

“Hermes”

“If you stand for nothing you will fall for everything”

5th June 2020

Summer Term

Issue No. 529

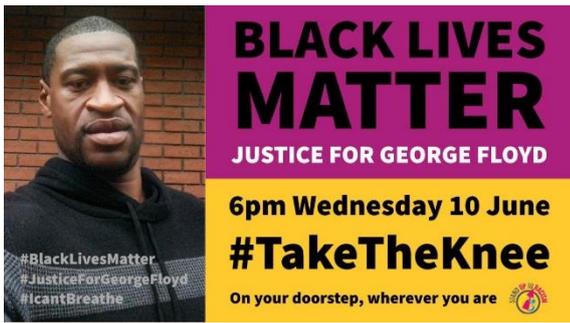
Privilege

Because I am white
Black lives matter;
That’s right, but I would never fully understand
because I’m white.
Sticks and stones will break bones, and a knee will
take a life.
Tear gas and barricades
Will need first aids;
We won’t stop until we can parade.
Signs and chants,
Dismissed as rants.

Privilege

I understand that I do not understand.
“I can’t breathe!”
“Don’t shoot!”
Words I’ll never have to speak.
I understand that I do not understand
But I see what is happening.
I believe that we have to stand up and fight
For what is right.
I understand that I do not understand:
To feel oppressed just because of the colour of my
skin;
To be scared to walk out of my house.
I fully understand that I do not understand
But together we stand.

Dear Parents
Welcome to this week's Hermes



I have reserved the front page of this week's Hermes for two amazing poems written by a current Sunninghill pupil and her brother who is a former Sunninghill pupil. Events in school cannot begin to be shared until we have stood in solidarity against the appalling atrocities that have taken place in America this week. I have deliberately pluralised the event as the lack of political support that followed on was equally heart-breaking to follow.

We have talked to our senior children about these events and Mrs Fernley has encouraged her eloquent writers to prove that the pen is mightier than the sword.

When I first read the poems they pierced my heart and continue to do so. Please do take a moment this weekend to talk to your children about racism. Let us all agree that not only will we condemn such actions in words but that we will also stand up for those who need our support.

As educators we have been asked what part we can play in educating young minds, particularly with regard to the history of the past two hundred years or so. It is something we will review to make sure our role is as supportive and proactive as possible.

On Monday we welcomed back to school children in Nursery, Reception, Form 1 and Form 6 children. The depth of planning and preparation has been significant but it has been worth it to see the joy on the faces of those returning and meeting up with long lost friends.



Form 1s have been full of energy and joy and have been joined by a very special new classmate called Betsy. Her behaviour has been impeccable though her maths is a little "ruff".

Form 6s have brought their energy and vitality which has really lifted the school. The boys have got straight back to their full time game of football and have just about managed to avoid tackling each other. SD football is far from easy.



Summer officially began this week. The seagulls have successfully hatched their eggs and the chicks are making good progress. The parents will soon be getting very territorial, especially when the chicks fledge and try to fly the nest. They inevitably fail to launch first time round and remain grounded until their flight muscles develop fully.

Until then we will be at their parents' mercy and will need to give them a wide berth.

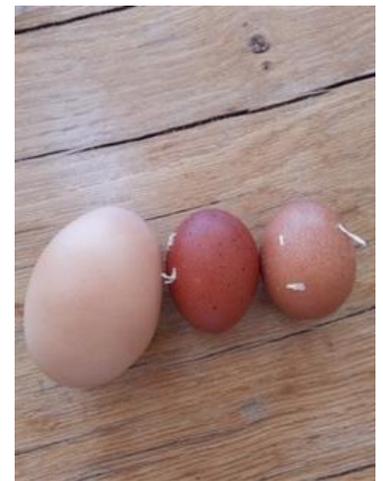


Pictured alongside is a lovely fawn that was crossing the river with its mum who waited patiently nearby whilst its progeny froze until the danger (me) had quietly passed by.

The rain was certainly welcome this week and not just by the government who hope it will keep more folk off the beaches.

Our gardens and crops have certainly benefitted from this though more is still needed and possibly on the horizon.

Staying with eggs for a brief soufflé, gathering ours at home has brought a real surprise this week. One egg was three times the size of all the others we have thus far collected and when opened there was another egg inside the egg. The two eggs on the right are particularly impressive in their own right which gives some idea of the scale of the bigger one. Now how rare is that?



Governance in school has continued to be as active and supportive as ever, though our regular meetings have taken place virtually through Google Meet. With their blessing, I took a photograph of our gathering this week. They send their warm greetings to you all and on your behalf I thank them for their continued guidance and support.

The governing body has been instrumental in developing a most thorough Covid 19 risk assessment to help keep us all safe. Do remember a copy can be found on the school's website. I also keep an active working copy in school which seems to change on a daily basis to take into consideration new procedures.

One (amongst many) of the challenges we face at the moment is to provide a healthy lunch whilst maintaining all the guidelines associated with catering and transmission risks. It has certainly tested Kerry and Brenden (rarely known to be photographed!) though as ever they have proven to be up to the challenge. Handling dirty plates and glasses has been an issue so we temporarily moved across to disposable tubs and boxes that are 100% compostable and will be encouraging improved plant growth in a year's time. Early on in our development forks were plastic and not recyclable. Despite everything else that is going on in the world this did not pass the beady eye of eco-warrior Amelia F. With her proactive input we very quickly moved across to forks that can also be compostable. At least there is still one person in school who can see the wood from the trees.



The lovely Form 8s continue to be in my thoughts.

We should all have been departing for our summer expedition to Guernsey this

Sunday. To make matters worse a number are still waiting for the appeals to Thomas Hardy School to be heard. Mrs Sewed is working very hard to try to establish a remote Lion's lair project for them to get their teeth into.



Well, that's it for this week folks. Have a lovely weekend with your family and friends!

Mr Thorpe