

HCJS Newsletter

Aiming High, Celebrating Success

No 8 : Friday 26th January 2018



Exciting news!

I'm delighted to inform you that big improvements are coming to HCJS—and soon! After a lot of work behind the scenes, Bucks County Council has given the green light for alterations that will help accommodate our expanding village. With the increased capacity at Haddenham St Mary's School and the general rise in demand for places at HCJS, our governors have agreed to raise our Pupil Admission Number (PAN) to 90. This gives us the capacity for 3 classes of 30 in each year group. And increased numbers mean increased funding!

We'll be starting work this Easter holidays on enlarging and refurbishing four of our classrooms revamping our cloakrooms and creating new storage areas—not to mention that new library I wrote about in the last newsletter! It is a very exciting time here at HCJS, and I will keep you updated with news on the project as it progresses over the next six months. **Andy Leach**



Our new school wormery—story on page 2!

Our new Mini MUGA

If you've heard your child talking about 'the mugger at school', don't panic—they mean the MUGA, or Multi-Use Games Area. We've recently invested in a Mini MUGA to make playtime even more fun. With heavy-duty barriers and new mini goal nets, the Mini MUGA enables us to section off an area of the North playground so that children can try out different sports and games during playtime. **Supervised** weekly activities will include Futsal/urban football, Unihoc (a game derived from hockey) and even Boccia (a variant of bowls/boules). Over the next year or so, this area of the school grounds, which is next to the climbing wall and tyre parks, will become our 'activity zone', while most of the front playground and the shelters near the South area entrance will be designated a ball-free quiet zone.

Readers' Corner

Mrs Palmer, our Head of Upper School, recommends: **A Street Cat Called Bob** by James Bowen

This is a firm favourite of mine—heart-warming and a real page-turner. Bob is a ginger cat who finds a new owner in James, a homeless busker, and helps turn both their lives around. It can be dark in places, but the series—which includes *Bob*, *No Ordinary Cat*; *For The Love of Bob*; and *A Gift From Bob*—has been adapted so that children from Year 6 and up can learn about life on the streets and how compassion and resourcefulness can overcome adversity. For younger readers, *My Name Is Bob* is a beautiful illustrated version that can fire discussion about homelessness. The original was turned into a film in 2016, but it's always best to read the book—so much better for the imagination!



Things you wanted to know but were afraid to ask!

Our [Facebook page](#) is the best way to see what is going on at HCJS. We regularly post photos, videos and updates on curriculum events and activities. Examples from just the last ten days include: The 'Great Marble Theft' from Mr Leach's office; Year 5's 'Fruit' Solar System; and the visit of an Arsenal and England footballer to Year 3!



News, notices & reminders

Forgotten items

We have been spending a huge amount of time in the mornings phoning parents because children have forgotten their swimming kits, cooking ingredients, shin pads, trainers etc. This has become too time-consuming for the school office so please try to ensure that your child has everything they need for their school day. In future we will not be making calls but instead sending an email to parents if a child forgets an item, so please check your inbox!

Mobile phones

Mobile phones should only be brought to school for personal safety reasons, e.g. if a child is walking to and from school alone. We have an increasing number of unnecessary phones in school and many are not being handed into the school office. Please remember that the school cannot take responsibility for the loss or damage of phones or electrical items.

Thank you to the Young Voices Choir

Miss Adamson and Mrs Dales would like to say thank you for the lovely gifts they were given after the recent Young Voices concert. "It was both a joy and a privilege for us to guide you through learning the songs and then to accompany you to this memorable event, singing together as one of the largest children's choirs in the world. You were brilliant and we are so very proud of you!"

New Governor appointment

Due to work commitments, Andrew Smith is unable to take up the position of Parent Governor, to which he was recently elected. The Governing Board has invited Jo Wharton to take up the role. She is thrilled to be joining the board, and myself and the governors are looking forward to working with her—welcome Jo.

Eco News

The Eco-Warriors/Tree Wardens have been extremely busy this half term. Firstly, thank you for sending in your Christmas cards for recycling. We've avidly removed any embellishments to ensure they meet the correct standards for recycling. By completing this activity, we are now well on our way to achieving the Bronze Level Woodland Trust Green Tree Award.

We have also welcomed some very special worms to our school wormery! They've made themselves at home and are busily eating their way through our fruit and vegetable waste, which the Eco Warriors collect at break times. The wormery will produce organic fertiliser and compost for us to use in the West Quad garden.

Help needed for our tree stump seating area!

We are making great headway creating a rich learning environment across the school grounds, and our latest project is a tree stump seating circle for our woodland area. The Forestry Commission at Wendover Woods has kindly offered to donate around 30 tree stumps— but we need to collect them! If you own a trailer or van, please let Miss Phillips know if you'd be willing to collect the stumps from Wendover Woods. Thank you!

Haddenham Youth Theatre junior & senior performances—THIS FRIDAY & SATURDAY!

Sherlock Holmes and the Emerald of Alcazar followed by **Pride & Prejudice** will be performed at HCJS on Friday at 7pm and Saturday at 2pm and 7pm. Doors open 30 minutes before the show. Tickets are still available from Blooming Fruity or The Egg House (£6 for adults/£4 for under 16s). Alternatively, contact Lynne Colley on 07790 751954 to reserve tickets to collect on the door. Many children from the Junior School are taking part so it would be great if you could come along and support them!

Learners of the week



12th January 2018



19th January 2018

Forthcoming events

Thursday 1st February

Year 3 Roman Day

Friday 2nd February

Year 4 Viking Day

Wednesday 7th February

Year 6 trip to Oxford Castle

Friday 9th February

Young Voices Choir assembly
2-2.45pm, parents welcome

Tuesday 27th February

Parents Information Evening (Maths)
6-7.30pm

20th / 21st March

Parent Consultation Evenings

Friday 27th April

Arts Festival 6-8pm

Details to follow

Year 6 Residential—Wales

Week 1. 11th to 15th June

Week 2. 18th to 22nd June

HCJS Sport

Football Fixtures

22/2/18 Boys away vs Cuddington & Dinton

Girls home vs Ashmead

26/2/18 Boys away vs Turnfurlong

27/2/18 Girls away vs Thomas Hickman

1/3/18 Boys away vs Stone

5/3/18 Boys away vs William Harding

8/3/18 Boys away vs Bearbrook

9/3/18 Boys away vs Weston Turville

15/3/18 Boys at home vs Stoke Mandeville

Cross Country

Saturday 3rd February—St Edwards

Wednesday 7th February—Cottesloe School

Hockey

Thursday 8th Feb - Year 4 tournament