



# Christ-mes



13<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Autumn Term

Issue No. 512

## *It's Christmas!!!*



Dear Parents

The final Hermes of the year has arrived, not quite an epiphany and certainly not brought by a wise man from the East but never-the less we bring you glad tidings.

Congratulations must go to all the contributing authors, photographers, proof readers and especially to Lydia our editor in-chief for driving such a high quality publication onwards and upwards every week with unfailing enthusiasm!

I will start with last Friday's Sunninghill's Got Talent contest. What a fantastic evening, organised by Mrs Moss and Mrs Nolan-Stone and supported superbly by our excellent peripatetic staff. The quality and range of performances was superb and ranged from David Blain to Michael Macintyre with a bit of Billy Smart and theatre-land thrown in for good measure.



I especially loved how the cast all supported each and the great fun we all had.

Congratulations to all those who took themselves out of their comfort zones and wowed us with their amazing skills.

We had our staff Secret Santa on Tuesday; a change in tradition this year. An even number on a thrown dice entitled you to temporarily grab a present from the middle of the room, or better still take somebody else's. An odd number thrown left you empty handed. With a ten minute time limit the game was fast and furious and a bit of Harvey's Bristol helped. A good tip for your own staff party?

Mrs Brunt sent us all a reminder of what a life beyond teaching looks like this week. When she retired at the end of the summer term we bought her an expensive rucksack that we knew would visit some fairly exotic places. The picture below shows Sue on the Argentinian/Chilean border, trekking high in the frozen mountains of Patagonia. She is on her way to Mt. Fitzroy.

This trip is high on my bucket list when my fishing team become more adventurous.

Sue will touch down in the UK for a brief time and then head off to New Zealand for three weeks. This is just the start of many travels she will share with us. I am not sure what the darkest shade of green is, but that's the colour I feel x10!



Reports were sent home on Wednesday. I must pay tribute to all the teachers who work so hard to get these very comprehensive documents sent home to you before the end of term and to Mrs Sewed who manages the process and attaches every one individually to the school portal.

On Thursday the whole school wore their very best Christmas jumpers, including Ivy. Spirits were high for one of the most exciting days of the week.

We raised an amazing £105 for the Save the Children charity.



We started the day with our end of term Endeavour Assembly celebrating a range of achievements across academic, musical and sporting domains. Thanks to Mrs Sewed and Mr Stazicker for their great organisation amidst everything else that has been going on in school.



At 11.00 am we had Carols under the Stairs. Attended by an ever-increasing and appreciative audience of parents, we welcomed a new Liberace to piano in the form of Mrs Nolan-Stone who made her debut in the absence of Mr Vanburgh. I think he has started celebrating Liverpool's title winning season early. Oops, I mustn't tempt fate too early!



Once again, the kitchen staff exceeded every expectation we had for Christmas lunch. My favourite program at the moment is Master Chef the Professionals. I don't think even the six finalists could have conjured up a more delicious lunch. Homemade stuffing was filled with dried cranberries and sausages in blankets adorned the plates of the many. I had lunch with Junior Prep who sang "Last Christmas" the whole way through. I loved their lyrics – do ask them to sing it for you.



Thursday is often a day when former pupils come back to visit us, often as they have broken up from their boarding schools. I looked up from my desk on Thursday mainly because the light had dimmed, and I wasn't sure what was happening. It turned out to be former Head Boy Lucas J who just about fit through my office door. Lucas is now in year 10 at Clayesmore and still playing water polo to a very high level, turning out in the second row of their U15 1<sup>st</sup> XV when his broken shoulders permit! Thankfully he has lost none of his charm and gentleness despite a very deep and gravelly voice and a developing moustache!

We all awoke on Friday morning to find out what the exit polls of the previous evening had been predicting – a very large conservative majority. Whatever your political persuasion, the one undeniable truth is that we will hopefully all be freed from the interminable impasse of the previous three years and will be able to move on with our lives with a greater degree of certainty. That is unless you carefully factor in the huge gains made by the SDP in Scotland and their inevitable march towards a second referendum of independence.



The children also had their own General Election. 107 children voted and the results were as follows.

