



St Hilda's School

HARPENDEN

Caring, Curious & Confident

NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 15th December 2021 No. 110

*'Weave ye the wreath unfading, the fir tree and the pine,
Green from the snows on winter, to deck the Holy shrine.
Bring ye the happy children, for this is Christmas morn:
Jesus the sinless infant, Jesus the Lord is born.'*

Charles Lewis Hutchins



Dear Parents,

We have reached the conclusion of a very busy Autumn Term, and it is a time to reflect on the many achievements and positive outcomes for many. Whenever we conclude a term, we think of the progress made academically, socially, mentally and physically. Our focus is often on different events and opportunities, and we are delighted to be able to recount so many successes for all of our pupils since September. This morning, it was wonderful to hear again the message of the Nativity story at our service in the High Street Methodist Church, where the standard of singing by all of the girls was incredible. The readers led the service with confidence and the Reception class provided a wonderful tableaux, helping us to reflect once again on the real significance of this Christian festival. Thank you for the collection which raised £717.22 on behalf of Winston's Wish.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support with ensuring Covid restrictions have been carried out. Whilst we are a smaller community than some, we have many connections to other schools and the risk to us of Covid outbreaks has been as high as any, and we should take nothing for granted. I am so pleased that we have been spared any significant disruption this term, with only a small number of cases amongst pupils, staff and parents. Whilst we must consider ourselves fortunate, I am sure that this is in part due to the vigilance and cooperation of you all, and for that I am particularly grateful. Clubs, concerts, sporting fixtures and trips have been undertaken and almost everything planned has taken place, enabling a full educational experience for our pupils especially recently, something that many schools have resisted or been prevented from doing, for which we should also be thankful. As we look ahead and anticipate next term, I seek to reassure you that the staff have undertaken a thorough review of Covid safety measures and our Covid Outbreak Plan is ready, should it be required. We do not wish to cause any anxiety in mentioning this but, with the constant discussion about the potential effects of the Omicron variant, it is only wise to be prepared. In terms of restrictions and daily routines, we anticipate keeping things the same as they are now, as they have proved satisfactory and are now familiar to all. The only change will be enabling parents to enter the school grounds again at pick up times, as this will enable a reduction in congestion on the pavement and will enable a safer pick-up time for all. Details of this will be explained at the start of next term. The Government are continuing with the same routine for LFT and PCR testing, and we will thus maintain the same process when a positive LFT is obtained. This will continue to enable all a measure of reassurance at this time of ongoing concern, something that has become a way of life since March 2020.

Many thanks are due to all who contributed to a highly enjoyable **Christmas Market** last Friday. Despite the cold it was dry, and it was super to see everyone sampling a new way of celebrating this time of the year, including a festive visitor who was kept busy from start to finish. I am so grateful to our FOSH Committee and the many helpers who helped set up, supported during and cleared up afterwards.

We **bid farewell** to three long-serving staff today who between them have given 63 years' service to St Hilda's. Mrs Keen, Mrs Ganderton and Mrs Field have seen generations of children pass through the school and we thank them very much for all they have done in the kitchen, and wish them every happiness for the future.

The start of next term sees a continuation of outdoor education expeditions to Hudnall Park with Miss Sewell. There is also an early invitation to a special eSafety evening on **Monday 31st January** to hear an expert speaker, Teresa Hughes, talk on the challenges facing parents and children in the online world we all inhabit. I strongly advise you to attend this event, open to all St Hilda's families. Teresa has visited us twice before and her visit could not be timelier, with increasing levels of peer pressure on children and teenagers. Further details will be sent after Christmas.

Congratulations to all girls who have represented St Hilda's at recent sporting events, especially those who reached the ISA National Swimming Gala. We have also been delighted by the first set of 11+ results for Berkhamsted and Queenswood, with a 100% pass rate and 11 scholarships and awards. We wish all the best to the girls who still have interviews and further important assessments this week and at the start of next term.

As 2021 reaches its end, I thank you again for your support and generosity to me and the school through another tough year. The need for optimism has never been greater and I am thankful that daily strength and ongoing commitment has been granted, and evident from all. I am so grateful for the hard work of all staff who have shown such dedication over the past 12 months.

I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2022.

With warm regards

Dan Wayers

Headmaster





Year 3 Spaces

Herts Dynamos have some spaces in Year 3 from January 2022.

Saturdays 1-2pm @ STACS



Email us to book on:

admin@dynamosnetball.com

 @hertsdynamos



Ashtons Charity Calendar 2022

Ashtons are delighted to present our first-ever charity calendar *Capturing Life's Moments*, with all proceeds from the sales going to our **For Life's Great Causes** charity fund.

The calendar reflects our time in lockdown, capturing moments when time stood still, and discovering the beautiful surroundings of Hertfordshire. All photography was captured by members of our team and features some of the region's most loved quiet spots and countryside, truly showcasing the splendour of the county we all call home.

There are seasonal images on each page of our A4 calendar, together with spacious date grids offering plenty of room to organise your important dates.

Every year, Ashtons are actively involved in numerous charity events and patronise a number of local charities. This year is no different and we are now actively fundraising to reach our target of £10,000 for our 2022 For Life's Great Causes charity campaign. We especially appreciate how difficult it's been for many charities during the pandemic, and we're delighted to help charitable causes with our local community. All proceeds from the sales of the calendar will go towards our 2022 'Life's Great Causes' charity campaign.

The calendar costs £8 and can be ordered now for collection from your local Ashtons office. Order your calendar today <https://bit.ly/AshtonsCharityCalendar>