



St Hilda's School
HARPENDEN
Caring, Curious & Confident



NEWSLETTER

Tuesday 2nd April 2024 No. 133

*'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* John 3 verse 16

Dear Parents,

The term has ended this morning with our Easter Service at the High Street Methodist Church. As always, the girls read and sang this important story with great commitment and enthusiasm, led by our Form VI class who led the service with aplomb. It was great to see so many of you there and to finish the term together in this way, remembering the real reason for this time of year.

This newsletter gives a flavour of the events of this term. There has been great success on many fronts with notable sporting successes, fantastic performing arts opportunities, visits, school events and trips. As promised at the start of term, this is a pictorial summary of all that has taken place over the past three months, following the introduction of our weekly communications at the start of term, which I trust has been well-received. Thank you for the positive feedback.

I would like to thank all of you who support the school in any capacity. We are fortunate to have so many who give freely of their time to volunteer in school, whether with reading, times tables, the EYFS morning routine or helping at fixtures. Your generosity and help is much appreciated.

Of especial note are our FOSH Officers who have worked tirelessly to promote the various events over the past two terms, culminating in a super Easter activity this week. Second hand uniform is an important part of FOSH support, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Nancy Mehmet for all she has done for over 3 years to set up the website and run the uniform shop so efficiently. We are all most grateful to you. I am very pleased that Monique Chapman has stepped up to run this enterprise, and we wish you well in taking this on. A reminder that the second uniform website is available [here](#).

I would also offer heartfelt thanks to our wonderful staff team, who have worked so hard this term to provide so many opportunities.

Our inspection report has now been received in draft form and I trust will soon be available for all to read after Easter. I will be writing separately, once this is available, to share a breakdown of all the feedback.

I trust that all of you will have the opportunity to rest and recharge at some stage over the coming Easter weekend and following holiday period, ready for the Summer Term and all its usual activities.

I wish you all a joyful and blessed Easter.

With warm regards
Dan Sayers
Headmaster





Lunar New Year Dance Workshop

In January, we celebrated the Lunar New Year with a dance workshop from 'Dance Days' for children from Nursery - Form VI. Children worked collaboratively to produce a performance piece celebrating the Lunar New Year.

'Yes Day'

Lancaster house hosted the first charity day of the year, a 'Yes Day' for the whole school to enjoy. Children enjoyed wearing their own clothes, bringing a soft toy to school, having a dance party on the playground as well as teaching the teachers! The day raised £607 for Great Ormond Street Hospital, the charity that Lanc have chosen to support.

NSPCC 'Number Day'

On Wednesday 7th February, we celebrated Number Day. Children came to school wearing something with a number on or dressed as something number related. In our Maths lessons, we undertook some NSPCC Number Challenges and had an assembly to remind us of the support that the NSPCC provide.

World Book Day Dance Workshop

Last Friday 8th March, pupils from Nursery to Form VI enjoyed some dance workshops as part of our annual World Book Day celebrations. These workshops were based around 'Where the Wild Things Are' by Maurice Sendak and 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo. A great time was had by all; feedback from pupils and staff was really positive. They particularly enjoyed the creativity, energy and enthusiasm of the workshop leader, Ewan Gillies, a London-based actor whose musical theatre credits include Singin' in the Rain, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Evita, Mamma Mia, White Christmas, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, and Hairspray.



World Book Day

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we enjoyed dressing up in character outfits and a visit from the Travelling Book Fair. The girls had a fabulous time browsing the wide range of books and choosing favourites to add to their wish lists. This event not only helps us to promote a love of books but thanks to the generosity of our parents we will be able to select some lovely resources for the classrooms and library.



'SPACE' Charity



On Friday 22nd March, the Early Years team organized a fundraising day for the charity 'Space', which holds special significance for two girls in the school community. Form VI hosted a successful 'Bake Sale' during playtime, where delicious cakes made by all the girls were sold for 50p each, with Sophia, Alexa, and Rosie managing the stall with assistance from Mrs. Matthews. The entire school community participated in the event, contributing to the funds raised for 'SPACE'.



