



St Hilda's School
HARPENDEN
Caring, Curious & Confident

NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th October 2023 No. 130

*'For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.'* Psalm 100

Dear Parents,

We were delighted to welcome a good number of parents, grandparents and friends to our first church service of the year, our Harvest Festival. As always, the girls sang and played beautifully, and the readings were given by Form VI, with prayers written by Form II. The theme was 'Giving Thanks', an opportunity to pause and reflect on all the blessings we have and the need to share what we have with others. We were so grateful to everyone who contributed to the contents of the brown envelopes, which swelled the coffers of the collection in aid of Winston's Wish, a child bereavement charity. Together with the collection by parents and our Just Giving page, the amazing total of £1450. If anyone else wishes to donate, please do so via the JustGiving page [here](#). This was matched by the simply amazing amount of food brought in by parents, which after the service was taken to the Harpenden Food Bank, which was deeply appreciated by all at the Salvation Army when I dropped the food off afterwards. My grateful thanks to all of you for your very generous and unstinting support.

Shoeboxes

A reminder to pack your shoeboxes over half term, in aid of the Rotary Club. Thank you.

Winter Clothing Appeal

A great opportunity to clear out quality, clean clothing you no longer need for your children! All details previously sent out.



Poppies

On our return, we will be selling poppies in aid of the Royal British Legion, who do such great work supporting ex-service personnel and their families who have been affected by conflict.

Open Morning

A letter is being sent out today asking for support at our next Open Morning, which is the first Saturday after Half Term. We would really appreciate as many girls as possible attending from Form I and above. The link for signing up is [here](#) (also available on the letter).

Poetry

On the next page, please see some of the winning poetry performed in the recent National Poetry Competition assembly.

Bring & Buy Christmas Jumper Sale * Friday 10th November / 3-4pm * Next to the Friday treats stall * In aid of FOSH

Please donate any festive jumpers/T-shirts in advance - and come and buy one ahead of the Christmas jumper day on Friday 17th November! Kindly place donations in the box outside (under the awning) from Monday 30th October.

For more info, contact Michelle Regent / 07947 521 216

Half Term Activities

Please see link [here](#) from Muddy Stilettoes for family fun over the next couple of weeks.

Competitions

Please see details of two competitions on the following pages for Christmas cards and a photography challenge from our Art teacher, Mrs Fairbairn.

Communications

Following recent feedback and in a desire to always improve our service, we will be sending more communication out via our Engage Portal. You will still receive an email, but all correspondence will then be available via the Engage App, which is available in the usual way on a smartphone or on your desktop. I trust this will make it more efficient in keeping all St Hilda's correspondence in one place. We are also looking into further ways of reducing the number of separate messages.

Wishing all of you a very happy Half Term. I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday, 30th October.

With best wishes

Dan Sayers
Headmaster



NATIONAL POETRY WINNING ENTRIES

The girls wrote their own poems as well as performing many others. The national theme this year was 'refuge', and the girls wrote moving poems on this emotive subject.

Find a New Home by Sienna, Form V

Down in the city
Sleeping on the streets
Sitting in a puddle it's very hard to sleep
Nobody here to hug me
Nobody here to kiss me on the cheek
Nobody here to tuck me up to sleep
It's hard down here all alone
I miss my family, I miss my home
I wish I had my teddy bear
I wish someone had some food to share
Enough... it's time to be brave
It's time to be strong
Time to show I belong
So here I go, head-up I pray
That today will be the day ... I find a new home.

Zara by Saniya, Form III

I travelled from a faraway land,
Where I always played,
And held my best friend's hand,
How I wish, I could've stayed.

Then suddenly, one day school closed!
My best friend was no where to be seen,
I could still hear the merry sound; of her laughter
The war had torn us apart.

My family had to flee,
Hide, so we could be free,
I felt so unsure,
As we travelled across the shores.

Now, here I am amongst my new friends,
A second chance to live, and be a child again,
Leaving the war behind, as I tell them ...
I travelled from a faraway land.

