



## *Hello from Mrs Hunter*

Dear School Family,

Many of you will have read the communication from Judith Rutherford already sharing the news that I will be leaving at the end of the school year. This has been one of the hardest decisions that I have ever had to make. Since I was a small child through to the present time I have been a frequent visitor to Cornwall and my husband and I have talked for many years about relocating there and to be able to live by the South West Coast Path. At the start of this year we decided to start looking at making this dream a reality and we were presuming that it would take us over a year to find a headship for me. However, in the last couple of months I have found a really friendly school, been interviewed and was offered the job yesterday. It has all happened very quickly. If we were not re-locating then I would not be leaving Hiltingbury Juniors; I am sure you know that I love being here and that I put my heart and soul into my role. The reality is that I can't commute from Cornwall every day!

I spent a good deal of time talking to Judith about whether I should wait longer to get a few more things bedded in at Hiltingbury but have come to the conclusion that there will never be a good time to leave; there will always be something that I would want to stay for. It is now my time to be Daring, Believing, Achieving Together and for my husband and I to set out on an adventure.

We have worked really hard with school communications today and spoke with governors and then staff this morning and then I held an assembly for the children. We had the letter ready and waiting to send out to you but, as I am sure you will understand, needed to liaise with the other school as to what time of day they were communicating with their parents, hence we couldn't send that out this morning too.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the HSPTA quiz tonight. I am around for the rest of the school year – you are not getting rid of me that quickly – so it will be very much business as normal. Thank you in advance for your support. I am going to need it.

Best wishes  
Sam Hunter 😊

## *Chair of Governors Headteacher Announcement*

You will be aware from my communication earlier today that Mrs Hunter will be starting a new role as headteacher at a primary school on the Devon / Cornwall boarder.

I want to again offer my congratulations to Sam and to reassure you that the Governing Body will conduct a rigorous recruitment process as we move forward to find our new Head.

It has been a busy week for Governors with both Finance and Curriculum subcommittee meetings. The highlight for me was our Learning Council pupils sharing the amazing work they do and seeing how the school benefits from the pupil voice groups.

Judith Rutherford  
Chair of Governors

## Poster Competition - Calling all pupils



The Eco Agents are holding a poster competition, which all pupils are invited to enter! The children were told all about this in their class assemblies this week. If you're in lower school, your challenge is to create an 'anti-littering' poster. If you're in Upper school, your challenge is to make a poster displaying the new Eco Code created by the Eco Agents (paper copies of this code are available from the Eco Agents or Mrs Milligan).



Guidelines: Bold and eye-catching design; could be created on the computer or hand-drawn/written; simple and clear; A4 size; put your full name and class on the back.

One winner will be chosen per year group, and the winning posters will be displayed in school to help to remind children to take care of our school. Please hand all posters to your class' Eco Agent by **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**.

## Immersed in books with Mrs Thomas

Yesterday afternoon, 3P spent a wonderful hour with Mrs Thomas, our school librarian.

I organised the session after Mrs Spence had enthused about the time Mrs Thomas spent with her class, inspiring the 4S children to read. Following Mrs Thomas's visit, Mrs Spence was excited that many more children from her class were visiting the library more regularly and were more enthusiastic about reading.

On Thursday, Mrs Thomas brought two baskets, brimming with books with her when she visited 3P. Many of the books were those she recommends for Year 3 children, but many were also recommendations from her Junior Librarians. What a plethora of wonderful books they were too. Among them were some old favourites such as: 'Paddington Bear' by Michael Bond; 'What Katy did next' by Susan Coolidge and 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl. In her basket of goodies she also brought some more modern books such as 'Warrior Cats' by Erin Hunter; 'Pirates in Pistols' by Chris Mould; 'The Travels of Ermine' by Jennifer Gray and 'Stinkbomb and Ketchup-Face' by John Dougherty.

There was a palpable buzz in the room and I enjoyed spending an hour immersed in books (some from my own childhood and some books that were new to me), I think as much (if not more) than the children in my class! The children wrote down books that they would like to read in their Learning Journals, so that they can use this when they want to return the book they took out this afternoon, to borrow their next new favourite genre or author.

I cannot recommend enough to all the other classes that they book sessions with Mrs Thomas. I also recommend that you visit the library with your son/daughter after school on Fridays and have a chat with Mrs Thomas, as she has a wealth of knowledge and she loves nothing better than talking books!

Mrs Pollock



## Book Fair



The Book Fair is coming to school soon! The book cases are coming from **The Travelling Book Company**, who are one of the best companies for offering a fantastic selection of really good quality children's books. Books will be on sale after school on **Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd March** from **3.30pm till 4.15pm** in the school hall. You can use your World Day Book Voucher towards the cost of a book worth over £2.99. It is lovely for children to have special books of their very own to treasure and furthermore all purchases generate commission for free books for our school. Last year your support was FANTASTIC and we raised £815! We hope to see you there.

