



'Thus saith the Lord, will the world know my friends? Peace, perfect peace, is the gift of Christ our Lord.' Kevin Mayhew

Dear Parents,

Time is flying past and we find ourselves almost at the end of September, with the School buzzing with activity and events galore. I am also staggered to be writing my 50th newsletter already. As you will realise, we are sending a Groupcall message to parents today alerting you to the newsletter as an alternative means of communication. On Wednesday we held our first Parent Forum meeting with Form V parents and one of our discussion points was ensuring communication is not too repetitive, particularly for families with more than one daughter at St Hilda's. We seek to act on feedback so please do let us know if this communication works for you. It was a really valuable meeting and hopefully a new positive opportunity for parents to share their views. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible through the year at these events.

It was also splendid to meet some of you at the FOSH Picnic and Rounders last Saturday. A big thank you to all involved and especially to Mrs Burr and her family for a really nice event.

Yesterday, I was very proud to take Form V to the Peace Service in the Methodist Church, which was packed with children and young people from other Harpenden Schools. Our girls started the service with a moving performance of 'Peace, perfect peace', the words of which are at the top of this letter. Gracious words much needed in our world at present.

This morning we welcomed two representatives from the NSPCC who shared some very important information with girls from Reception upwards. I would recommend that you chat with them about the issues involved, and particularly the paramount need to talk together as a family about matters such as this.

Our new friend

The girls (and staff!) were greatly excited earlier this week to welcome 'Bill', our new School rabbit to St Hilda's. He is settling in and will soon be joined, in an adjoining residence, by two male guinea pigs. The girls will all have the opportunity to spend some time on a rotation basis enjoying our new pets at break time. We would like to have a naming competition for these new additions to the St Hilda's family, so do debate this at home and send in any thoughts, via your daughter's form teacher. We will then draw names out of a hat. The deadline for this is next Friday, 29th September.



Winter Coat

We have been advised by Stevenson's that our long navy coat is being discontinued from their uniform range from September next year. Our second Hand Uniform sale is being held on Tuesday 10th October and this will be the last opportunity to send in coats for sale, which will be sold at a reduced price. Any coats donated after this point will be given to charity. We are in the process of choosing a new, warm and practical coat to replace our current item, details of which will be announced shortly, together with availability. If your daughter has outgrown her coat we are happy for her to wear her fleece, or a warmer coat which we would prefer to be a darker or plain colour, for this winter only. Parents of Reception girls are welcome to send them in with a coat from home, as in the Nursery. As with all uniform changes, we will have a grace period for the following academic year for girls to wear their existing coat, either for one more winter or until she grows out of it.

Board Games Club

As there has not been sufficient take up for Debating Club, Mrs Such will be running a Board Games Club on a Friday lunchtime, for Form III upwards. Please contact the School Office if your daughter would like to join.

Wellies

As you will have seen, we have taken delivery of five new welly boot racks which reside under the new canopy. Some girls have already started to bring in a pair and I would now ask you to provide a named pair of wellingtons for your daughter to have in School. We hope that everyone will have a pair to wear from after Half Term, when our new plan to use the field during the winter months becomes operational. A welly shelter will shortly be constructed next to the canopy so that the racks can be stored under cover.

Questionnaire

As promised, the parent questionnaire will be sent out next week. This will contain typical multiple choice questions but will also seek to canvass parents on any new ideas and to seek feedback from new parents.

Staff News

We are very sorry to say that Mr Doughty will be leaving us after Half Term. Mr Doughty has been offered a new position and his last school day will be 3rd November. We would like to thank Mr Doughty for all his hard work and many skills around the School which have been much appreciated.

Harvest reminder

Our Harvest service is next Friday at 9.30am at St Nicholas' Church, and I hope that many of you will be able to attend. Please remember to encourage your daughter to help around the house (hopefully this is a matter of course anyway!) in order to fill her brown envelope with change, which can then be brought to School by next Thursday for the service the following day. Form VI will also need a basket of non-perishable goods to bring with them to the church on the day for the Open Door charity.

Homework Club

It has been good to see girls at the top of the School utilising Homework Club. For clarification, this is for girls in Form V and VI who are in After School Club and who wish to have a quiet place to complete their homework. Once they have had a snack, this starts at 4pm and girls return to After School Club once tasks have been finished.

Finally, may I respectfully ask that parents do not ring the buzzer for admittance in the few minutes between 8.15am and when the gates are opened for everyone. Staff are in their classrooms from 8.20am and until then, girls are only supervised in Breakfast Club. We appreciate that parents need to get away promptly, however there have been numerous times this week when girls have been found around the building.

The next newsletter will be published on Friday, 6th October.

With best wishes

Mr Sayers
Headmaster



Christmas Poster Competition

To: All the children of Harpenden

From: The Town Mayor, Councillor Rosemary Farmer

DESIGN YOUR OWN POSTER

Based around the theme: 'The Joy of Christmas.'

The winning designer will:

- * be invited to turn on the Town Christmas lights at the Christmas Carnival on Sunday 26th November 2017
- * receive a prize
- * have their design used for the Town Mayor's Christmas card.

Create your poster on A4 paper and write your name, age, school year and school or organisation on the back.

Closing date: Friday 27 October 2017

**Send your entry to: The Mayor's Secretary,
Harpenden Town Council, Town Hall,
Leyton Road, Harpenden, AL5 2LX.**

**The presentation ceremony will take place on
Monday 13 November 2017 4.30 pm Town Hall**



This competition is open to children aged 4 to 11 (Reception to Year 6 only).

There will also be awards given for entries receiving Highly Commended and Commended.

N.B. If posting your entry to the Town Hall please ensure that the correct postage is on your envelope to avoid the entry being held up/undelivered.



HARPENDEN CONCERT BAND

CONDUCTOR: MATT HARRISON

PRESENTS

A SPACE SPECTACULAR

PROGRAMME TO INCLUDE MUSIC FROM:
'STAR WARS', 'DR WHO', HOLST'S 'PLANETS' SUITE,
& ARRANGEMENTS OF 'FLY ME TO THE MOON'
& 'LIFE ON MARS'

SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
4 PM

CHIDELL HALL
ALDWICKBURY SCHOOL
HARPENDEN AL5 1AD

FREE ADMISSION WITH CHARITABLE RETIRING COLLECTION

facebook.com/TheHarpendenConcertBand

