



'Along my journey I have learned that the more thankful I am, the more I have to be thankful for.'
Fiona Childs



Dear Parents,

As several of you have remarked to me yesterday on the first day, it seems that we blinked and the Christmas holiday was over! Welcome back everyone to St Hilda's and a very Happy New Year to all in our School community. Despite the swiftness of the break, the girls have come back fresh and eager as ever, ready to face another fun-filled and hard-working term ahead. I hope that many of you saw the fabulous new mural which has been completed by different classes with a seaside theme, featuring seagulls, clay fish embellished with mosaic, the vista of Whitby with the Abbey of St Hilda presiding at the top. I hope it brightens pick-up time particularly but also gives the girls lots of enjoyment. Thank you to Mrs Rigby for her inspiration and the girls for their hard work.

In assembly yesterday morning, we were pleased to have a representation of the wider St Hilda's family, with a Governor, new girls, old girls, staff and the whole School present. We thought about the important moment a change in year brings: the old year gone for ever; resolutions and how to keep them; our worries that we bring with us into the new year; the reassuring familiarity of St Hilda's, its people and possibilities; and our overarching theme, thankfulness. In a world that is ever increasing in need, yet discontent also prevalent, we considered that we have so much to be thankful for, not just when we give thanks for our food but also for a roof over our heads, friends to rely on and a family to be part of. This year, we hope to consider different aspects of gratitude and how we should ensure that we have the right attitude to life.

New Senior Prefects

We were sad to bid farewell to our Head Girl, Eliza, on the last day of the Christmas Term as she returned to Australia with her family. We are delighted to announce that Milly has been promoted to Head Girl and Leila to be her Deputy. I'm sure they will make a great new team - congratulations girls!

Lend with care

I am delighted that the projects we sponsored last September through 'Lend with Care', the charity that supports business ventures in developing countries, have reached their target. As we have some surplus funds left from your donations, we have chosen some additional projects to sponsor in Zambia, Pakistan, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

Children's Trust

Your generous collection at the Christmas church service amounted to £759, towards the work of The Children's Trust, the UK's leading supporter of children with brain injuries and conditions. Thank you for your support.

Reminders

I hope that all of you have received a Calendar of Events in your daughter's school bag, containing details of the term to come. The first trip of the term occurred this morning when Mrs Lipman took some of our musicians to Princess Helena College for an instrumental workshop. Please note the different dates for your diary, particularly noting the class concerts and assemblies that are a feature of this term for most classes.

Breakfast and After School Club have recommenced already, as has Homework Club for Forms III to VI. This is a great way for girls to gain some independence with prep, in a quiet atmosphere but also with a teacher present to assist if required. This enables your daughter to return home with homework tasks hopefully completed at the end of a long day.

Clubs will start next week and activities will be confirmed by Mrs Booth.

Handbell Club

One of the things I really enjoyed over Christmas was becoming better acquainted with handbells and having a lot of fun in the process. I am pleased to announce that I will be running a Handbell Club, initially for Forms III and IV, on Tuesdays at break time. Please let Mrs Booth know if you would like your daughter to join. We will hopefully start next week.

Staffing

I am very sorry to confirm that Mrs Such, who was unwell for several weeks at the end of last term, will not be returning to St Hilda's. We are most grateful to Mrs Such for her care of the girls and her dedicated teaching, and wish her every happiness for the future. Mrs Weir has taken up the reins in Form IV, assisted by Mrs Balcombe who has become an established member of our Learning Support team over the last year. I am also pleased to welcome back Mrs Woodhams, who will be teaching Form V Science.

The next newsletter will be published on Friday, 19th January.

With best wishes

Mr Sayers
Headmaster