Liberal Democrats	29 votes (27%)
Conservative	33 votes (31%)
Labour	4 votes (4%)
Greens	41 votes (38%)

I found these results very interesting. The Remain vote clearly featured very strongly in the minds of your children. A significant proportion had business on their minds but the “first past the post” were the Green party. I have to say this did not surprise me because your children have their hearts and minds firmly entrenched in a passionate care for the environment and for animals in particular.

Finally, the Christmas Carol service was another tribute to the most talented of staff and children and was a wonderful community event that truly allows you to enjoy Christmas through the eyes of a child.

Before I sign off for the year I wanted to share with you an incredibly moving story that has been born out of tragedy. It cannot fail but to renew your faith in humanity.

You will remember that two adults were very sadly killed in the recent London Bridge attack.

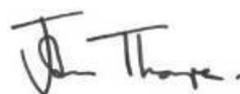
One of the victims was Jack Merritt, a highly talented and privileged individual who had shunned the wealth and fame his Cambridge degree might have afforded him to work in helping re-integrate those who had served a prison sentence back into society.

Following the tragedy his proud parents could easily have descended into anger and self-pity, but no.

These are the unforgettable words of his very proud and dignified father:

“Jack believed in the inherent goodness of humanity, and felt a deep social responsibility to protect that. Through us all, Jack marches on. Borrow his intelligence, share his drive, feel his passion, burn with his anger, and extinguish hatred with his kindness. Never give up his fight.” – Dave Merritt (Jack’s Dad)

Seems like a perfect message for us all at Christmas.



Mr John Thorpe,  
Headmaster

### ***Nativity***



### ***Sunninghill’s Got Talent***





*Father Christmas paid a visit!*





***Carols around the Tree***



***Christmas Parties***



***Portland Food Bank Thank-You***

Huge thanks to all the wonderful children and parents of Sunninghill, the kindness and love you have shown the Portland Foodbank this year has been tremendous. The volunteers were so overwhelmed, delighted and grateful. Sunninghill would like to carry on supporting the foodbank throughout the year, more information to follow next term from Mrs Sewed.

Wishing you all a magical and peaceful Christmas. *Karen Woollam*



Below is a letter from Rosemaire Husain,  
Portland Foodbank Manager to John Thorpe.

On behalf of Portland Foodbank and the community we serve, may I say a huge thank you to Sunninghill School for your incredible kindness and generosity.



I was truly amazed when Karen contacted me with offer of Christmas donations, it's just wonderful to realise that people care and want to help those in less fortunate circumstances than themselves.

Portland has one of the highest levels of poverty in the UK and there are many, many families who truly struggle to feed their children, and single people who, after paying rent and bills, just don't have anything left for food. It would be great if Foodbanks went "out of business" but that's not going to happen soon.

Today we were able to make up 40 special Christmas bags, hopefully enough to give one to each client that visits us. We achieved this thanks to your help and we hope that these bags will bring a little happiness and a smile to the recipients.

Thank you all again for your help and support.  
Very kind regards,

*Rosemaire Husain*

## **Community News**

A big thank you to the PTFA for organising the Christmas Fayre. I am absolutely delighted to have won a prize - a true basket of festive delights.

*Jacky Walker*



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

## **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](mailto:Secretary@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk)

Mandy:

[Registrar@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:Registrar@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk)

Megan & Jeanette:

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## *Weekly Diary*

<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	8th	<b>Term Starts</b>
<b>DIARY OF EVENTS</b>		
	9th	Forms 5 - 8 Mary Poppins Theatre Trip London 8.30 am-9.30 pm Reception & Form 1 Swimming @ 1610
	10th	Form 2 Skiing Enrichment 1.30 pm
<b>Letters on the Portal</b>		Spring Term Sports Letter Spring Term Tennis Letter Christmas Full Reports
<b>Nursery</b>		
<b>Reception</b>		
<b>Form 1</b>		
<b>Form 2</b>		
<b>Form 3</b>		
<b>Form 4</b>		
<b>Form 5</b>		Mary Poppins reminder
<b>Form 6</b>		On-line safety Instagram/Mary Poppins Reminder
<b>Form 7</b>		On-line safety Instagram/Mary Poppins Reminder/The Globe letter
<b>Form 8</b>		On-line safety Instagram/Mary Poppins Reminder