



HUNTER HALL

PREPARATORY & PRE-SCHOOL

Newsletter Number 12
Autumn Term, 4th December 2020



Dear Parents

Advent has begun and things have certainly ramped up in school regarding preparations for Christmas. Elves have appeared in lower school (some with face covering I might add), such are the times we are living in(!), and are leaving a trail of glitter and messages all over the place – the children are loving it!

Rehearsals for their nativities are also underway and our upper school children are very much looking forward to watching a performance albeit from a distance next week. Christmas trees have popped up all over the school, although I don't think any can hold a candle to Mr Ellerton's creation in the courtyard – this has to be his best yet in terms of lighting, and once again thank you to the Rowleys for providing such a beautiful specimen. We have even had snow today, which does everything to send children into a joyful frenzy of excitement even if it is only a very small covering!!

This morning, Mr White and I took the readers chosen for the Christmas service which is normally held at St Andrews down to the church to record their readings, and next week Mrs Wrightson and I will take down a small group of children to perform some musical pieces. As mentioned in a previous letter, this will all be available on-line, hopefully in the last week of term.

Today you will receive e-mails from your form teachers on a few other arrangements to do with Christmas – please read carefully as they sit alongside the detailed letter that I sent out earlier this week.

I hate to mention the COVID word, but of course it is still very much prevalent in the community and we continue to do our utmost in school on a day-to-day basis to keep it at bay. Ventilation is key to this and we have as many doors open as possible to allow for a through draft from early morning until late at night – but it does mean classrooms are cold. Because these are extenuating circumstances and we would not normally have doors open when it is less than 5 degrees outside (!), if children have base layers at home, I think it would be a good option for them to wear them underneath their school uniform whilst we go through this particularly cold spell.



As staff, we are teaching in our coats and the children do have the option of putting blazers and coats on, but a base layer would make a significant difference too, as well as -of course- their school jumpers etc.

The effects of COVID are now being felt well into next year as we have heard this week that both Carlisle Festival and the Malvern Cross Country Championships will not run in 2021. Whilst this is a blow, ever looking on the bright side, it also gives us an opportunity to do something different of our own, so we will get our thinking caps on and think creatively come the new year once again!

Miss Graham has been in her toy shop for some time now and the children are nearly finished their wooden Christmas decorations – they are all rather splendid and available for sale with all proceeds going to school funds along with the parents’ group initiatives.

Please read her message at the end of this newsletter. Yesterday I

had the privilege of sitting in with Year 3 whilst they made wooden snowmen and even managed to paint one for myself – the children told me I did it very well thank goodness; maybe it was because I had George as my wingman! Ollie managed to make one at home as he missed the session, but of course coming from a family of log sellers – it rather outstripped ours somewhat!

And finally, we have had requests for our new branded umbrellas – they are rather smart, strong, useful in the rain or a snowstorm, as well as of course subtly help to market our beautiful school. If you would like one (maybe a Christmas pressie??), they are £25 each. Please see Olivia or any of us at the gate to place your order.

PS can you guess which of our smallest children are underneath them? 😊 Enjoy your weekend, next week is even busier!



Mrs D Vinsome

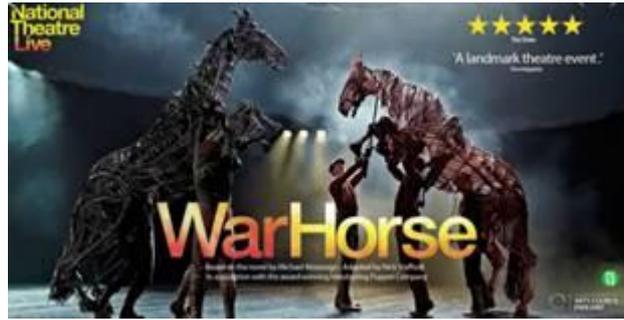
Pre School News

It is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas in pre-school, with glitter and tinsel everywhere! The children have been very busy creating a sparkly, festive, reindeer display, a nativity scene as well as taking part in lots of Christmas activities. There was great excitement when our elf returned to pre-school, after much debate, we have decided to name him Tom Tom. Our tree has been decorated with tinsel and Duplo; carefully placed to ensure it doesn't fall off. We have of course been continuing to practise our nativity songs; the children have been trying on their costumes this week- they all look adorable, I cannot wait for you to see them. Although busy, this is my favourite time of year, I really am excited to see what the next couple of weeks will bring.

Miss Gallagher

War Horse

Rheged has a screening of War Horse from the National Theatre on Sunday 13th and Tuesday 15th December. Many of the children in upper school are fans of Michael Morpurgo stories, and in fact year 4, 5 and 6 are all currently reading a book by this superb children's author in English lessons. I thought the performance might be a nice opportunity for a Christmas trip out for some of you. It is a fantastic production, which uses puppetry powerfully to bring this magical story to life. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rheged/war-horse/e-vbbval>



Mrs Fletcher

Week Ahead – Week 13

Monday 07 December 2020

- 12:30 - 16:30 LAMDA
- 15:20 - 16:20 After School: Hockey (Lower School) *Please bring shin pads*
- 15:30 - 16:30 After School: Choir (Upper School)
- 16:30 - 17:30 After School: Band (Upper School)

Tuesday 08 December 2020

- 13:30 - 16:00 Outdoor Education: Year 3P (Orienteering)
- 15:15 - 17:30 **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS.**
AFTER SCHOOL CARE ONLY AVAILABLE FOR US UNTIL 4PM (EXCEPT FOR SIBLINGS OF LS, WHO CAN STAY UNTIL 6PM)
- 16:30 - 17:00 EYFS Nativity Performance (Pre School & Reception)
- 17:30 - 18:00 Lower School Nativity Performance (Years 1&2)

Wednesday 09 December 2020

- 13:30 - 15:15 HH In School Fixture (Years 5&6, Volleyball)
- 13:30 - 15:15 HH In School Fixture (Years 3&4, Dodgeball)
- 15:15 - 17:30 **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS OR CARE**
- 16:00 - 18:30 Parents' Evening- (Pre-school and Y6)

Thursday 10 December 2020

- 09:00 - 10:00 Lower School Santa Run
- 13:30 - 16:30 Outdoor Education: Year 6 (Orienteering)
- 15:30 - 16:20 After School: Mindfulness Colouring (Upper School)
- 15:30 - 16:30 After School: Languages (Upper School)

Friday 11 December 2020

- 12:30 - 16:30 LAMDA
- 13:45 - 15:00 Upper School Santa Run
- 15:30 - 16:30 After School: Running Club (Upper School)
- 16:20 - 17:20 After School: Tennis (Upper School)