

Welcome to Mrs Davies'  
weekly newsletter

# The Voice

8th December 2017



Harpenden Academy  
Education for a changing world

## Dear Parents

Christmas has well and truly arrived at Harpenden Academy with the Nativity play by Reception and the Harpenden Schools' Christmas Carol Concert on Wednesday evening.

Firstly Ladybirds entertained their parents with their Christmas Nativity "Away in a Manger." The children had huge fun during the performance creating memories for parents and themselves for many years to come. The array of costumes was wonderful, so well done parents in finding or making the costumes.

Mrs Aylott and Mrs Welch worked hard with the children to make sure they knew their words and the songs so many thanks to you both but also a hearty congratulations to a job well done.

On Wednesday night, Mrs Moss and 10 children from Harpenden Academy joined in with the Harpenden Schools' Christmas Carol Concert. The children behaved very well, sang beautifully and more importantly enjoyed the experience. Well done to Mrs Moss for making sure it was a successful and enjoyable event for the children.

## Staffing Changes

As Year 4 parents are already aware Miss Curtis, our Deputy Head, is now full time teacher of Austen class. This has been Miss Curtis' first full week and she is enjoying getting to know the children.

I will also be back in the classroom teaching full time for 2 days a week. I will teach Year 5 on Thursdays and Year 6 on Fridays. This means that moving forward, any meetings with parents will have to be on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Parents will need to be aware that email communications will need to come via the office as normal but there will be a delay in response as I will be teaching 2 days of the week. I appreciate this is less than ideal however in this period of austerity needs must!

## Violin Assembly

Apologies for cancelling this morning's assembly at short notice today. I made this decision as we have been having problems with the gas ovens in the kitchen and the engineer is in to fix the problem and the noise would have disrupted our assembly.

Our violin club were able to perform to their parents and we will ask them all to repeat their performance at our Tuesday assembly so the children have a chance to shine in front of a bigger audience.

## School Lunches—gas ovens not working

You will be aware from recent emails that yesterday our gas ovens stopped working. We have had engineers out and the problem may take a few days to fix so unfortunately our menu options will be different for the early part of next week. Steve is able to use his electric ovens and we have come up with the following menu to get us through Monday and Tuesday.

Monday will be Jacket Potatoes with Beans or Cheese.	Tuesday will be Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Chips or Deli Bar
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Thank you for your patience and we aim to get the ovens fixed asap.

## Christmas Lunch

Thank you to those parents who have notified the office that their child will be having Christmas lunch. If you would like your child to join us, on what is always a festive feast, please let the office know. If your child is in KS2 then you can pay £2.30 via Parentpay. Christmas dinner is free to KS1 children however you must notify the office if your child usually has packed lunch and would like to participate by the deadline of today — Friday, 8th December. There is no need to do anything if your child is already signed up for school dinners.

## Snow Alert

I have no reason to believe we are going to be snowed in this year, despite the frequent threats of arctic conditions from various newspapers, however, if we were to receive significant snowfall we will endeavour to keep the school open. We will post snow alert information on the school website and also communicate via twitter.

## Christingle

The KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Christingle Service is in the hall on **Monday, 18th December** at **2pm**. All parents and friendly adults are warmly invited to join in.

The KS2 (Year 3 — Year 6) Christingle Service will be at St Nicholas' Church on **Tuesday, 19th December** at **6.30pm** and again families are warmly invited to join us.

Please can all children wear their hair tied up for health & safety reasons.

A reminder following last week's newsletter—we are looking for parent volunteers to help make Christingles with the children on Friday, 15th December 2017. Please can you let the office know if you are available to help. Your help would be hugely appreciated.

## Sharing Mornings

Please remember we have altered the arrangements for sharing morning to allow parents greater flexibility.

Below are the sharing morning days and times for specific year groups.

Wednesday, 13th December	Sharing morning 8.30-9.00am for <b>Reception &amp; Year 6</b> only
Thursday, 14th December	Sharing morning 8.30-9.00 for <b>Year 1, Year 1/2</b> and <b>Year 2</b> only
Friday, 15th December	Sharing morning 8.30-9.00 for <b>Year 3, Year 4</b> and <b>Year 5</b> only

## Christmas Cards

There will be Christmas cards on sale next week at drop off and pick up every day. Children from the School Council will be selling the cards at discount prices and all proceeds will be going to the FOHA towards much needed playground funds so

**PLEASE SUPPORT!**

## Snowball Game, Year 6

This week in Shakespeare class we have been having some festive fun by using a game called Snowball (shared by our English Leader Mrs Johnston at a recent Learning Lunch). The game works with each child writing an idea on a piece of paper then scrunching it up and throwing it like a snowball. Whoever receives it has to add their idea and the process continues so that after a few throws each child gets their original paper back with lots more ideas added to their own. As you can see from the children's faces, we had lots of fun helping each other generate and improve our ideas!



## Quiet Room

It has come to our attention that a number of children are seeking access to the quiet room at lunchtimes. Please can you remind your child/ren that this facility is only set up for children that suffer with anxiety around the playground environment. These children are referred to the quiet room team by their classroom teacher. It is therefore important for us to keep this space quiet and calm enabling it to be a conducive and safe place for the children to spend their free time. The fresh air is incredibly good for the children and lunchtimes are a wonderful opportunity to spend much needed social time with friends. Please make sure that your child is coming into school fully equipped for the weather, so that they can enjoy the playground space without worrying about cold limbs!

What a fantastic year it has been for Children's University!

Over the past year Children's University has grown locally as well as nationally, with more children taking part from local schools. It's great to look back at the activities and challenges Children's University members have taken part in, such as the national challenges, workshops and activity sessions held here at Oaklands College.

Last month we hosted an exciting drama workshop at Oaklands College for Children's University members. Run by the College's Performing Arts students, the workshop was followed by a short theatrical performance, 'Carlotta and The Great Magic Spaghetti Adventure'.



We're now on Instagram!

Find us @southhertsu

Our workshops at the College are a great way for members to try something new and we are looking to run a further activity session next year. As always, please feel free to get in touch with any suggestions and we'll be in touch with details in the new year!

I hope everyone has a good Christmas break.

Best wishes,

George Giles  
Children's University Coordinator  
Oaklands College

## WHAT'S NEW?

We are delighted to welcome **The Creation Station** as our newest Learning Destination in the South Herts region.



Based in the Watford area, The Creation Station offers a range of exciting arts and crafts in a safe, nurturing and friendly environment.

If you think this is something your child may enjoy, please contact The Creation Station directly via the details below.



[urni@thecreationstation.co.uk](mailto:urni@thecreationstation.co.uk)

number 7

Number 7 Music, based in St Albans, Harpenden and Bushey have also recently joined us as a new learning destination.

Number 7 Music offers weekly lessons in guitar, bass, drums and various other instruments. Lessons are taught in small groups, and there is also the opportunity for students to perform live in a band.

For more information, contact Number 7 Music directly.



[info@no7music.com](mailto:info@no7music.com)



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