home asking for your support in donating lots of Christmas items that will make a great difference to a lovely and deserving local family. Please can I urge you to support her wholeheartedly? She

notes in her letter that you donated an amazing 87 carrier bags full of donations last year and she has set us the target of donating even more this year.

Elsewhere in school our website has a new and exciting attraction this week. A 1 minute 30 second video clip has been added that is designed to provide a child’s eye tour of the school. Sarah Smith, Mandy Jones and Rob (her husband) from Stonecoast have spent a huge amount of time generating this wonderfully evocative piece of work that truly depicts in motion who we are as a school. Please do try to watch it if you can.

This is the hyperlink for people to view it – https://youtu.be/fJDYB_RCvCE

On Wednesday evening one of the true highlights of this term, indeed the year, took place.

Form 8’s delivered their “Taming of the Shrew” at Weymouth Pavilion in front of an audience of hundreds, all as part of their work with the Shakespeare in School festival. Their performance was simply breath-taking, blending a mixture of humour, passion and anger in equal measures. They have been rehearsing for many weeks under the watching guise of Mrs Fernley and Mrs O’Donnell. I must congratulate them all for such an amazing body of work.

Thursday saw the Board of Governors, myself and Eileen meet for our termly gathering. I regularly applaud their sterling voluntary work on behalf of our entire community. They provide long term guardianship on matters that are financial, structural, developmental and welfare based. Their own personal responsibility and time commitment is significant and I thank them immensely on your behalf.

Finally, on Friday we all gathered at St George’s Church for our Remembrance Service. A lovely service, led by Mr David Bowen, Lay Licenced Reader, who gave a thought provoking talk. It was good to see so many veterans, who really appreciated the

roses that were handed out to them by some of our senior pupils.

Mr Thorpe

Mr Thorpe
Headmaster

The wreath which the children laid during the Remembrance Service was created by a local flower farmer, Debbie, at Dorset Flower Farmer. @dorsetflowerfarmer

Nursery, Reception & Form 1

The children had a great afternoon making a campfire for their 5th of November celebrations. They made and ate 'firework biscuits' and toast and had a hot chocolate as well!



We have enjoyed using recycled materials to make firework and rocket models. There have been some wonderful, imaginative creations, well done, everyone!



Form 2

Form 2 went for a walk this morning to think about the sight, smell, sound, feel and taste of Autumn. We had quite a lot of fun on the way!





Sports

Team: U11/10 Netball
Against: Handford
Venue: Away
Result: 7 – 0 loss

A great effort by all players but Hanford proved to be too much of a challenge to contend with. Izzy S worked hard against the shooter who was very consistent. Amelia was effective in defence, and managed to intercept on occasion. Imogen used the space that was available well and progressed the ball down to the shooters. We just couldn't get the ball through the net! A lot of dropped balls from both teams but Hanford had a bit more determination to win the ball back.

A lovely last match of our Netball block and the girls still enjoyed the game.

Contribution Award: Amelia for her effective defensive skills.

Form 4 Advance Notice

We will be collecting items for the Portland Food Bank at Christmas, and Form 4 will be holding a Cake Sale on Monday 18th November at Break time to raise money for the Food Bank, too

Children in Need 2019

Next Friday, 15th November we will be joining the nation to help raise money for Children in Need.



We are raising lots by wearing spots.

Spotty home clothes and a donation to your form tutor or Megan for this worthy charity.

Thank you

Team: U8/9 Rugby
Against: Sandroyd
Venue: Home
Result: 9 – 8 loss

Sunninghill were excited and nervous for their first game of school rugby. After an intense training session before the game, the players were warmed up and reminded of the rules. Leo and Freddie scored beautiful tries as they moved elegantly through the Sandroyd defence. We need to maintain focus after a try and keep the defensive line. A great first game, well done boys!

Contribution Award: Leo for moving well with the ball and being in the right position when defending.

