

Dear Parents,

This is always a special time of year – as I pass excited infants in the corridors all costumed up for the Nativity play – it is an important reminder of how lucky we are to have come to the end of a term where so many good things have happened.

November kicked off with the House Music evenings and a chance for the soloists to perform. From the first performances of Year 2 and 3 pupils to the assured playing of the older pupils, both evenings delighted the audience of proud parents and friends.

Music also played its part in our Armistice Day two minute silence when Peter Hindson played the Last Post and Reveille as the whole school assembled in the Quad - and again at a concert in Bramshott Church to raise money for their new roof. The Brass Ensemble has really become a thriving part of the music ensembles and it is lovely to have the strength that they bring.

The highlight of the last weeks was the opening of the Sensory Garden. To celebrate, Graham from Hidestyle Animal Rescue centre brought some of his animals to visit and Michelle Magorian, the author, read poems she had written; a time capsule was planted and the musicians performed in the music area. Since then pupils have been able to enjoy the garden at playtimes as well as during lessons and we are all finding the 'magic' hidden within it.

The Student Council launched 'The Big Workout' for Childline and received a terrific response from the pupils. With sponsorship and lots of physical commitment over £3,000 was raised for this worthwhile charity. I know the Student Council would wish me to thank, on their behalf, everyone for their tremendous support.

There have been a number of visits and visitors recently: Class 1 went to Guildford Museum for their study on Victorian toys; Year 5 received a visit from a passing Aztec; Years 3-5 enjoyed a drama workshop given by a group from Dubai and Year 6 watched a performance of 'Twelfth Night' given by Senior School pupils.

And of course – no Christmas would be complete without the nativity – this year 'We Three Kings'. With huge zest and enthusiasm the Infants wove their own brand of Christmas magic to a packed audience in the Studio. This proved to be the perfect introduction to the Christmas Fayre the following day – and what a triumph that was! My thanks go to all the many PA members, the Fund raising committee and the many helpers who organised and ran the stalls and events. The Christmas excitement continues with the House Music competition and its varied interpretations of 'Frosty the Snowman' - this year won by Meon.

As I write this letter there are still lots of lovely treats to enjoy before we break up – theatre visits and the Carol Service in beautiful Bramshott Church to name but a few.

**Book Swap:** As part of Reading Week in February we will be running a 'Book Swap' so pupils will be able to bring in books and swap them 1 for 1. If you are planning a new year clear-out – leave it until then. All books in good condition will be able to be swapped.

Congratulations go to: Florence Cornelius, Pea Rushin, Anna Bloch, Olivia Brady, Emily Knowlton and Molly Steele for being awarded **Golden Certificates**

I wish you all a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

