



St Hilda's School

HARPENDEN

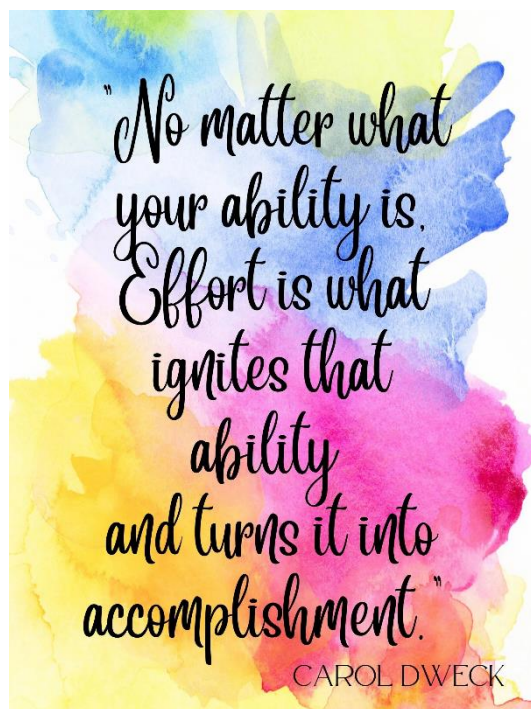
Caring, Curious & Confident

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 27th January 2022 No.111

Dear Parents,

Despite the spectre of Covid over us all once again, this half term has progressed smoothly for most of us. Thank you so much for your forbearance whilst cases have been higher. With a number of staff and pupils off since the start of term, it has certainly been a case of all hands on deck. These events are certainly a test of our resilience, and a reminder of the need for a positive growth mindset, as demonstrated in the quote here by the founder of this highly success approach, Carol Dweck. Positivity and mindfulness techniques are both great ways to build mental as well as physical strength, something we all seek to instil in our pupils, alongside the nurture, care and confidence. We should never underestimate the strength that faith can give us too, and which certainly helps me when life is tough and the chips are down. I have been considering all the challenging times of 12 months ago when the country was again in lockdown. We should be thankful that, though Covid-19 is now a fact of life, that we can live our lives, relatively, in a more normal fashion and that, hopefully, more freedoms are around the corner.



CAROL DWECK

News

There have been many highlights this term already. The Senior Department enjoyed a fabulous visit to the West End on 12th January to watch *Matilda*, a mammoth feat of organisation for which thanks are due to Mrs Pearson and many staff. Weekly visits to Hudnall Park for Forest School adventures have been enjoyed by the majority of the school, all with dry weather. Many thanks to Miss Sewell. The first class assembly took place last Friday, with just the Form III parents present. We look forward to Form IV's presentation tomorrow. Form VI have continued to attend interviews, and to wait patiently for school offer places.



Congratulations to Libby in Form VI, who achieved a bronze medal for coming 3rd in the U12 woman sabre at the Eastern Region Youth Fencing Championships at the weekend. This follows St Hilda's being a finalist for PDFA Fencing 'School of the Year' in December. Great work!

The first house event of the year was won by **York**, who were victorious in the Cross-Country Shield. We have several runners participating in the Herts County Cross Country Championships on 5th February. We wish them every success. Next week sees the ISA Netball London North tournament and the start of the Harpenden Netball League matches.

Yesterday saw the first **Parent Forum** of this term, also Form III. These occasions are a great way for you to have an open dialogue with me and the management team on any issues you may wish to discuss. Over the years they have proved to be useful and positive occasions. The next forum takes place on Tuesday, 18th February, for Form V and Form VI parents, when there will also be the opportunity to discuss the new relationships curriculum as well as any other topics you may wish to raise. All classes will have the opportunity to meet by the end of the academic year.

We are beginning to find a rhythm with our **new catering team**. Whilst there have inevitably been a few teething problems, we are delighted with the overall standard and range of recipes on offer, which the children and staff have enjoyed. We do encourage all pupils to try as many new dishes as possible, and especially to sample plenty of '5 a day' options, and I encourage you to do the same at home.

