

# “Hermes”

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Summer Term

Issue No. 535

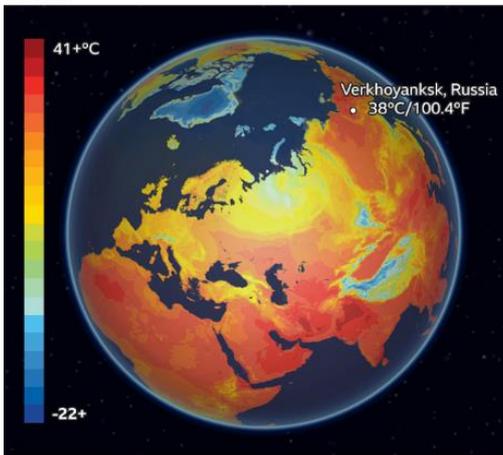
Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to the penultimate Hermes of the year.

“Normal” for this time of year would be an absolute hive of activities with at least ten different events taking place morning, noon and night. Mary Poppins would have been but a warm glow in the distant past and the Form 8s would have returned from Guernsey hungry and happy.

This week is quite different and very much business as usual with a range of academic lessons taking place in the morning and a little bit more fun and games taking place in the afternoon, especially for the senior prep key worker group, many of whom have done a long “shift” at the chalk face dating back to March.

Temperatures in the Arctic Circle hit record levels



Source: BBC Weather

BBC

I am absolutely delighted that we have been able to organise a leaving do for the Form 8s though very sorry you all can't be with us to join in their celebrations. Their event will take place next Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July with school for everybody else finishing at 12noon that day. I will make sure that the final Hermes of the year includes lots of photos of the event for you to enjoy. We have a special break time treat planned for your children to say a very well done for working so hard this term.

The other major talking point is how we have established a safe route back for every child to be in school full time from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Start and finish times will be staggered, classes fixed in one place and specialist teachers moving to the children. It will undoubtedly reduce some of our capacity to deliver particular modules but will COVID-proof us against future problems that seem ever more likely to re-surface once the cold damp weather of November and December arrives.

That said, weather patterns are becoming ever more uncertain. This week is likely to have seen the highest ever recorded temperature north of the Arctic Circle.

A Siberian town called Verkhoyansk recorded a temperature high of 38 °C this week. That's 100.4°F in old money!



**Rotary YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST COMPETITION** AGES 7-17

I WANT TO SAVE THE PLANET

**Calling all young eco-champions**

Are you passionate about the planet? Do you have what it takes to create ingenious ways to tackle environmental issues? Then take part in the annual Rotary Young Environmentalist competition.

To nominate, contact: Roger Greet, [rogergreet2017@gmail.com](mailto:rogergreet2017@gmail.com)  
 Rotary Club: Casterbridge

Download the competition information pack at [rotary.org](http://rotary.org) Great Britain & Ireland

The significance of this will not be lost on some of our eco-warriors, notably those in Form 6. I received an invite this week from Mrs Rachel Dunford of the Casterbridge Rotary Club, who are calling for all young environmentalists to enter a competition, details of which are posted alongside.

I have a full information pack which will be made available to all the children interested in more details. I am certain Izzy S and Amelia F will be hot on the trail!

As I type, tutors are putting the finishing touches to this summer's written report. It is going to take a very different format which will concentrate on a pupil's eye view of their year followed by a tutor summary and Headmaster comment.

As you will appreciate, we have been unable to complete end of year tests that normally provide valuable summative data to add to our spreadsheets and that help us track pupil progress and inform decisions for individualised learning. We have scheduled this testing to take place mid-way through the autumn term. It will give us the opportunity to use the information both as summative and formative data.

I was delighted to receive some fabulous news of Sunninghill alumni this week.



Pictured above are Henry S and Katie M who were in the same class here from 1998 onwards. Both are now fully qualified doctors working together at Winchester Hospital. Now if that's not a massive coincidence, I don't know what is!

Henry's mum Kate is a regular rambler with the staff on a Wednesday evening and was with us on our Lulworth "Three Peaks" scramble this week. Henry's dad Nigel is a former SPS governor and my Labrador "go to" guru.

