



St Hilda's School
HARPENDEN
Caring, Curious & Confident

NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 10th July 2024 No. 134

*Last ever second of primary school:
The full stop rings in our ears.
But a thousand chapters left to write
We must vacate our childhood site
For time moves on and time is right -
To leave our wonder years.
'The Full Stop Day' by Mark Bird*

Dear Parents,

The school year has ended in traditional style with an emotional Leavers' Service, attended by many families and friends of St Hilda's School. The Form VI girls read some vivid memories and referred to our school values in their leaving speeches. Mrs Atkins read from Philippians on whatever is true, and Mrs Lawrenson read the poem *The Full Stop Day*, reminding us of all the feelings of moving on. At the end of the service, the girls returned to school for their usual goodbyes, with bubbles being a new feature of the celebrations. The final act of farewell happened when the staff clapped out the girls, as seen on our [Instagram page](#). We wish our Form VI, and other girls moving on from younger classes, every happiness and success at their new schools and hope they will come back and see us in the future.

Church collection – the collection taken at the Leavers' Service in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital raised £720. Thank you for your generosity.

This newsletter provides an overview of all that has taken place in this busy term, with page summaries from different year groups and specialist subjects. We hope this will provide a range of all that has been going on at St Hilda's, so do take the time to see what other classes have been up to as well as your own child.

Sports Day – we were blessed with a sunny, warm morning on Saturday, 29th June for our Annual Sports Day and prizegiving. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout from all families, and to see the school looking so smart with children's work and displays on show. It was also great to welcome Karl Guest, Headmaster of St Columba's College, who talked about his years teaching at St Hilda's School in Perth, Australia. There were some very competitive races, concluding with a much-enjoyed tug of war, complete with a new, industrial strength rope!

FOSH total – a massive thank you to the FOSH Team, whose final total fundraising for this year stands at **£18,637.06**, a record. We are so grateful to everyone on our parent body who has worked tirelessly to raise funds for this.

Smartphone survey – thank you so much to everyone who took the time to complete the Smartphone Survey recently. We have had a really good response and look forward to using this data effectively to inform our own approach as well as to help you in the next steps in protecting your children. A fuller response will be sent out in due course. We hope to offer another parent training evening regarding the use of Smartphones, details of which will be sent out then.



Wishing everyone a restful, relaxing and recharging summer when the time comes. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday, 4th September for the new school year.

With warm regards
Dan Sayers, Headmaster



PUFFINS (PRE – NURSERY)



Puffins have had another great term at St Hilda's.

This term our topic was 'Old MacDonald had a farm' as this is our favourite rhyme to sing so many of our activities were farm based. We even milked a pretend cow called Mavis!



We have continued having a great time doing yoga, parachute play, Forest School and visiting the library. Those of us that are moving up to Nursery have taken part in some wonderful transition activities.

Activity Week has been so much fun. We had a great time at Little City, Ellie the author read us her book 'Oh Armadillo! This Party's All Wrong' and had a superb party on Thursday to round off a perfect year!



KITTIWAKES (NURSERY)



In the Autumn Term we enjoyed lovely Welly Walks around the school environment. On this occasion we found lots of numbers hidden around the school. Each time we found a number we completed several actions to match the number, which included star jumps, hops, spins, and lots more. When all the numbers were located, we worked together to order them and then shared number stories in the tree stump circle. We love our Welly Walks and enjoy taking our learning outside in the natural environment.



As part of our learning about oral hygiene the Nursery class visited the Wayside Dental Practice. Amit the dentist taught us that we must brush our teeth twice a day, we must brush for two minutes, and we must visit the dentist twice a year, so the magic number for oral hygiene is two! We asked and answered lots of questions and our teachers were so proud of us.



This year the Nursery class have had Form V Buddies for the first time. When we first met with our Buddies, they read us lots of stories. Later in the term they came to play with us during our outside Chill sessions, and to end of the Summer Term we had a party and indoor picnic playing parachute games and enjoying delicious treats together. The Nursery children loved having Buddies and it has helped us to form links throughout the school.