Team: U8/9 Rugby
Against: Sandroyd
Venue: Home
Result: 5 – 5 draw

A pulsating end to end game against a mixed U8/9 team from Sandroyd saw the score line swing from side to side until the very final moment of the game.

In the first half both teams relied on individual moments of skill to score tries but much more skilful team rugby was evident in the second half as players ran and passed the ball.

The final score saw a 5 tries apiece draw and a hearty and happy match tea was enjoyed by all, parents included!

Tries were scored aplenty by Harvey K, William H and Natty S.

Contribution Award: Natty S for his brilliant running and his ability to find a narrow gap to squeeze through without having his tag taken.

Team: U12 Rugby
Against: Clayesmore
Venue: Away
Result: 45 – 10 loss

Our first competitive match was against a well skilled and drilled A team from Clayesmore who had been practising and playing matches since the beginning of the term. It was never going to be about the result but that said we managed to draw the second half. It was always going to be about team spirit and passion which we showed from the first whistle to the last.

Rugby is a very difficult game to play going backwards. Against such strong opposition we spent a lot of time defending with some ferocious rucking and tackling. We showed great support for each other in defence and also in attack moving the ball freely using every available space. It would be wrong to

single out individuals because everyone played their part and above themselves.

I was so impressed with our team togetherness and despite losing there was a feeling of achievement and enjoyment which is what sport is all about.

Contribution Awards: Our captain Gethyn ‘Alun Wyn’ who led the team superbly by example and great encouragement, and Harri ‘Hit em where it hurts’ who put in more tackles than I’d ever seen in a school match.

Team: U11 Rugby
Against: Clayesmore
Venue: Away
Result: 6 – 3 win

Sunninghill started the match strong with a beautiful try from Archie who moved like lightening past the Clayesmore line. Clayesmore equalised shortly after although tackles from James and William nearly prevented their player to do so. Further tries were scored by Theo, Archie, Sam and George. After half time, the boys started to pass and move the ball more and played excellent rugby. Sam tackled extremely well and over turned possession on many occasions. An excellent start to the season!

Contribution Award: Vishnu whose tackling and rucking was phenomenal! Well done!

Team: U10 Rugby
Against: Clayesmore
Venue: Home

Most of the boys were a little nervous before the start, in between plays, at half time and at the end! However, when they forgot their fears they were fantastic. Max (definitely not nervous) led from the front and loves running at the opposition and scoring tries. The confidence in making tackles grew rapidly

and Mark committed totally to everyone he attempted. Felix before the start said 'I can't play rugby' then proceeded to tackle everyone and run in a few tries for good measure. Alex C stood on the wing at first to avoid getting the ball. Once in his hands he was flying and scoring. Alex B ran intelligently, tackled and was always in the right position. Freddie didn't stop smiling and launched himself everywhere while Charlie nearly scored with the last move of the game after a superb run that was just stopped in time before he scored the winning try. A super draw boys well done.

Contribution Award: That will be the whole team!



Christmas Holiday Club is running for one week in December from Monday 16th until Friday 20th December. Booking forms available on our website. This is the link to website: <https://sunninghillprep.co.uk/information/holiday-club/>

PTFA Christmas Fayre

Attached is the poster for the PTFA Christmas Fayre.

A date for your diary, tickets available from Megan @ £3.00 each, it promises to be a festive and fun affair!

Community News

Avid viewers of "Made in Chelsea" will recall one of our former pupils, Verity, joining the cast last year. Now, her mum is in it! There is hope for us all!

Free table tennis runs at Thomas Hardye School every Tuesday, 5pm to 6pm, until December 5th. This is suitable for all abilities and ages, boys and girls.

There is a Table Tennis England licensed coach on hand to help beginners get started. Bats are available to borrow.

See poster for details.

