



NEWSLETTER

Friday 20th May 2022 No.115

'Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.'

Queen Elizabeth II



Dear Parents,

With only a week to go until half term, preparations are afoot for our school celebration of our Queen's record-breaking reign of service to the nation at our Platinum Jubilee Party. Our school event next Friday afternoon will bring together all in our school community and we hope for suitable weather so we can meet on the field to enjoy dancing, song and refreshments to mark this unique occasion. Whatever your views, it is important to acknowledge Her Majesty's decades of service to the country and commonwealth, and the stability that she has brought during an era of unbelievable change. The Queen's faith and calm leadership have been a wonderful example and we hope that she will continue to be able to live out her pledge to serve the nation in her final years. As mentioned in the recent letter, you are welcome to join us from **2pm**. Please can you let the office know **by Monday at the latest** if you hope to come, and please feel free to bring family and friends with you. Remember to bring some seating.

We pause here to look back on the many events that are going on at present, and to look forward to the rest of the term. Our Form IV girls showed great resilience and discovered growing independence when they visited Grafham Water last week, staying for two nights and enjoying lots of energy-sapping activities. Next week, Form V will travel north to the Cranedale Centre, the first time we have been able to visit since 2019. This is a very special trip and I look forward to accompanying the class with Mrs Taylor and Madame Knight, of whom we are so grateful for organising this residential after all her hard work taking Form VI to Normandy. Other trips and visits have included weekly Forest School excursions for all classes, the Henry Moore Foundation yesterday for Forms V and VI, and in-house events in the Form II assembly and Form V concert. There has been much excitement as Lancaster, Warwick and York battle it out in the House Music Competition. As always, soloists and house groups have been practising hard and we look forward with bated breath to the outcome this afternoon! On Monday, a team of athletes will be setting off to the Bedford Stadium to take part in the ISA District Athletics, and we wish them every success.

After Half Term, we will be busy preparing for the traditional events which mark the conclusion of the school year. Details will follow shortly about the **Senior Summer Concert**, which will be a very special performance celebrating the seven decades of the Queen's reign and the changing styles in music during that period. Called a 'Platinum Pageant', all are welcome to attend and it would be lovely to see parents from other classes joining us to watch. There will be plenty of space on the school field and there are two performances, on Thursday 16th June at 7pm and Friday 17th June at 2.30pm. Of course, **Sports Day** on Saturday, 25th June will be an essential date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing many of you to support your child on this very special day for the school, especially after all that has happened over the past two plus years.





Summer Swimming

Swimming will start after Half Term in the school pool. Please ensure your child has their school swim costume (blue), red swim hat, towel and goggles. The girls should bring their swim kit in on **Monday 6th June** in a named bag. If your daughter does not have a red swim hat, please could you contact Mrs Delves via frontdesk@sthildasharpenden.co.uk who will be able to supply one.

Private swimming lessons

Our swimming instructor, Reese, is available for anyone wishing to have private swimming lessons. He has a Level 2 qualification and has Safeguarding training. If anyone wishes to have 1:1 lessons from 4 years and over, please contact Reese at reesehousden@outlook.com.

Music lessons

If anyone is wishing for their child to start instrumental,

singing or piano lessons, please let our Head of Music, Stacey Lipman, know. A letter will be sent out next week regarding this. Advance notice is given that a meeting explaining the work of the Music Department will be held on **Wednesday 29th June at 4pm** in the Hall.

Fundraising

It has been a busy few weeks for fundraising. Form III raised £610 for the Ukrainian Charitable Foundation car washing. We were all so impressed with their efforts.

Thank you to all who donated to the Luton charity supporting families at this time of higher living costs, via Aldwickbury, which raised £490. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Wraparound Care

On a daily basis we are still finding that we have many more children attending wraparound sessions than have been booked in and a couple not attending who have previously requested places. As you can appreciate it is difficult to cater for unknown numbers and special diets. An email has been sent requesting that parents (Reception and above) reconfirm their session choices for the rest of the term and for the Autumn term. Thank you to those who have already replied, however we have still not received forms from a large number of those hoping to attend. Please can you give this your attention. If you do not require a place, please make sure you cancel the session. Thank you for your cooperation.



Wellbeing Award

Thank you to everyone who completed the SWOT analysis. Mrs Pearson will be looking at responses with the Wellbeing Team and will update you all on the results shortly.

During **Activity Week** at the end of term, we are looking forward to welcoming **Montell Douglas**, former national sprint runner and 100m champion, and Bobsleigh competitor at Beijing 2022, on Wednesday 6th July. Montell has been invited as an inspirational speaker to try to pass on her enthusiasm for competitive sport to the next generation. As explained in the link below, we would like to raise money for the Sports for Champions charitable foundation, which supports athletes and enables to schools to purchase resources and equipment. Sponsor forms are being issued next week on paper and will be in the pupils' bags. Please can you encourage your child to gather sponsors. Parents can also make a donation directly on the crowd-funding page (created by Sports for Champions) for us – here is the link. <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/the-st-hildas-school-fundraiser>

As usual we include a link from Muddy Stilettos with ideas for Half Term activities. I hope you have a wonderful week and especially that you all enjoy the Jubilee festivities. <https://herts.muddystilettos.co.uk/kids/activities/half-term-may-2022-hertfordshire-bedfordshire/>.

With warm regards
Dan Sayers
Headmaster



JUBILEE TEA PARTY



Join us to celebrate the
Queen's 70th Jubilee

Sunday 5 June 2022
3pm till 5pm

Afternoon Cream Teas, Live Music, Entertainment, Crafts
St Nicholas Church Garden, Harpenden, AL5 2TP

In aid of: DEC Ukraine appeal, Vineyard Care Centre and St Nicholas Church