A Snail Takes Refuge by Betsy

A snail creeps towards its destination
But soon it sighs in sheer desperation
A shadow looms – yes, danger's near
Their cruel intentions crystal clear

Panic pumps through its terrified heart
But keeping safe is a delicate art
Its mind searches for an idea
But the solution is right here

The snail curls into its glistening shell
But you and I know this doesn't end well
The weapon lowers to the floor
Oh tiny snail you're safe no more!

CRRRRUNCH!!

From the ruins erupts a tiny wail
...not such good refuge little snail.

BIM AFOLAMI MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Head Teacher
St Hilda's
28 Douglas Road
Harpenden
AL5 2ES

5th October 2023

Dear Head Teacher,

Christmas Card Design Competition

It may be Autumn, but we are ready to get festive! I would like to invite children from across the constituency to get into the Christmas spirit by designing my official Christmas card.

The competition is open to all young artists across the area, of primary school age, and will be the front cover of my card which will go to over 5,000 local residents. The design should fit within an A4 sheet of paper (portrait) and please use only coloured pens, pencils or paints. Please don't add glitter or stick anything to the design as this will not be able to be scanned. Be imaginative and creative.

Please be sure to include the name, age and school of the entrant on the back of each design. These details will also be printed on my cards. We ask that there is only one entry per child.

Each child who takes part in the competition will receive a certificate and the winner will receive a prize. We will also invite the winner and their classmates on an exclusive tour of the Houses of Parliament. While every design will be appreciated, unfortunately we will be unable to return any of the entries.

In order for the cards to be printed in time for Christmas, please ensure that all designs are received by my office **no later than 3rd November 2023**. (PO Box 1241, Harpenden, AL1 9JF). The winning design will be sent to constituents, businesses and organisations across Hitchin, Harpenden and the villages, and to the Prime Minister.

I can't wait to see your designs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bim Afolami'.

Office of Bim Afolami MP
Member of Parliament for Hitchin & Harpenden

Member of Parliament for Hitchin and Harpenden

Telephone: 01582 310 160 Website: www.bimafolami.co.uk

Entry deadline:

FRIDAY 3RD
NOVEMBER
2023

**BIM
AFOLAMI MP'S**

Christmas card competition

**Bim Afolami MP wants you to
design his official Hitchin &
Harpenden Christmas Card.***

**To enter, please send your design to:
PO Box 1241, Harpenden, AL1 9JF**

(You must include your full name, address and/or school clearly marked.
Please also include an email address for your school, parent or carer.)

For more details email:
bim.afolami.mp@parliament.uk

*Entries must be A4 and coloured in pencil, pen or paint (no glitter). Entrants must live in or attend school in the Hitchin & Harpenden constituency and be of Primary School age. Only one entry per child. The winning design will be printed and sent across Hitchin & Harpenden by Bim and will include the winner's name and school printed on the design.

Art and Design Department

Photography competition announcement!

Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to create a photographic piece of art inspired by the poem by Emily Brontë:

Fall, Leaves, Fall
by
Emily Brontë



Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.



1. Go out with your family and friends, get them involved to take a photograph inspired by the poem. You can read the whole poem, or just one line such as 'Fluttering from the autumn tree' as your inspiration.

2. Email the photograph to me at sfairbairn@sthildasharpenden.co.uk

Closing date: Friday 3rd November 2023

Prizes and certificates will be awarded to 3 lucky winners.

*Entries also welcome from members
of staff!*

Good luck everyone!





FESTIVAL — OF — THE GIRL 2023

Join us for a fun & inspiring day on
Saturday 21st October at the
Business Design Centre Islington, North London

Activities and workshops range from:

Coding and robotics to art and sustainability

F1 motorsports and rugby to aviation and gaming

Body confidence and music to podcasting and activism

Science and bootcamps to choreography and wellbeing

Football tricks and design to construction and yoga

And much more...



Help us to make sure all girls are
realising their full potential!

Get your tickets now via our QR code
or website www.festivalofthegirl.com