For more information, please contact:

Andy Millar
Development Officer
Weymouth & District Table Tennis League

Form 8 Responsibilities for the Autumn Term

Head Boy:	Ben
Head Girl:	Erin
Sports Captains:	Henry & Gemma

Prefects:

ICT:	Esme, Josh & Aidan
Art:	Eleni & Meena
Music:	Lily & Erin
English/Publicity:	Freya, Megan & Esme
Drama:	Gabriel & Lily
Outdoor Education:	Erin & Henry
STEM:	Ben & Gemma
Eco:	Toby & Daniel
Geography:	Tymon
History/RS:	Tom & Harry
Languages:	Aidan
Food Tech:	Tom & Mckenzie

Lydia:
Secretary@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk
Mandy:
Registrar@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk
Megan & Jeanette:
receptionist@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk

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

SUNNINGHILL PREP SCHOOL
PTFA CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2019

A SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA WITH MULLED WINE,
CANAPÉS, MUSIC AND MERRIMENT

A CHANCE TO WIN FANTASTIC PRIZES OF £50 CASH
OR A SELECTION OF GIFTS FROM OUR CREATIVE
AND GENEROUS STALLHOLDERS

THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER
FROM 7PM ONWARDS

TICKETS £3



VISIT US AT SUNNINGHILL OR CALL US ON 01305 262306 TO BUY YOUR TICKETS

DORCHESTER TABLE TENNIS

THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL SPORTS HALL
(Long Hall - downstairs)

TUESDAYS - 5pm to 6pm - FREE
(Ages 8 to 18)



Weymouth and Dorchester competition squad training takes place at All Saints School, Weymouth on Saturdays (10am to 12pm) and Mondays (6.30pm to 7.30pm).

*For more details on how to get involved in table tennis contact Andy Millar
(a.millar212@gmail.com/07710507075)*



Diary of Events

WHOLE SCHOOL	11th	Form 1 Trip to the Dentist 8.30 am
DIARY OF EVENTS		Reception-Form 6 Nasal Spray 1.30 pm
	12th	U8 & U9 Hockey Practice @ SPS 2.00 pm
		U8 & U9 Rugby v Sherborne Prep @ Sherborne 2.15 pm
		Form 8 Parents' Evening 4.45 pm
	13th	U12 & 13B Hockey v Knighton House @SPS 2.15 pm
		U12 & 13A Hockey v Knighton House @ SPS 3.00 pm
		U11& U10 Hockey v Knighton House @ Knighton House 2.45 pm
		U13 Rugby v Sherborne Prep @ Sherborne Prep 2.30 pm
		U12 Rugby v Sherborne Prep @ Sherborne Prep 2.30 pm
		U11 Rugby v Sherborne Prep @ Sherborne Prep 2.30 pm
		U10 Rugby v Sherborne Prep @ SPS 2.30 pm
	14th	Reception-Form 4 Swimming
	15th	Children In Need Day - wear spots to raise lots - home clothes day
		Children in Need assembly 8.30 am
		Forms 3-5 Horrible History Trip 8.30-3.30 pm
		Parent & Toddler Group 10.00-11.30 am
Letter on the Portal	Menu	
	Sports Fixtures & Team Sheets	
	Music Timetable	
	Christmas Sports Camp (Forms 4-8)	
	Girls Netball trip 2020 (Forms 5-8)	
Nursery	No letters	
Reception	No letters	
Form 1	Trip to the Dentist	
Form 2	No letters	
Form 3	Horrible History Trip	
Form 4	Horrible History Trip/Christmas Sports Camp	
Form 5	Horrible History Trip/Christmas Sports Camp/Girls Netball trip	
Form 6	Christmas Sports Camp (Forms 4-8)/Girls Netball Trip	
Form 7	Form 7 & 8 Les Miserables/Christmas Sports Camp/Girls Netball trip	
Form 8	Form 8 Parents' Evening /Form 7 & 8 Les Miserables/Christmas Sports Camp/Girls Netball Trip	