



'Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come.'
Robert H Schuller

Dear Parents,

We have had an extremely busy few weeks since the last newsletter with much to report on. The main topic of conversation seems to have been seasonal bugs and the weather. We have certainly had more than our fair share of wintry conditions and I have really enjoyed seeing signs of spring this week. Yesterday Form VI had a super trip to Windsor and there were daffodils starting to open, a welcome sight indeed.

Thank you to all those parents who gave personal positive feedback over the difficult decision to open last Friday. We were the only prep and primary school in the town to open and the girls had a great day. I realise how treacherous the driving conditions were and that this was equally hard for those families who felt it was too difficult to travel.

This week we have all enjoyed the Form VI Production, full of fantastic singing, dancing and comic lines. The girls have excelled themselves – many congratulations. A monumental thank you to Miss O'Hare and Mrs Lipman, together with all the other staff who made this possible.

Together with class concerts, class assemblies, trips for EYFS, Form II and Form III, it has been a busy time.

New staff appointments

I am pleased to announce the appointment of some new staff, all for September. Form III will be taught by Mr Tom Smith, who is moving to us from Marston Vale Middle School near Bedford. As well as his teaching skills, Mr Smith has many years' experience as a sports coach in primary and secondary. Form IV will be taught by Miss Katy Humphriss, currently teaching at Eastbury Farm School in Northwood. Miss Humphriss trained in New Zealand and is a science specialist, and will be taking up the role of Head of Science on her arrival with us. Finally, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Allsop is expecting her second child in September and will be going on maternity leave from the end of the summer holidays. We wish her all the best for the coming months. Mrs Lipman will assume the role of Form V Form Teacher during Mrs Allsop's absence. Mrs Lisa Chisholm has been appointed as specialist Maths teacher for Form V and VI from September whilst Mrs Allsop is away. Mrs Chisholm is currently teaching Year 5 at St Dominic's. Mrs Price will continue to work alongside Mrs Chisholm in delivering Maths at the top of the School. We wish all of the new staff well as they take up their appointments in September.

Fencing Success

Many congratulations to Anna in Form V who has been selected to represent St Hilda's in the British Youth Fencing Championships. Anna will shortly commence training for this and we wish her every success.

Help Refugees

Thank you to everyone who donated items for Sarah Haddow to take out to Calais in support of Help Refugees. It is much appreciated.

After School Club

We are pleased to see so many people use our Breakfast and After School Club. Please can I ask that parents are prompt to pick up their daughter at the end of the school day, otherwise girls are sent to After School Club which can cause congestion especially at the start when there are a lot of club changes.

Drop and Go

Please can I, once again, respectfully remind parents to make sure that they approach the School gates from the Townsend Lane end of Douglas Road during Drop and Go. It is dangerous to approach from the Moreton Avenue side, causing congestion and making it difficult for those on the gate to help girls alight from vehicles. Similarly, please can parents not undertake a u turn in Douglas Road, which again causes hazardous conditions at a busy time. Please respect the local residents who live near our School site.

End of Term Arrangements

You are all most welcome to the end of term Easter Service which again takes place at the High Street Methodist Church on Friday, 23rd March at 9.30am. The girls from Reception to Form V will walk down to church together, whilst Form VI and the choir are asked to meet at the church by 8.45am. The service will last for approximately 50 minutes. After the service, the girls will return to school for a short time, after which dismissal will be at the following times:

Nursery, Reception and Form I – 11.30am

Form II and Form III – 11.40am

Form IV, Form V and Form VI – 11.50am

Parent and Staff Choir

Anyone who would like to sing at the Easter Service in the Parent and Staff Choir are most welcome. Please contact the School Office if you would like to sing with the Choir. We will be rehearsing the day before and music is available now.

Good luck to all the teams at the FOSH Quiz next week. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Thank you to everyone involved in making it such a fun occasion.

The next newsletter will be published on Friday, 23rd March.

With best wishes

Mr Sayers

