

From Mr Gumbrell . . .

It was lovely to welcome Mrs Bateman, the new LDSM Headteacher, into our school on Monday. This was a vital opportunity for her to meet with many of the children, staff, governors and parents. It was excellent preparation for January, building initial relations with members of the school community. In the afternoon, we also had the very enjoyable experience of watching the Year 3 Christmas Production – ‘Bethlehem’ – reminding us all about the real meaning of Christmas.

This newsletter is also my last! It brings to a close seven years of ‘Newsletter Writing’ – something that I have always enjoyed doing. With goodbyes, it is always a time of reflection and it is no different on this occasion. I have so many happy memories of this place and the wonderful people who have graced the corridors and classrooms. LDSM will always have a special (and much treasured) place in my heart. I have achieved two-form entry, a Good Ofsted and a happy team of staff. This is what I set out to do at the beginning and I believe that I can leave knowing it is done! Thank you to each and every one of you who collectively have given me a plethora of happy times to reflect back on. But for now, I’m off to ‘find my Mummies’ and to work with Newly Qualified Teachers to try and keep them in this profession.

Squires Christmas Tree Competition

We Won! Thank you to all those who voted for us, we really appreciate your support. The children returned to Squires yesterday and were presented with goody bags.

We would like to thank Squires for the opportunity to take part in the competition and also for their generous donation of our school Christmas Tree, brightening up the foyer.

Bethlehem Christmas Production

A huge well done to all of Year 3 for their amazing performances. The children spent several weeks learning lines and songs and it certainly paid off! The last chance to buy photos is today. Please bring your £3 to the office if you would like to buy them.

Library Books

Please return all library books, no later than Tuesday 19th December so that Mrs Jones can log them back in. Thank you.

Celebration Assembly

I started reading with the children a story called “Salt in his Shoes” by Deloris Jordan. The story is about Michael Jordan as a young boy and the story was written by his mother in the hope that young readers and listeners will be motivated by the book to follow their dreams just as Michael followed his- by setting goals, working hard, and being dedicated. It was a pleasure to share the first part of the story with the children who all listened with great interest and attention.



**‘Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift – Jesus Christ.’
Corinthians 9: Verse 15**

Ancient Egyptian Workshop!

All the adults were shown by the students the work that they had done over the past few months. There was a café where the adults could sit with their children and talk to them about their work. Some of their work was also based on the student's other lessons they had. The adults got to see their children's diaries about Howard Carter as well as their masks (which they used paper mache) then painted them to look like Tutankhamun. In maths, we learnt about perimeter based on Egyptians too. The children got to ask questions to the adults. Conrad B and Nadege L (Durham)

Birthday Books

Thank you and Happy Birthday to James B and Anna R (Pendragon), Isobel and Jady J (Durham) who have bought a book each for the Library to mark their birthdays. These will be enjoyed by all the children. To join this scheme, simply send £3 in a named envelope marked 'Birthday Book' and the office will show them the books and book plates to choose from.

Dates . . .

	Value for December – APPRECIATION
Fri 15 th Dec	Music assembly at 9.00am – families welcome Choir, Band, Ukulele and Recorders will be playing
Weds 20 th Dec	Pupil Christmas Lunch 12noon – all pupils welcome, see note Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children
Thurs 21 st Dec	End of term assembly at church at 10.45am am - families welcome
Thurs 21st Dec	Last day of term, finishes at 1.45pm
Thurs 4 th Jan	Spring Term starts at 8.35am

Ancient Egyptian Workshop!

There was a café in Pendragon and there was a museum in Durham. The café was serving flatbread and to go with it, some dips. To drink there was an orange juice. There were also our topic books for the parents to look at. In the other class there were our Egyptian masks that we put some paper on and then glued it on to the mask and then we painted it. We also wrote out how Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamen's tomb. We also made some pyramids and did lots of facts about them. Leo C and Zahara S (Pendragon)

School Dinners for January . . .