I promised last week that I would share with you a picture of Lydia and Roger's wedding day. True to my word, here it is, with the bride and groom looking absolutely resplendent. I am sure you will join with me in wishing them many years of happily wedded bliss.



Whilst most of the world (Jo and I included) seem to be heading to the Lake District this summer, Eileen (our redoubtable Bursar) knows much better.

I am loathe to share her holiday destination just in case you are curious and decide to go there for yourself. If you promise to keep it a secret, I will divulge that she is off to Northumberland, without doubt one of my favourite places in the whole of the country.

To whet your appetite, just imagine being on Bamburgh beach with the the Farne Islands beckoning out to sea, a reasonable swell to surf and an amazing castle as the back drop. Finish the day with fish and chips out of the paper in Seahouses.



One word of cautionary note, it's not a place to go if you have anything near the thermal properties of a reptile. In the warmest of summers you'd be far better off in Eastern Siberia, especially this year. Even just dipping a toe in the North Sea is to be certain of the rapid onset of hyperthermia.



Eileen will not be in school for the next two weeks, though will reply to

your emails upon her return. I must thank Eileen sincerely for her tremendous attention to detail during this pandemic. She has been a major factor behind keeping us all safe and healthy.

Normally at this stage of the term we would have had a move up day and you would be aware of the tutor group that your child would be having in September. Given so many other parts of the educational landscape are moving at the moment we will make very few changes to existing tutor groups. Listed below are the tutors and assistants in each year group

Class	Teacher	Assistant	Form Room	Arrival time	Departure time
Nursery	Mrs Beasley	Mrs Pitman	Nursery	9.00am	3.30pm
Reception	Mrs Sleightholme		Reception	9.00am	3.30pm
Form 1	Mrs Livesey	Mrs Culshaw	F1	9.00am	3.30pm
Form 2	Mrs Thorpe	Mrs Hill	F2	8.30am	4.00pm
Form 3	Mrs Johnstone	Mrs Baker	F3	8.30am	4.00pm
Form 4	Mrs Moss	Mrs Blair	F4	8.30am	4.00pm
Form 5	Mr Willemse	tbc	Music Rm	8.15am	4.30pm
Form 6	Mr Stazicker		Art Rm	8.15am	4.30pm
Form 7	Mrs Fernley		English Rm	8.15am	4.30pm
Form 8	Mrs Smith		Maths Rm	8.15am	4.30pm

The observant amongst you will notice the senior form rooms are different to normal. Each of these locations will provide a separate bubble on a separate floor. Specialist teachers will “ply their trade” in bubble rooms. There will thus be minimal movement around the corridors. You will also see that we have again staggered arrival and departure times but that these have been condensed. As of this term, we will “mop up” siblings arriving later or departing earlier. We have gone one step further with lunches in September and will have just two classes in any lunch sitting to minimise numbers and to keep our bubbles separate whatever wave two might throw at us.

We will also not be wearing ties and blazers at the start of next term and to make sure a full games program can take place we are going to ask children to arrive at school wearing a track suit on games days. This will avoid the need for large numbers of children to be together in the changing rooms. Games sessions will all take place in class groups and be mixed gender and we won't have off-site fixtures in the autumn term.

I am really excited about the prospect of the form groups playing blocks of hockey, football, netball and touch rugby together. So much cross pollination of skills will take place. Mrs Wilson and Mr Willemse will be writing to you to share more detail.

We also won't be running our usual mini bus pick-ups in a morning or having off-site trips and visits.

Whilst these new measures don't take us back to "open for business as usual" they are designed to COVID-proof us from potential threats of future lockdowns and mean we have a much higher chance of keeping all your children with us full time from day one.

One of the rites of passage that has been missing this term has been the Form 7 Hustings which would normally be a chance for next year's Form 8s to put themselves forward to the school for election to a variety of posts including Head Boy and Girl and Sports Captains. We're having to do this by video and written submission this term. I will be able to share the results with you this time next week.

Well, that's it for this week. I look forward to catching up with you all for a final time next week.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend with your families.

John Thorpe  
Headmaster