

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to see the children back at school after half term; they looked happy, refreshed and ready for the rest of term. We were greeted by the very welcome sight of our new Astroturf on Monday morning and I am pleased to say that it has already been heavily used this week. It is an outstanding facility for the children and we are all very excited by it. It was formally opened on Friday evening and this was a very happy occasion. Now, all that remains to be done is for the area in front of the Astroturf to be landscaped and a parking area created behind St John's to relieve congestion during drop off and collection times and to provide sufficient parking space for the needs of the School.

The matches on Wednesday afternoon were very successful; the boys are playing well and there were some outstanding results, against Worth in particular. The girls' hockey is also looking good, even though playing Copthorne proved rather challenging this week; watching some of the girls playing on the new Astroturf with the sun dropping low in the sky and the village church spire in the distance was an intensely rewarding experience.

On Thursday evening we held our Remembrance Service

and this was a very moving occasion. I was glad to see so many parents there and the choir sang beautifully. I hope you all have a very happy weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes,

Heather Beeby

Literacy Gateways

Earlier this term you received an email from Tim Firth outlining our promotion of literacy across the College this year. I am delighted to inform you that the Literacy Gateway for your son or daughter is now available to you on the Parents' Portal under the heading Reports. You will see the criteria against which your child will be assessed for this academic year and which criteria s/he has already met. At present most children will still be working towards the criteria so please do not be surprised if it appears that your son or daughter has not met many; the picture should look very different by the end of the academic year. Once your child's English teacher has seen evidence from your child's work that he or she has mastered all the criteria listed, s/he will move through the Literacy Gateway and start to work towards the next.

I hope you find this information helpful and informative; if you wish to

discuss the literacy criteria in more detail please contact your child's English teacher.

Great Grades

Congratulations to all the children who were awarded Commendation Certificates for their second grade review:

Charity Day

Friday 25th November is Bettridge's House Charity Day. We ask for a £1 donation to wear **own clothes**. All the money raised will go to 'Canine Partners', a charity that trains assistance dogs for people with disabilities. Canine Partners will be visiting us in assembly on Thursday 24th and during morning break on Friday 25th.

Staff Inset Day

Please note that half term in February will begin on Thursday 9th. Friday 10th February 2012 is an Inset Day for staff and the school will be closed to pupils.

Beyond the Library Shelves

The Red House Children's Book Award is the only national book prize in the UK voted for entirely by children. For the first time ever the Prep School has been invited to help choose the winner of the 2012 award. Pupils throughout the school will be reading the books in their chosen category – Picture

Books, Books for Younger Readers, Books for Older Readers – ranking them in order of preference – 1st, 2nd etc.- and voting. All votes have to be in by the end of term. Children may also add reviews or pictures about their favourite book and these items will be considered for inclusion in portfolios which are presented to the shortlisted authors and illustrators at an award ceremony which will take place on 18th Feb in London.

Science in the News

You may have been lucky enough to look up at the sky after sunset recently and observed a very bright light in the South Western Sky. <http://www.nightskyinfo.com/> Look at this website to learn what you can see in the night sky during November, the Leonids are spectacular however where do they come from? Answers to paul.goodwin@hppc.co.uk

Math's Challenge

Horatio Plunge has set 5 of his students a test. There are 5 questions each worth 1 mark each. After marking their work he notices that the mode of the marks is one more than the median which is one more than the mean. What were the 5 marks that the students achieved?

Last Week's Answer 108 cm². A regular hexagon with an area of 72 cm² will be made up of six equilateral triangles with the same length as the sides. Each triangle

therefore will have an area of 12 cm². If three more triangles are added the total area will be $9 \times 12 = 108 \text{ cm}^2$

ICT HEAVEN IN 2011

It is Remembrance Sunday, so it is good to remember good practice in ICT. This week a person brought me their broken laptop to see if I could retrieve any data from it. Unfortunately I couldn't, as the hard drive had failed. It is a good idea to remember to e-mail any important data to yourself so that if your computer fails, you will still be able to access your data from anywhere in the world. Another solution is to save your data to one or more of the following locations or a similar online storage site.

<http://www.dropbox.com/>

<http://www.skydrive.com>

<https://www.icloud.com/>

<http://www.adrive.com/>

This week I was sent an e-mail from BT urging me to help get someone, who doesn't know how to, to get online. So the **ICT Smartie Challenge 161** is to visit <http://www.bt.com/includingyou/getting-online.html> and help someone get online.

As it is Remembrance Sunday, I include a reading from Chapel in case you didn't hear it on Thursday.

In memory of Sgt James Arthur Swann 'C' Company, 11th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles.

