

# HCJS Newsletter

*Aiming High, Celebrating Success*

No 7: Friday 12th January 2018



## Welcome to 2018!

Happy New Year everyone! 2018 has arrived and we are already a week into what will be another busy and exciting term at HCJS.

## Update: staff absences

Like many of you, quite a few staff have succumbed to illnesses this winter—in fact, I have never known it to be as bad as during this past month. Though we have well-established cover arrangements, always using our own staff whenever possible, there are times when we have to rely on supply teachers. Please bear with us and remember that a school is just like any other workplace—no one here is immune to falling ill. If a teacher's absence is likely to be long-term, I will always write to you and explain any planned arrangements.



*Young Voices 2018 , Genting Arena, Birmingham*

## Oh what a night! Young Voices 2018

Over two million children have taken part in a Young Voices event in the past 20 years, and on Monday night it was our turn. The 70-strong HCJS Choir, along with six staff and two brilliant parent helpers, headed to Birmingham's Genting Arena to join 6,000 others in the world's largest children's choir concert. Performing as one 'voice', the schoolchildren sang to a sold-out audience of family and friends.

It was a very long day and a very late finish, but well worth it—the point of Young Voices is to inspire a love of music and create lifelong memories. The children who took part will certainly remember their night for a very long time—it was a terrific experience to work up close with professional musicians and recording artists.

A massive thank you to all those who gave us their time , but particularly to Miss Adamson, who, with Mrs Dales' help, has practised relentlessly with the children every week since September. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time and trouble to get in touch and say how much you enjoyed it too!

## Readers' Corner

**Miss Hill, school Literacy Co-ordinator and class teacher of 5H, recommends:**  
**Skellig by David Almond**

This book is intriguing and magical. It tells the story of a boy called Michael who feels lonely after moving to a new house and having a poorly sister. One day he stumbles across a garage and discovers a magical creature inside. With his new friend Mina, he helps nourish the creature Skellig back to health. Skellig is far more than he first appears and changes Michael's world. This is an eerie and magical story, full of happiness and sadness, but ultimately very fulfilling.



# News, notices & reminders

## Next Parent Council Meeting: Wednesday 24th January

The Parent Council meeting is your opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions about the way the school is run—you can do this via your **year group Parent Council Representative\***. The Parent Council meets regularly with Mr Leach to ensure parents and carers have a say in the way the school moves forward—so we would love to hear from you.

Thank you to all of you who provided feedback for the last Parent Council meeting on 15th November; minutes of that meeting are now available on [our website](#). Ahead of the next meeting on 24th January, we would especially like to hear your views on **Parents' Evenings** and **Meet the Teacher events**, and the information provided at these. General feedback about the school is also very welcome.

### YEAR 3

**Clare Abbott (William 3F)**  
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### YEAR 4

**Laura Richards-Gray (Rivkah 4I)**  
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### YEAR 5

**Claire Croft (Oliver 5H)**  
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**Verity Priest (Rory 5OC)**  
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### YEAR 6

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**Kate Leale (Evie 6CA)**  
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\*Please note that the Parent Council discusses feedback relating to the school generally. Any specific issues relating to your child or their teacher should be raised in the usual way by contacting Mr Leach via the school office.

**Don't forget: bring your old Christmas cards in to be recycled by our Eco-warriors.**

## Update: Learner of the Week Tea Party

Over the past year, I have been holding a little tea party in my office every Friday morning for our Learners of the Week. This year we are going to try something different. When your child is awarded a Learner of the Week certificate, they will also be given an invitation to a larger tea party event, which we will be holding once a month.

## Things you wanted to know but were afraid to ask!

**We still use paper Library tickets at HCJS!** Clearly this is very old-fashioned—and for some time we have been thinking about modernising our library services.

In the pipeline is a brand-new, state-of-the-art fingerprint scanner, enabling pupils to take out books. We will also be introducing a web-based library system so that children can scan our catalogue, reserve books online and even blog about them or write reviews. It's all very exciting—further details to come soon, but we hope to have it up and running by the summer term.

# Learners of the week



15th December 2017

## Forthcoming events

**Tuesday 16th January**

Parents Information Evening (Maths)  
6–7.30pm **POSTPONED**

**Thursday 18th January**

Year 5 Planetarium

**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

**20th / 21st March**

Parent Consultation Eve

**Friday 27th April**

Arts Festival 6–8pm  
Details to follow

## HCJS Sport

### Football Fixtures

23/1/18 Boys at home vs Broughton

22/2/18 Boys away vs Cuddington & Dinton

26/2/18 Boys away vs Turnfurlong

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 20th January—Wendover

Saturday 3rd February—St Edwards

### Netball fixtures

30/1/17 away vs Wendover

23/2/17 away vs Bedgrove

7/3/17 away vs Halton

Tuesday 16th January - HASSP Tag Rugby Event - Year 3 only at Cuddington & Dinton