



*'How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.
So God imparts, to human hearts, the blessings of His heaven'*
Phillips Brooks, 1868



Dear Parents,

Since the last newsletter there has been perpetual excitement at St Hilda's with parties, concerts, carols, crackers and...snow! Coping with difficult travel has been a feature of this week in particular, and I do appreciate the determination showed by all in getting to St Hilda's in icy conditions. The girls have had great fun playing outside, enjoying the field and the additional space.

Yesterday afternoon it was my pleasure to award Head's Commendation certificates to many girls who have shown a great attitude this half term, including awards for sustained effort, a 'can do' approach, 'having a go', improvement in individual subjects and showing a caring and friendly attitude towards others. All personal attributes that we seek to encourage at our School.



The highlight of the previous week was the Junior Christmas Production, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, with so many splendid performances by our girls in Form I and Form II. I was staggered by the girls' creativity and a lovely blend of humour and traditional culture was seen in a range of singing, dancing and budding thespian performances! My thanks go to all of the staff who helped create a really memorable show and gave the girls so much confidence.

It is always special to see our girls in church and a pleasure to welcome so many of you to the service this morning in St Nicholas'. The annual telling of the birth of Jesus is central to the celebration of Christmas and the girls told this through music, readings and prayers. Thank you for your generosity in the collection for The Children's Trust, the UK's leading supporter of children with brain injuries and conditions. We will let you know the total in due course.

Congratulations to the Form VI girls, so far, in their results from Berkhamsted which have again been very strong this year. We wish Form VI every success with the rest of their entrance exams in January, after working so hard in preparation for this moment.

Rotary Shoeboxes

We received a letter and certificate of appreciation for our contribution to the Rotary Shoebox scheme this morning. Our total was 111 out of an entire number of 928 in Harpenden, so a big thank you to all of you who took part.

Poppy Appeal

Further thanks to everyone who wore their poppy, and other associated merchandise, in aid of the Royal British Legion in November. We raised a total of £202.16 to help in the noble work of remembering so many who have served our country.

Plans for next term are well under way behind the scenes, and we look forward to welcoming you all back to St Hilda's on Thursday, 4th January 2018.

Thank you to everyone who has sent cards and gifts for the Christmas season. I pray that everyone in the St Hilda's community will have a very peaceful and Happy Christmas and New Year, an opportunity to rest and recharge after a very busy term.

The next newsletter will be published on Friday, 5th January.

With best wishes

Mr Sayers
Headmaster