Ninety seven years ago Europe was at war. In a small rural town in Northern Ireland a nineteen year old answered his country's calling and joined his local infantry battalion with his friends. This

young man was my Great Great Uncle James Swann, known to his friends as Jim. In the following two years Jim trained hard as he wished to become a good soldier. His officers recognised this and he soon rose to Corporal and eventually to Lance Sergeant. In October 1915 he left Seaford in Sussex with his Battalion heading across the Channel to the shores of France. I imagine that he was excited and a little nervous but being with his friends would have assured and comforted him, all of whom had been told that they would be home before Christmas!

However, nine months later they were still in the midst of the bloodiest war there has been. In the early morning sunshine on Saturday 1st of July 1916 L/Sgt Swann stood in his trench on the eve of the famous Battle of the Somme. This battle was to determine the outcome of the war and cost many young lives. At 7.30am a whistle blew sharply, signalling to Jim Swann that he was to climb out of his trench and advance towards the German lines, into what eye witnesses described as the 'Devil's Dwelling Place'. As Jim Swann moved forward, his friends by his side, they all walked into the steel muzzles of machines guns. It was here that he was wounded and eventually taken to hospital in Woolwich, London. His mother, travelled to see him there, but tragically Jim died of his wounds on the 5th August 1916, a few days after

she had returned to Northern Ireland.

Like so many others, this gallant and brave young man gave up his own life for what

he believed in – the liberty of his country. He was not an obscure figure from a dusty history book, but connected to me through three generations. History teaches

us many lessons – one of which should be that we never forget the sacrifice of soldiers, sailors, airman and women from all conflict.

WEEKLYCALENDAR

DAY	EVENT	PICKUP
Monday 14 th November		16:30 Years3–8 17:20 After Prep/Activities 18:00 After Prep/Activities
Tuesday 15 th November	10.35 Eco Hurst Meeting 17.00 Swimming Gala v Great Walstead U8 & U9 (A) 18.00 Girls' Indoor Hockey League	16:30 Years 3-8 17:20 After Prep/Activities 18:00 After Prep/Activities
Wednesday 16 th November	13.30 Girls' Hockey v East Grinstead (1 st XI, 2 nd XI) (A) 14.00 Netball Festival v Great Walstead Netball Festival (U9/8) (A) 14.15 Girls' Hockey v Burgess Hill School for Girls (U10,U11) (H) 14.30 Girls' Hockey v Worth (4 th VII, 5 th V!!) (A) 14.30 Girls' Hockey v Lancing (3 rd XI) (A) 14.30 Girls' Hockey v Burgess Hill School for Girls (U11) (H) 14.30 Girls' Hockey v Lancing (U8, U9)(H) 14.30 Netball v Cumnor House (U11/10) (H) 14.30 Rugby v Great Walstead(1 st XV, U11B) (H) 14.30 Rugby v Great Walstead (2 nd XV, U11A, U10A) (A) 15.00 Girls' Hockey v Burgess Hill School for Girls (U10, U11) (H) 15.00 Hockey v Cumnor House (Colts C) (A) 15.00 Hockey v Ardingly A/B (Colts D) (H)	16:00 for children not in matches, please look at Games' board for match finishing times. 17:20 After private study 18:00 After prep
Thursday 17 th November	Year 5 Challenge Grade Review 2 16.20 Jazz Eucharist 17.15 Swimming Gala v Windlesham House (H) 18.30 iPad Training Sessions for Year 7 Parents (Conference Room)	17.10 After Chapel 18.00 After Prep/Activities
Friday 18 th November	Year 6 Challenge Grade Review 2 15.00 Rugby v Warden Park (1 st XV, 2 nd XV) (H) 18.30 iPad Training Sessions for Year 7 Parents (Conference Room)	16:30 Years3-8 17:20 After Prep/Activities 18:00 After Prep/Activities
Saturday 19 th November		

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop



**LIMITED SPACES STILL
AVAILABLE
BOOK NOW!**

Monday 5th December or Friday 9th December 8.30-11.30.

Workshops take place in the **Cloisters Meeting Room** (in Senior School Quad)



We will be making a beautiful traditional moss based wreath using a 12" raised copper ring, fresh moss and wiring techniques. The ring can then be embellished with your choice of festive materials – pine cones, holly, cinnamon sticks, orange slices, festive ribbons etc. The wreaths will last outside for Christmas and the frame can be reused year after year.

The workshops cost £35 per person and price includes all materials

- Coffee, mince pies & Nat King Cole Christmas music also provided!

To book your place and to receive further information about the workshops please email Belinda Campopiano at belinda.campopiano@btinternet.com.

