



*'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace; goodwill toward men.'* Luke 2 verse 14

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of this term and 2018, we do well to reflect on the passing of another year of our lives and to give thanks for all that we have. With so much suffering in the world, sadness and uncertainty in our own country, we should remember that despite all that may cause us concern, we should rejoice in the wonderful message of the Christmas story and all it means; the humble birth of the Saviour of world. I hope that you have all enjoyed the sensitive and moving performances that the girls have given in the retelling of this extraordinary and unparalleled moment in history. Both the Senior and Junior concerts were nativity themed and in their different ways gave the opportunity for expressing praise as well as demonstrating the wonderful musical talent in evidence at St Hilda's. I am conscious of the commitment made by those who learn instruments and the many hours spent practising at home. The evident enjoyment seen on the stage reminded me of an article I read recently on the cognitive and social advantages of music making, together with the increase in confidence and self-esteem which is such a feature of the pupils at St Hilda's, which I would encourage you to read. <https://www.tes.com/news/music-boosts-attainment-and-transforms-communities>

Last Friday we sent Mrs Lipman off on her maternity leave and wish her well for the coming weeks. I am so grateful to her for keeping going until the completion of the Senior Concert. We will be bidding adieu to Mrs Thayer next week and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her so much for her work as Deputy Headteacher and especially as Head of English over the last four years, where she has achieved great success particularly in preparing girls so effectively for entrance exams. We wish her every happiness for the future.

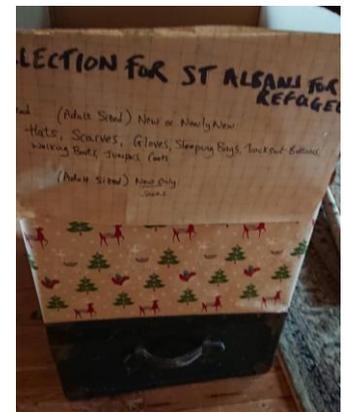
#### **St Albans for Refugees**

One of our parents, Mrs Sheffield, has offered to collect donations for the St Albans for Refugees Appeal, the details of which are taken from their Facebook page:

*Please note this is not a traditional grotto and Father Christmas will not be handing out presents but collecting donations instead.*

Can you be one of Santa's little helpers this year?

Father Christmas needs you! He is trying to give presents to everyone this year but he is running out of time to get them all! Can you help him to find presents for refugees? They need socks, hats, scarves, gloves, sleeping bags, walking boots, tracksuit bottoms, jumpers and coats in adult sizes. All of these can be pre-loved but underwear must be new. Father Christmas has got together with St Albans for Refugees (StAR) and will be visiting St Albans Museum + Gallery in the Market Place on 15 December 2018. All children can come and see him free of charge and have their photo taken and get a lollipop instead of a present. All he asks is that you help him to gather the presents he needs so that everyone gets a present on Christmas Day. Mrs Sheffield has offered to coordinate a collection of items next week, and will leave this box under the canopy by the FOSH noticeboard for any contributions, and then take them to St Albans on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you for your support.



Thank you also for the collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal which raised £176.84. We are also grateful to Form VI parents whose food and non-perishable items collected for Harpenden Foodbank at the Harvest Festival provided enough for 239 meals and totalled 100.4kg. I know this is really appreciated.

#### **Playpark Action Rothamsted Committee**

We have recently received this message from the Playpark Action Rothamsted Committee:

'Thank you all so much for helping us in the summer term spread the news about the Rothamsted Park re-development questionnaire. We had over 450 responses which was excellent. We used the questionnaire responses to ask playground companies to generate a high level concept design for the new play park. We would now like playground users help to choose their favourite design and give us any other feedback on the designs using the following link: <http://l.ead.me/bb0maw>. Please can you help us spread the word to ensure that as many people are able to provide their feedback as possible. The survey will be open for responses until 20 December 2018.

#### **From the Rotary Club – Calling all budding photographers**

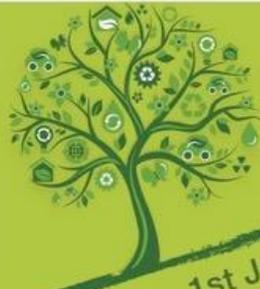
Budding photographers (in three categories, Juniors aged 7-10, Intermediates aged 11-13 and Seniors aged 14-17 - all ages as at 31st August 2018) are invited to enter their work in the Rotary Young Photographer Competition, the Harpenden heat of which is being run by Rotary in Harpenden. This year's theme is "Beauty of Nature" and we would ask you please to encourage entries from St. Hilda's School students to be received by 26th January 2019. Winners of the Harpenden heat will receive a £20 WHSmiths voucher. For guidelines and an entry form please go to <https://tinyurl.com/yphotdoc> noting entries should be posted to Kelvin Goodson via [kelvingoodson@gmail.com](mailto:kelvingoodson@gmail.com). Click on [rotaryinharpden.org.uk](http://rotaryinharpden.org.uk), scrolling down the Home page to "New Challenge for Young Photographers", where they will read about last year's winners, the judges' opinions and see pictures of the winning entries.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Nativity Service at St Nicholas' Church next Thursday, which is always a highlight. The girls will be going home from the church. I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Term starts on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 for Form VI and Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January for the rest of the School.

With warmest wishes

Mr Sayers  
Headmaster





# SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL 2019



11th May - 1st June

Across St Albans, Harpenden and the villages

Energy | Food | Waste | Transport | Natural Habitats



SUSTAINABLE St Albans

friends of the earth St Albans

## Community - business - schools - faith groups

**Organise an event that suits your group AND REGISTER before 31st Jan**

**Family walk, litter pick, repair fair, food, recycled crafts, community, growing... It's UP TO YOU!**

#3weeks of events all about environmental sustainability - across St Albans, Harpenden and the villages - run by you.

[www.sustainablestalbens.org](http://www.sustainablestalbens.org)



Register

2nd Jan - 31st Jan

**FREE to take part.**



### TAKE PART

Talk to your group, organise an event, **Register the event** Support the environment



### YOU CHOOSE!

**Choose something linked to your group or business; choose the day, time and venue.**



### SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Energy, food, waste, water, wildlife, community building, heritage, transport, culture, economy



### REGISTER YOUR EVENT

Fill in the online form and we promote your event **FREE**

# Harpenden Junior Netball Club

**Netball coaching, fun, fitness  
and friends for school years 5-9**

Qualified UKCC netball coaches and DBS checked  
First Aiders on site

**Sir John Lawes School  
Manland Way, Harpenden. AL5 4QP**

**Wednesday evenings during term times**

**Y5 & Y6 6pm - 7pm**

**Y7 7pm - 8pm**

**Y8 & Y9 8pm - 9pm**

**Taster sessions available,  
please contact  
[uplaysports.co.uk](http://uplaysports.co.uk)**



If you require more information please contact [office@uplaysports.co.uk](mailto:office@uplaysports.co.uk)  
or call 07932 246309