Disco – I am very grateful to FOSH for organising a **Valentine Disco** once again. Due to Covid we have decided not to run this in the week before half term, and instead will run it the week after the holiday, hopefully on Thursday 24th February. Timings will be confirmed as soon as possible. As usual, this is for Form III to Form VI.



We look forward to the **Junior Production** next week, entitled 'All About Me'. It will be the first performance for our youngest pupils and the first time an audience has been permitted for this occasion since 2020. Break a leg!

Holiday Club – a reminder that places at the Half Term holiday club are still available. Please contact Mrs Matthews via cmatthews@sthildasharpden.co.uk. Full wraparound care is available.

Snacks – please can parents only send healthy snacks for your child, fruit and vegetables are fine. The girls are provided with a small portion of cake or a home made biscuit by the catering team, but they should bring their own healthy snack too. For those not accessing After School Club food and who shortly after the end of school have a club, please can any snacks provided also be healthy. Recent unhealthy examples have included lollipops!

Music Lessons – it has been wonderful to see the progress our new instrumentalists are making. I popped into the Wind Band rehearsal yesterday and was so impressed by the enthusiasm on display. A reminder that music lesson times are rotated every week. Fixed slots (before school and at break) are made available for Form V at this point in the academic year, and for younger pupils learning a second instrument. We always take care to ensure that pupils do not lose out on the same curriculum lesson in consecutive weeks. The benefits of learning an instrument can never be underestimated and I encourage anyone considering starting music lessons to contact Mrs Lipman, our Head of Music.

Charity fundraising

Thanks are returned for the collection in aid of the Red Cross at our Harvest Festival. We recently received this letter from the British Red Cross Team: *'I just wanted to let you know that we've received your gift of £811.00 for our Kindness Has No Borders campaign. We never take support for granted, and on behalf of the team at the British Red Cross I just want to say how grateful we are. It's so inspiring to see support growing for this appeal. As I'm sure you're aware, your donation will be split equally, helping those who have been affected by the pandemic. Half will help people in the UK, and half will go to our International Relief Fund. Thank you.'*



We recently had an update from Lend with Care, a charity we have regularly supported since 2016. We have further funds repaid to us, which the School Council will now reallocate to new entrepreneurs.

Shoe boxes – thank you to all who filled shoeboxes before Christmas. The Rotary Club have issued us with a certificate which is on display in the Dining Room. We filled 109 boxes. Thank you for your support.

We hope to have two **non-uniform days** this term. One will be on Friday, 11th February. The School Council will choose the charity next week, and we will then let you have the link for donating. We also hope to celebrate Red Nose Day in aid of Comic Relief on Friday, 18th March.

Holiday reading – well done to all who participated in the holiday book club organised by Mrs Chisholm, here are some of the prize-winners. Hopefully more can take part again at the Half Term break.



Parking – following recent emails, I would like to mention here the need for safe and considerate parking. Thank you to everyone who shows due diligence and respect to our local community. We are fortunate to have sufficient parking in local roads, without restrictions. If you have to park further away from the school, you should only need to walk for a few minutes.

Parent consultations – these take place immediately after Half Term and details of how to sign up for our online video conferencing will be sent out shortly.

Half Term activities are once more made available here by Muddy Stilettos, where our school review is available to read. Details of the holiday fun are here <https://herts.muddystilettos.co.uk/kids/whats-on-february-half-term-2022-herts-beds/>



Open Morning – advanced notice is given that our Saturday Open Morning this term is on Saturday, 5th March. We would like to have any pupils who can come in to show people around and participate in activities. A letter will be issued shortly. We also value the support of parents to be available to chat to our visitors, so if you are available, please let us know.

Wishing everyone a good weekend.

With warm regards
Dan Sayers
Headmaster