



'I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which one has had to overcome while trying to succeed.' Booker T Washington

Dear Parents,

We have completed our first full week of the Autumn Term and the girls are now settling well into their routine. I am impressed with how quickly the new Nursery and Reception girls have acclimatised to their new surroundings.

Setting one's goals for the challenges ahead is a big part of any life adventure, and many of the girls have been considering their personal aims and ambitions for the new school year. For some, particularly Form VI, this year represents one of great endeavour, and it can be a daunting prospect for anyone seeking to realise goals set before them. The words by Booker T Washington are a reminder that we can only succeed by sustaining the effort and determination required to do so and remembering that, with the help of those around us encouraging us to carry on, 'we can do it.' I hope that all the girls will seek to keep this attitude throughout the year ahead.

FOSH Walk

We are hoping for good weather for the second FOSH Walk tomorrow, Saturday 17th September. All members of the school community are welcome to come. The event starts at 2.30pm.

Harvest Festival

Girls are today being issued with brown envelopes to start collecting pocket money for odd jobs they can do around the house, being helpful and when out and about. We are asking for any monies collected to be brought in to school for the Harvest Festival, when the girls will be able to come out and add to the whole school collection. An additional letter regarding the charity and further details of the service will be sent out following Monday's assembly, when we have a representative from our chosen charity, Harpenden Spotlight on Africa (HSoA) coming to speak to the girls.

'Go Blue' Art Show

I am very excited at the prospect of our second art exhibition at St Hilda's. I hope that you have all had the chance to read Mrs Rigby's introductory letter regarding the event, which celebrates St Hilda's Day on 17th November and most importantly, raises the awareness of Diabetes UK. The disease is on the increase in the UK and is readily changing the lives of young children. Diabetes can be a much misunderstood condition and can often affect those who are otherwise fit and healthy. World Diabetes Day 2016 falls in the week of St Hilda's Day. I hope that you will all feel able to support this event later in the term.

Gardening Club Volunteers

Mrs Buckland and Mrs Rushbrook, our green-fingered gardening club leaders, are interested to know if there are any grandparents or interested family members who may be able to give a couple of hours every few weeks to help with gardening club. Our girl gardeners are very keen and would be delighted if you could help them. Please email the School Office if you are able to help.

Parent Choir

We are hoping to start our Parent and Staff Choir again this term. Those of you who attended the FOSH Bazaar and Easter Service last year will have seen the choir in action. It is a friendly group of singers of all levels, so don't be put off! We would very much like to attract anyone who would enjoy the chance to sing and have some fun. Please contact Anna painter via annapainter09@aol.com if you would like to join. We will hope to start rehearsals in a few weeks' time.

New Timetables

New timetables, together with form newsletters and other information, are available on the form pages of our website. Please use these as a reference point if you need clarification on any information.

Parents Survey

I have been sent a link this week to a survey issued by the DfE, which allows parents of children in all types of schooling the opportunity to air their views regarding the proposals by the Department regarding changes to the school system. I would encourage all of you to participate. <https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/schools-that-work-for-everyone/consultation/intro/view>

FOSH Second Hand Uniform Sale

There will be a sale of second hand uniform in the Nursery classroom on Tuesday 4th October from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. A separate email will be sent with further details.

Jeans for Genes Day – 23rd September

Next Friday is Jeans for Genes Day. Girls are allowed to wear jeans and denim for the day, and are asked to bring in £1 to support this annual day in our charity calendar supporting this worthy cause.

Walking Bus

Following notification earlier this week, due to unforeseen circumstances, there will be no Walking Bus on Wednesday mornings until further notice. We will inform you as soon as we know when it will be recommencing. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Meet the Mayor Competition

St Albans District Council have issued a new competition for children which is supporting Local Democracy Week. The details are attached to the accompanying email and the deadline is 7th October.

Staff News

I am writing to inform you that, sadly, Mrs Pearson will be leaving St Hilda's at Christmas to take up a new position as Head of Individual Development at Aldwickbury in January. Mrs Pearson has had a long association with St Hilda's, as a former pupil and has been with us a member of staff since 2008. We shall all miss her very much and thank her for all her dedication as a Reception teacher, as a former Head of EYFS and member of the EYFS team. Mrs Addis will be joined by Mrs Jenny Kendall in January, teaching the Reception class in a similar job share to the present arrangement. Mrs Kendall will be joining us from the Abbey School in St Albans. She will join us in January. I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mrs Pearson every success in her new appointment.

The next newsletter will be issued on Friday 30th September.

With best wishes

Mr Sayers
Headmaster



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