Additionally, the Early Years classrooms were transformed into vibrant spaces filled with excitement, as children engaged in various space-themed activities such as crafting rockets and spaceships, painting stars, coloring, and participating in fine motor skill exercises related to rockets and planets, ensuring an educational and enjoyable experience for all.



The Early Years would like to say a

big 'Thank You' for everyone who contributed to our recent

'Out Of This World' charity event raising a total of £440 from the Form VI 'Bake Sale' and the St Hilda's community. This money will all be donated to

'SPACE' for the amazing work they do



Concerts and performances



The Form VI Production of *Olivia!* Was the highlight of a busy term of performances. The girls at the top of the school worked incredibly hard to rehearse and perform the piece in just over a week. The story includes references to various classic stories, including *Oliver Twist*, *My Fair Lady* and *Sherlock Holmes*.



Class Concerts have taken place this term for Forms II to Form V, with many showing great progress on a wide variety of instruments.

At the end of term, the orchestra travelled to the Alban Arena to take part in the St Albans Primary Schools' Spring Festival, joining over a hundred other musicians.



Trips and Assemblies

A wide variety of trips have taken place through this term. Forms II to VI enjoyed a visit to the West End after Half Term to watch *Frozen the Musical*, much enjoyed by all. Form II visited the Tower of London as part of their history studies, Form I went to RAF Hendon to explore all things connected with flight as part of their curriculum focus. Form VI visited Windsor Castle in March and Form III went to Tiggywinkles, the charity Warwick have adopted to support this year. The Nursery went to the Wayside Dental Practice in Douglas Road to discover how to look after their teeth. Class assemblies have also entertained parents and pupils alike with a variety of themes. Form IV presented a particularly inspiring assembly on space. Forest School continues to delight all.



Sport

It has been wonderful to see so many girls involved in matches this term. Form III enjoyed their first experience of netball fixtures at the start of the term at Beechwood and were delighted to score lots of goals against STAHS. Plenty of young eager talent to watch out for!

Form IV have had a few matches as well and enjoyed a great experience at their first ISA tournament yesterday, where they came 3rd overall. The girls were pleased with their medals!



Form V have had several fixtures and one ISA tournament where we finished in the top 3 schools. Target for next year is to improve our stamina, speed and accuracy of passing.

Form VI – what a year for them. Our B team was unbeaten in the League and our A team is currently placed 3rd. Our A team also qualified for the ISA National Finals and finished up 12th overall. All players should be congratulated on the progress they made this year and for being inspiring role-models for the younger girls. Well done!



Parents and Form VI had a great final match to end the season on the final Wednesday of term!

Congratulations to our Hockey Squad who reached the semi finals of the ISA U11 Mixed tournament at the Old Loughtonians on 15th March. We were also impressed by several players who took part in the Herts County Clubs Tournament in March.





Competitions

There has been lots of fun this term entering different competitions, from the World Book Day outfits to ISA. Two notable examples have been the ISA Poetry Competition, with two girls being shortlisted, Stella (FIII) and Heidi (FIV).

The ISA Easter egg art competition produced lots of St Hilda's entries this year, two examples are here. Saniya in Form III won her age category in the national event, many congratulations.



FoSH Summer Ball

FoSH Summer Ball are available!

Also, Aldwickbury golf club have asked us to promote their charity night to the parents in exchange for a golf 4 ball as a prize for our raffle.

Tickets are selling quickly for the summer ball. If you would like to attend please find details [here](#).

Our venue, Aldwickbury Park Golf Club, are hosting a charity casino evening on 20th April. Please see link attached above for more information and to buy tickets.



Join us for the FoSH Summer Ball
Saturday 8th June, 2024

The Fenwick-Ames Suite,
Aldwickbury Park Golf Club, AL5 1AB

£90 per person

Ticket includes a welcome drink, 3 course dinner,
magic mirror photo booth, DJ and Dancing.

Dress Code: Black tie/formal.

Drinks reception at 7pm. Carriages at Midnight.

Tickets are now on sale by tables of 10 or 11.

Please nominate a table host to email sthildasball24@gmail.com stating their name and form and the full name of each table guest. The ball organiser will contact you for payment once your table is confirmed. If you would like to attend but do not have a full table, please contact your class rep.

Tables are sold on a first come first served basis.