



*'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." Minnie Louise Haskins*

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to St Hilda's and a Happy New Year to all members of the School community. I trust that everyone has had a good Christmas and the opportunity to spend quality time together. The children have been back for a full week and have settled quickly into their familiar routines. As we start another year, with much uncertainty in national life and the unpredictability of the future that any new year makes us realise, the words above are a good reminder that we need not fear what may happen to us.

We have been very pleased to welcome Mrs Comer, our new Deputy Headteacher, to St Hilda's at the start of this term and hope that she will be very happy with us. Please do take the chance to say hello when you see her at the gate or at pick up.



Many congratulations to Mr and Mrs Lipman, who became parents on 28th December on the birth of a daughter, Elsie. Mum and baby are doing well.

Entrance exam success

Form VI have been very busy, this week and next, at their entrance exams. We were thrilled to receive another set of outstanding results at Berkhamsted and Haileybury, including four girls who have been awarded scholarships and awards. Many congratulations so far!

This morning Form II commenced our class assemblies for the term with a very lively and interactive retelling of the life and work of Florence Nightingale. I was so impressed by the girls' portrayal of Victorian life as well as their ability to be such versatile, multi-tasking young ladies. They were rewarded with the Smartest Form Cup for their efforts.

Charity collections

Very well done to the Senior Choir who sang carols outside Waitrose on the morning of Saturday, 8th December, raising £71.53 for Keech Hospice, a charity we have supported over many years. The girls received many compliments on the morning, both on the pavement and in St Nicholas' Church where they took part in the Christmas Festival.

Thank you for all donations to the St Albans for Refugees Appeal, which were collected in the final week of term.



It was wonderful to see so many parents, grandparents and friends at St Nicholas' Church for our Nativity Service. The retiring collection was in aid of Azalea, a Luton based charity supporting women suffering from exploitation. I was pleased to receive a letter of thanks from Azalea's representative at the service, an extract of which is included here:

*'Dear Mr Sayers,
I am writing to thank all the parents and staff of St Hilda's for your incredible collection of £697.76 at your carol service. We are so grateful for your generosity, everyone in the Office was quite overwhelmed. On a personal note, thank you for inviting me to your lovely carol service, it was a perfect start to Christmas. I was particularly delighted to sing 'It came upon the midnight clear' which is my favourite carol. The girls all sang, spoke and performed beautifully - you must all be very proud of them. We are a small charity, as you know, and your donation will make a real difference to us.'*

Looking ahead, there are many events planned for the term and I would bring to your attention the Calendar of Events, which all pupils received at the beginning of the week. Additionally, form teachers have issued newsletters which outline curriculum subject areas and objectives for the coming term, together with details of trips and activities.

First Aid App

Last Friday staff attended their First Aid training with The Red Cross. Details of a very useful App was included, the address of which is available via www.redcross.org.uk/firstaidapps. I would recommend all parents taking a look and obtaining this information, including refresher quizzes, step by step advice and videos on everyday first aid scenarios. No internet access is needed for the use of the App.

I look forward to catching up with you at the various shows and performances this term, and of course at drop off and pick up.

Wishing everyone a happy and successful term ahead. The next newsletter will be sent on 25th January.

With warmest wishes

Mr Sayers
Headmaster

MAYOR'S PRIDE *awards 2019*

*In honour of extraordinary
individuals and outstanding
organisations in St Albans
City and District.*

Do you know an individual or group deserving recognition?

Choose a category from those listed overleaf, and go to
www.stalbans.gov.uk/mayorsprideawards for details.

You may nominate as many people or organisations in as many
different categories as you like.



In aid of the Mayor's nominated charities



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HARPENDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

THE HARPENDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led planning document that guides the future growth, regeneration and conservation of an area. It is about the use of land and may allocate key sites for specific kinds of development.

A Neighbourhood Plan sets out the community's views on the development and use of land in their neighbourhood, in contrast to the St Albans District Local Plan which influences the whole of the St Albans District.

Who has created the Neighbourhood Plan?

Five Themed Working Groups comprising of community representatives and Town Councillors have developed the Neighbourhood Plan.

The preparation of the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan was overseen by a Steering Group made up of representatives from the local community, Harpenden Town Council and Harpenden Rural Parish Council.

The Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan has been produced following three rounds of community engagement, informed by 3625 survey responses and 760 visits to our engagement events.

The Referendum will take place on 7 February 2019.

The people of Harpenden will have the opportunity to vote on whether the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan should be adopted and used by St Albans City & District Council when they make decisions in regard to planning applications.

Your vote counts - Don't waste it!

The question on the referendum ballot paper is:

Do you want St Albans City & District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Harpenden to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?



View the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan now at:
Harpenden.gov.uk