This year one of our topics was 'Caring For and Loving Our planet'. We learnt all about recycling and global warming. We enjoyed a walk to Rothamsted Park to see if new trees were being planted and if people who used the park were thinking about the environment and were recycling their rubbish properly. We enjoyed games in the park and took some time for a 'Mindful Moment' listening to the birds singing and the wind blowing the leaves on the trees. We love going out and about in our local community.



RECEPTION



Reception have had another fun packed term. We have been learning all about the different habits of people, animals and plants.



At Forest School we thought carefully about where bugs and insects might live and went on a bug hunt to look for some. We found caterpillars, woodlice, spiders, ants and worms! We also made our own caterpillars which we brought back to school to add to our display about the lifecycle of a butterfly.



We have been swimming both at Aldwickbury and here in our St Hildas pool. All the girls now confidently whizz around the pool using a noodle and even those who have been very timid were brave enough to try jumping in!



We have enjoyed joining up with other classes to go on some trips this term. We walked to the Eric Morcambe Centre in Harpenden with Nursery to watch a very funny performance of The Tiger Who Came To Tea. We also have just been on a trip to Bekonscot model village with Form I and Form II. We had a wonderful day exploring the village and looking at how people lived in the past. We were surprised to recognise many similarities but also differences to how we live today. We hope you enjoy looking at our very own model village that will be on display on Sports day.

FORM I



Olympics Topic

The girls have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the history of the Olympics and comparing it to our modern-day Games. They are looking forward to watching the Paris Olympic Games later this year!



Christianity

Our focus in the RE lessons this term has been Christianity. The girls made some folded card crosses and some beautiful stained-glass windows.

Art

The girls have been learning about Aboriginal Art and using their fingers to paint in the style of Bronwyn Bancroft.

Trip to Aylett Nurseries

The girls enjoyed a trip to Aylett Nurseries to consolidate their learning in their Science topic this term. The girls grew some seeds they bought on the trip, and we also have a Form I Venus Flytrap plant to look after!



FORM II

Form II trip to Bekonscot Model Village on Monday 24th June

Reception, F I and II enjoyed a joint trip to Bekonscot. Form II started the day with a tour of the model village. After a quick snack they took part in a transport workshop and learnt about train, car and plane travel 100 years ago. After lunch fun was had at High Shrunkhams Junction where the girls could dress up and role play activities in a 1930's railway station.



In Form II we have been learning lots of useful skills in our 'Life Skills' sessions with Form I. We have had so much fun learning about how to maintain a car, how to read washing labels in clothes and how to make emergency calls using 999. We also enjoyed learning about different tools and how to use a screwdriver. We finished the term with some basic first aid training. It has been wonderful to learn these skills which will equip the girls for future life.



FORM III



Form III have had an amazing year! The children have worked incredibly hard and there has been a great deal of active learning and super engaged children.

We have enjoyed lots of trips and visitors from owls flying in, stone age people teaching us how to make arrows and meeting the cows at the Hindu temple, all of which have brought learning to life.



FORM IV



Form IV have had a fantastic term starting off with their first residential trip to Grafham Water.

They participated in team games as well as outdoor pursuits such as raft building, stand up paddle boarding and rock climbing. The girls all had a fantastic time - conquering fears, problem solving and of course plenty of giggles.

To finish the term off we started activity week with a fabulous trip to the Harry Potter Warner Bros Studio Tour. The girls loved this especially as many of them are currently mid-way through reading the books and watching the films for the first time.



It was incredible to be transported and immersed in Harry Potter world. We even got to do a costume making workshop and see some of the actual costumes used in the films up close!

FORM V



Warner Brothers Studios trip as part of Activity Week



Form V's Class Concert

To support our drive to further improve our House System, Form V have been paired up with children in Nursery to create house 'buddies'. Form V have written letters to their Nursery buddies and have really enjoyed getting to know them this year. This partnership has culminated in an end of year party which was enjoyed by all this week.



