



## Head Talk

Merry Christmas one and all! We have nearly made it to the end of the Autumn term. This week and next have been and will be very busy. This week saw the school serve 365 Christmas dinners to the children. The kitchen and MDA staff were brilliant and it was rumoured that Mr Larner, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Moore, Mrs Kiernan and Mr Hutchings helped serve the children! The infants performed a wonderful nativity this week at Christchurch. It was a lovely way to celebrate the Christmas story. Thank you to everyone involved. Next week will see the Junior Carol Service on Monday & Tuesday night at 6pm at Christchurch. We look forward to seeing you all there. School will start again on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the school for being so welcoming to me over my first term as Headteacher. I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas break and a very Happy New Year.

## School Website

I thought it might be useful to remind parents of a couple of useful pages on the school website. We have a page under the office section of the site, which now contains electronic versions of important letters that we have sent home with the children. This is a good place to visit from time to time, just in case a letter is lost. We also have a section on the website with the school term dates and non pupil days. The home page also

contains a diary of events that are taking place during the year.

## Lost Property

The school has decided to bring the lost property bins back into the school building as the uniform has not been collected as quickly as we hoped and therefore it has been getting damp. We will aim to have a lost property event in the new year. Please can I remind parents to make sure all uniform is labelled with your child's name. It is such a shame to see so many jumpers in the bins.

## EACH

Thank you to everyone who has handed in their money for the sponsored circuit training event. EACH will be collecting today and we will let you know how much you have raised in the new year.

## Scooters and bicycles on the playground

Please can I remind children and parents that scooters and bikes are not to be ridden on the school playground. Thank you.

## KS1 Nativity 2016

On Wednesday and Thursday evening at Christchurch, KS1 performed their Nativity play, Starlight, to parents. All the children acted brilliantly with loud voices and expression. We had a different Mary and Joseph for each evening. The singing, including a solo, was lovely as were the

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dancing stars. A big thank you to the parents who walked children to the church for rehearsals and to all the parents who provided such wonderful, colourful costumes. The children have worked hard and have done themselves proud. A big well done to everyone!

### **Year 5 trip to the Planetarium**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> December Year 5 went on a trip to Greenwich Planetarium. We are writing about our fantastic trip to the grand Planetarium. As we entered the museum some of us were able to touch an old rock that was 4.5 billion years old. Everybody loved it. Secondly, we were accompanied by a man who taught us about the Sun, Moon and Earth. There was so many amazing facts to learn.

After lunch we were allowed to explore the fascinating rooms full of wonder facts. Everyone learnt so much. Did you know that Saturn's rings are made of ice and it looks like it only has a few rings stuck together but it actually has thousands?

Next was the outstanding Planetarium it was probably everyone's favourite part. We lay back on the extremely comfortable seats and let ourselves drift into an extraordinary adventure in the Universe. Then we ventured some more brilliantly educational rooms. We learnt that there is so much more to discover throughout the Universe.

Written by Sophie Fennell & Joely Turner

### **Year 4—Warrior Queen**

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December Year 4 performed their play 'The Warrior Queen' which was about Boudicca and the Romans. The play started off with the best song of all, 'Just like a Roman' which was performed with sign language. There were many fabulous songs in the play such as 'Celtic People' and 'Empire' and of course the finale song 'Be Bop Boudicca'!

In the play the Celts were fans of the band The Prodigy and when the Celts burned down Londinium, the track 'Firestarter' was played and the Celts went insane with glow sticks and torches. This was many of the year 4's favourite scene of the whole play!

The emotional scene was when the Celtic King Prasutuagus died and flowers were put upon him. We were told that many parents had a tear in their eye at this particular scene. Ssuubi made an amazing Boudicca and was word perfect on every performance.

We all enjoyed performing the play and wanted to do it all over again once it had finished.

By Alfie Powell—4SR

### **Music Stars**

Year 5 pupils had an amazing opportunity with a few Prettygate pupils to make a music track that we will be able to design a front cover for. A couple of boys made

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up the title: "Maker of Light." Whilst, the girls had a go on the keyboard and then we collectively made up some fabulous lyrics to fit in with the song. Our music lesson wouldn't be the same without being able to try a keyboard, electric guitar, guitar and the microphone!

Written by Henry Hill & Bella Agostini—  
5DW

### **Reception Applications for September 2017**

Just to remind parents that the closing date for applications for the new intake in September 2017 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

### **University of Essex Christmas tennis camps**

The University of Essex will be holding a tennis camp on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

### **Pupil News**

Well done to Bonnie Thorpe (2LE/JG) who swam 100 metres last weekend.

Well done to Dylan Moore (5FN) who swam 3000 metres last Saturday! It took just under 2 hours and it was 120 lengths!

Congratulations to Ben Duffield (3ND) & Charlie Mason (3MR) who have both gained their Chief Scout Bronze Award.

Congratulations to Daniel Smith (6SM) who has swum 500 metres and also gained his Chief Scout Silver Award.

### **Non Pupil Days for 2017-2018**

Please note the following dates have been set as non pupil days for the next school year:-

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018





## Calendar Dates

### Spring Term 2017

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	First day of term for pupils
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Year 2—Great Fire of London Day
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Individual Pupil Photos
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> February—Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> —Thur 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Learning Conference Week - NO CLUBS
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	Last day of term for pupils

### Summer Term 2017

Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	First day of term for pupils
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Non Pupil Day
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May—Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	SATS Week for Year 6
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2017	Class Photos
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May—Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	Half Term
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	First day of term for pupils
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017	Last day of term for pupils

### Autumn Term 2017

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Non Pupil Day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	First day of term for pupils
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> —Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Non Pupil Day

### Email Information

If contacting the school via email please use the [parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk](mailto:parents@hamilton.essex.sch.uk) address.