## Bookmark Competition Results

Well done to all the children who took part in the bookmark competition. The designs were eye-catching and vibrant and many included children's favourite authors, books and messages to inspire and promote a love of reading. All the bookmark winners had their designs printed into their very own bookmark and were presented with these during a school assembly.

DESIGN  
A BOOKMARK  
COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winners of each year group Natalie (3P), Esha (4P), Benjamin (5H) and Misha (6C).

The pupil librarians voted for a lower school winner Owen (3O) and an upper school winner Sardor (6C).

## Snowtastic!



## LEARN Practice-a-thon 1<sup>st</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March



Some instrumental pupils at Hiltingbury Junior School are taking part in a Practice-a-thon again this year. Last year we successfully raised £170 for **CLIC Sargent** supporting children with cancer and their families during a difficult time with additional help and advice.

This year we are still collecting for **CLIC Sargent** but for a closer appeal, Home from Home – Southampton.

The vast majority of young people from Hampshire are treated for cancer at Southampton General Hospital, where the team of CLIC Sargent are based. Close by to the hospital, CLIC Sargent own a "Home from Home" for families to stay in so they can be close to their loved ones. With the lease terminating on the house in 2018 and thanks to the generosity of supporters, including Children with Cancer UK, CLIC Sargent have been able to buy a bigger, better house. The challenge is to find another £400,000 to refurbish the house to make into a 7 bedroom house suitable to sleep 7 families. The new home will also welcome non-resident families who are living on the wards, so they can seek some home comforts – have a shower, do some laundry or just have a cup of tea away from the hustle and bustle of the wards.

Vanessa Jarvis, the violin teacher said: "I hope that the children are taking part in the Practice-a-Thon for two reasons. It is a worthy local cause and secondly, to prepare for performing in the Music Festival".

The 'Southampton's' Festival of Music and Drama' will take place at Thornden School between 15-18 March"

If any other instrumentalist would like to join the Practice-a-thon with us, they are most welcome.

*Communications this week (copies of these letters can be found on our website)*

Group	Content	Date of Event/Deadline
Whole School	Chair of Governors – Headteacher announcement Easter Celebration Assemblies	29 <sup>th</sup> March
Y3	30 Sharing Assembly	
Y5	Cycle Training Fairthorne Manor	16 <sup>th</sup> March onwards 9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> May

*Dates for Next Week*

12 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 Paultons Park R&R Lower School Football 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room
13 <sup>th</sup> March	
14 <sup>th</sup> March	R&R Y4/Y5 Netball 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room
15 <sup>th</sup> March	R&R Upper School Tag Rugby 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Mrs O’Driscoll’s Concert 09:15 World Book Day R&R Lower School Netball 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room Street Dance Whole School 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room

## Quiz Night

Friday 9th March, Junior School Hall, 7:45pm



Good luck to all the teams who are registered for tonight's Quiz and Chips. It never fails to be a fun evening!

Bring nibbles (no nuts), drinks and some loose change for the raffle and let the battle commence!

## Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 23rd March, Junior School Playing Field, 3:30pm

**Pop-up shop:** tickets on sale Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th March at school pickup outside the Yr R playground.

**2 weeks to go** until the wonderful Easter Egg Hunt! Buy your tickets on line at [www.pta-events.co.uk/hspta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/hspta) for £3. Early purchases make organising the hunt much easier!

**HELP NEEDED:** - can you spare an hour to help set up? Clear up afterwards? Or volunteer during the event? Can you bake a cake to sell at the cake sale? If you can, please sign up on [www.pta-events.co.uk/hspta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/hspta) or email us at [info@hspta.co.uk](mailto:info@hspta.co.uk).

## Dates for your diary:

We are pleased to announce that the school Summer Fair **IS** going ahead! Watch this space for more details as help will be needed closer to the time and at the event. Other dates for your diary:

- \* Thursday 3rd May - 7pm: HSPTA Committee Meeting, Junior School Staff Room
- \* Friday 11th May - 9-10am: Coffee Morning Infant School Staff Room
- \* Friday 18th May - Summer Discos
- \* Friday 8th June - School Summer Fair

## PLEASE HELP!!!

Other help needed

- \* Business Directory Coordinator - needed end June, this currently generates £215 per year for the PTA, can be done at any time and mainly requires advertising those companies who sign up on our Facebook group.
- \* HSPTA Secretary - starting from the AGM in October, this is approx 3 hours commitment a month and requires attending committee meetings. Can be shared between two.

For any queries or questions about the events or anything HSPTA related please contact us at [info@hspta.co.uk](mailto:info@hspta.co.uk) or see our Facebook group [facebook.com/groups/hspta](https://facebook.com/groups/hspta).

Helen (HSPTA Chair)