On our way to our residential in Cranedale!



End of term party with our Nursery buddies!

FORM VI

There have been so many moments for Form VI this term, it is hard to squeeze them all in here. Highlights have included the trip to Normandy, Bikeability, the Debating Competition and of course, the Leavers' Service. It has been a busy, if emotional time!



French Trip



Debating Competition



Leavers' Service



ART & MUSIC

Drama and Music

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE!

We have had a full and fun packed term of concerts, services, shows, Musical soiree and LAMDA exams.



A fabulous evening of song out on the field with the Senior Summer concert of Up, Up and Away, followed by an evening celebrating our instrumentalist in our Instrumental Soirée.



75 girls took LAMDA exams this term and we eagerly await the results later in the Summer.

On Saturday 6th July 2024 many girls took ABRSM Music Exams - and we wish them lots of luck.



Art

What a fabulously creative year we have had at St Hilda's this year! I hope you have all had a chance to see the wonderful artwork on display, I think you will agree the girls have really excelled themselves this year. I hope you enjoy a lovely summer holiday and get a chance to visit some of the fabulous art exhibitions on in London, or other cities you may be visiting. Use this [link](#) to view some stunning creations being celebrated from this year. Well done everyone. Wishing you a wonderful and creative summer, Ms Fairbairn.



SPORTS



Athletics, cricket and rounders were enjoyed by everyone this term and it was great to see so many girls taking part in various events. There were athletic fixtures and championships, cricket matches and a cricket festival, the Schools Triathlon, House competitions, Parents versus Form VI rounders and finally Sports Day. Well done to everyone for taking part and a big thank you to our wonderful Sports Captains this year: Nina, Evie, Sophia P, Lexi, Eliza and Isla M.



FOSH



In this final newsletter of term, FoSH would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents, pupils and staff who have contributed in so many ways to make our first year a success. We are also very grateful to the previous FoSH committee for their guidance and help when called upon.

I'm delighted to share with you that our fundraising total has exceeded expectations! We have been in discussions as to how funds raised for the school will be used and a breakdown will be included within the Autumn FoSH newsletter. Thank you to Form reps for relaying feedback and suggestions from parents.

Our fundraising events are now finished for the year, with the Summer Ball and Golf Day being held in the past couple of weeks. Both were excellent fun!



Thank you again for your support,
Dom, Tammie and Sophie

Coming Up...

Showtime Circus Herts

Showtime Circus Herts are announcing a special event that they believe students and families will love - our Family Fun Circus Day, hosted by Showtime Circus Herts!

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, July 20th

Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Roundwood Park School

This fun-filled event is designed to bring families together for a day of joy, excitement, and creativity. Attendees will have the opportunity to try out various circus equipment, including juggling, trapeze, silks, and more.

About Showtime Circus Herts:

Showtime Circus Herts provides a unique and engaging experience through the art of circus performance. Their mission is to inspire and nurture creativity, confidence, and physical fitness in children and adults alike. They offer a variety of programs and workshops tailored to different skill levels, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the magic of the circus.

It's a wonderful opportunity for everyone to experience the fun and excitement of circus activities while spending quality time together.

Attached is the [link](#) for easy sign up. For more information about the event or their programs, please visit their [website](#) or contact them by [email](#).

Next Thing Education Camps

Next Thing Education Camps are looking to host an exciting Tech and STEM themed camp at our school this October. The camp will combine learning with fun and include themes such as robotic building and programming, Minecraft, movie making, Lego engineering, virtual reality, laser tag and much more - all with the aim of inspiring the next generation of technology enthusiasts and inventors! Here's a [video](#) of a snippet of some of the activities at the camp.

To see if this is something that's feasible, Next Thing Education need an idea of how many children would be interested. Please click on the following [link](#) and complete the 30 second survey to register your interest for this camp.



Form VI vs Staff Rounders