



St Hilda's School
HARPENDEN
Caring, Curious & Confident
NEWSLETTER

Friday 15th September 2023 No. 128

It's not just about winning or losing, but to learn about teamwork, learn about sportsmanship, learn about cooperation. The value of working together for a common goal. Erik Spoelstra

Dear Parents,

The new school year has swung into action and we have reached the end of our first full week. It has been a pleasure to meet many of you at the gate and at pick up, and to hear about your summers. I also very much enjoyed meeting new parents at the FOSH welcome event last Friday. I trust that each of our new families are starting to feel a part of the St Hilda's community and have been made welcome. All of the pupils have made a great start and settled quickly.

Values are important in any school and, as we start the year, it is time to remind ourselves of what the St Hilda's values are. We have six values, one for each half term. These are celebrated in Wednesday assemblies, discussing what these represent and how we can all try to live them out, both at school and in society. Those pupils who have shown an especially noteworthy example of the value receive a leaf which is added to our values tree in the Hall, which over the course of last year has grown to show each of them displayed. The first value for this half term is respect. This comes in many ways and, as we start the school year, we all need to remember the importance of having respect for others, and how to show it.

Communication

We seek to be prompt with all our communication and the beginning of the school year is a good time to remind ourselves of protocols. The following is extracted from the Parent Handbook:

We live in an age of instant communication and all staff at St Hilda's appreciate that accurate and prompt communication is a vital feature of school life. However, email correspondence with staff can raise a few issues regarding electronic etiquette.

Teaching staff will endeavour to respond to messages as quickly as possible, but it should not be assumed that they will reply out of regular school hours and parents should not expect a response within 24 hours. Several of our staff are part-time and it cannot be reasonable to expect a response until they are next at work. If a matter is urgent, please contact the Office who will pass a message to the Form Teacher. Whilst staff always seek to be accessible, it is only possible to speak to them by making an appointment which is mutually convenient.

Purely administrative matters such as absence or general queries should be emailed to the School Office. All other correspondence relating to your daughter's welfare and learning should be addressed to the Form Teacher in the first instance. This will then be sent on to any specialist teachers as needed.

The School does not tolerate emails which contain content of a rude, aggressive or threatening nature. Staff understand that many parents need to write correspondence at the end of their working day, but we ask that parents respect teachers' private lives and ask themselves if an email cannot be forwarded early next morning before they press 'send' late at night. It is politely requested that anything that is of a sensitive nature is written courteously and in a manner which would be acceptable to the recipient. It is too easy to write and send electronic correspondence without stopping to consider the content in the same way that we would with a traditional letter. If parents wish to discuss a concern, it is far better to make an appointment via the Office or to request for the Form Teacher to make contact via telephone.

Late pick up

A reminder that the out of hours phone number is **07494 691216**, which should be used after 4pm, especially if you will be delayed in picking up your child. As a matter of courtesy, if you know you will not be able to pick up by 6pm due to travel problems, please can you let the Wraparound team know in good time if you will be late.

Snacks

A reminder that morning snacks from Form II and above should be nut free. Some of the girls have brought in hummus containing tahini. It is suggested that you provide fruit and vegetables, together with a cracker or dry biscuit (no chocolate please).

Internet Safety

The start of the school year is also a good idea to enforce good habits at home with screen time and to ensure that devices are secure. Our new Safeguarding policy is available to read here and includes specific statutory guidance on cyber security. May I politely ask that you ensure that your child is as safe at home as they are at school. Our Computing Teacher, Miss Smith, spends considerable time throughout the year ensuring your child is aware of how to use a device safely, and to make them aware of the dangers. The following links may be of interest for you to investigate.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/>
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444865/Advice_for_parents_on_cyberbullying.pdf
<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/>
https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0025/217825/children-and-parents-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2020-21.pdf
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXECNrRQJ_SA2LJ4tQ0VUOB9hSdq10D

Wishing you all a good weekend.

With best wishes
Dan Sayers
Headmaster

St Hilda's Values
POSITIVITY
INDEPENDENCE
FEARLESSNESS
RESPECT
KINDNESS
RESILIENCE



Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People

Consulting young people about our future priorities

Young people's survey



Complete the survey for a chance to win a shopping voucher.

Have your say about how we support you and other young people in Hertfordshire.

We are going to have less money to support young people from 2024.

Please scan the QR code and complete the short survey to let us know what is most important to you.

Closing date 9 October 2023

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Services for Young People