These cost £11.25 a week (£2.25 per day). Please ensure that payments are made in advance, to ensure that your child receives a dinner.

First half term = 27 days @ £2.25 = £60.75; Second half term = 29 days at £2.25 = £65.25

Full Term £126.00

Payments on-line, or by cheque payable to 'Surrey County Council', or in cash via the school office post boxes.

Collect the Stamps from your Christmas Cards . . .

. . . and bring them into school. They will be sent on to help boost funds for the Children's Trust at Tadworth. Thank you.

Nits return . . .

Please ensure you check each child's head weekly and remove any visitors, which will stop them being returned to you via another child, later on. Thank you.

'Lost My Mummy'

Having played my game, Lost My Mummy, with the children last week, I am overwhelmed by the positive response that I have had from children (and adults) alike. I wanted them to like my game; they do. I wanted them to crave to play games, card games; they do! I hoped that they would learn about Egyptians without even realising that they are; this happened.

As you may already know, on my website www.lostmygames.co.uk there is a feedback section. I would love to have some written feedback from children of LDSM on this page. If you did want to put something forward then please use the contact form on the website to do so. I am looking for paragraphs that review the game so that other children might then read then respond to it. Something about 6-8 sentences would be perfect.

Thank you to all of you who have bought the game so far. I really hope that it brings the family together around the table over Christmas.

Christmas Activities

- **Friday 15th December**- 9am- Music assembly

The children will need their PE kits in school for the following days:

- **Monday 18th December**: Hornby, Skipton, Bodiam, Pendragon
- **Tuesday 19th December**: Brecon, Kendal, Scotney, Montrose and Durham
Please note Durham's PE slot is now on Tuesday and NOT Monday
- **Wednesday 20th December**- We will be enjoying Christmas lunch with the children. The children may come into school wearing a Christmas jumper, hat or antlers for this occasion if they wish to do so. A donation of just £1 would be most welcome and the proceeds will go to the Save the Children charity.
- **Wednesday 20th December**- Each year group will be enjoying their Christmas celebrations and you should now all have received an email from your head of year.
- **Thursday 21st December**- All of the children will be attending the end of term service at St Mary's Church, at 10.45am. Parents are most welcome to join us.

Lessons will run as normal until week commencing 18th December. Please do note that there will be **no set homework** other than reading during the last week of term and the year 3 children will not have homework during the week of the Christmas production.



Below is a message from our Co-Chair of Governors

Consultations on admission arrangements for September 2019

As you know, Hinchley Wood School is consulting on proposed changes to its admissions arrangements from September 2019. The consultation, which closes on 19 January 2018, proposes that a new category of staff members' children be admitted above children at feeder schools, and that the Year 7 waiting list be re-ordered five days (rather than on the first day) after the start of the Autumn term each year. For further details and to respond to the consultation online, click here [Admissions Consultation - 2019 Arrangements - Hinchley Wood School](#)

Admissions Consultation - 2019 Arrangements - Hinchley Wood School

Hinchley Wood School is a state funded, non-selective 11-18 mixed comprehensive Academy in Surrey. Our core busi...

In addition, LDSM has also been notified of consultations on the admission arrangements for September 2019 for Thames Ditton Juniors, Long Ditton Infants, and Esher Church of England High School. Please see below for the proposals and how to reply.

Esher Church of England High School - consultation closes Wednesday 17 January 2018
[Admissions 2019 Consultation Esher Church of England High School](#)

Admissions 2019 Consultation Esher Church of England High School

Our mission at Esher Church of England High School is that every student will grow in character, spirit, knowled...

Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School - consultation closes Tuesday 23 January 2018
<http://longditton.surrey.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Admissions-Consultation-letter-17-18.pdf>

Thames Ditton Junior School - consultation closes Wednesday 24 January 2018
[Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2019 | Thames Ditton Junior School](#)

Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2019 | Thames Ditton Junior School

Thames Ditton Junior School