



The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School

Nurturing Excellence

Headmaster - Peter Hamilton MA

Preparatory School

Headteacher - Yvonne Mercer BEd

Butterfly Lane
Elstree
Herts WD6 3AF

Tel 020 8266 1779
Fax 020 8266 1808

www.habsboys.org.uk



Prep Newsletter - November 2014

Dear Parents,

HABs' Boys in First Position in 'The Sunday Times 2014 Parent Power KS2 League Table'

The League table was published in The Sunday Times on the 17th November. Once again I should like to congratulate not only the boys and staff, but you, our parents, for your wonderful support and contribution to your son's education here in the Prep School.

The link to follow is; www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/public/parentpower (although you may be required to subscribe to see the article online).

Fundraising

Sponsored Read

Our grateful thanks to all the boys and family members who generously sponsored the annual Prep School Half Term read. The amazing amount of £5648.45 was raised. This was the most we have ever raised in the Sponsored Read! The money will be divided between the three chosen charities which are Sparrow School, Ray of Sunshine, Basil Flashman Trust.

Sparrow School, South Africa

As you know, the Prep School has made a pledge to support the financing of the Sparrow School Educational fees for two pupils - Gabriella (aged 12) and Absolom (aged 14).

We are delighted to inform you that the amount of £2244.38 from the boys' Sponsored Read and the monies so generously donated by parents at the Coffee morning on 7th October (when Jackie Gallagher, Founder of Sparrow School visited HABs) means we have now achieved our target for this year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this worthy cause.

However at this time of the year, as we move nearer to Christmas and Hanukkah, many of us think of other children around the world who are less fortunate than ourselves and I would like to appeal to you to consider making a small donation towards our next target for the Sparrow School.

Jackie has told us the Sparrow Foundation School (300 children aged (7 - 13) is fundraising hard to improve the outdoor sports facilities in Melville, Johannesburg and Jackie would dearly love to provide some sort of child friendly astro type playing surface for the boys and girls.

I very much hope that the HABS Community will once again join together in 2015 when I am keen to hold another Auction of Promises (as we did in Spring 2013). Many parents (and boys!) have been asking when we will do this again!

However, I would like to enlist a small group of parents and form an organising committee for the Auction - Please do consider this and let me know if you would be willing to help in our next venture. I am hoping the HABs Community will be able to replicate the amazing sum raised in 2013 which was £11,800.00!

In the meantime, if you would like to 'start the ball rolling' and make a donation - please address your cheque to The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School and we will send one cheque from the Prep School (you will always receive a personal receipt from Sparrow).

It hardly seems a minute since I returned from my Autumn sabbatical teaching in Johannesburg at the Sparrow School and I will never forget the sadness on the children's faces on the last day of the Autumn term (a time when our own children are full of excitement and anticipation). For many of the Sparrow Children (60% are orphans) the school is their only family and many of the children dread this time of year.

During my Headship at HABs I have always been immensely touched by the generosity of many parents who have sent gifts to me at the end of term. If this was in your plans, I hope you will not be offended if I were to say I would be truly delighted if you might consider substituting a gift for me with a small donation to Sparrow School, where I know first-hand the needs of the children are far greater than any of mine.

Thank you again for your wonderful support of The Sparrow School.

Words & Music

We are all very much looking forward to our annual Words & Music Concerts on 9th, 10th and 11th December. The boys of course love to entertain you, and I can promise you a morning or evening of delight! Rehearsals are in full swing, and we should be grateful for your support by checking your son has all that he needs for his rehearsals.

Arrangements for the evening performances on Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th December.

- Boys to arrive between 6:45 pm and 7:00 pm and go straight to their Form rooms.
- Parents are invited for light refreshments from 7:00 pm onwards in The Prep Foyer.
- All boys need white shirts, polished shoes and full school uniform.
- Pick up Time (for parents who are not watching in the Hall) will be approximately 9:00 pm. Please come to your son's Form room to ensure staff know the whereabouts of all the boys. Please note we will not release any boy until the entire performance has finished.
- Please send a carton/plastic bottle of water and small snack with your son to keep him refreshed throughout the evening!
- After School Club will finish at 4:00 pm on these days (*except for boys involved in Judo*)
- All boys will finish school at 3.20 pm on **Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th December.**

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, St Albans Abbey; Monday 15th December 2014

2.30 pm - 4.00 pm. Please remember there is no school for Pre-Prep or Prep Boys on this day. Parents with their sons are welcome to attend the service at the Abbey if they wish.

Prep School Opening times

Some boys have been arriving at school very early in the mornings, so I need to remind you that the Prep School officially opens at 8.20 am when two members of staff begin their playground duty. There is no supervision whatsoever either inside or outside the Prep before this time. We would ask you to ensure your son does not arrive at the Prep much before this time and certainly not before 8.10 am. Boys are not permitted inside the school (other than a toilet visit) until 8.50 am when registration takes place. Should your son wish to change into his outdoor trainers, he must keep them in his school bag so they are on his person when he arrives at school.

Poor Weather Arrangements

In the event of bad weather, the schools will remain open whenever possible and parents are asked to make every endeavour to get their sons to school each day. Coach drivers are urged to make every effort to reach the schools, trying alternative routes where necessary.

However, if the schools have to close, parents should be aware of the following:

A message will be placed on the schools' website as soon as a decision to close is taken. An SMS message will be sent to your mobile phone to alert you.

Please check the website regularly in the event of bad weather. Please try not to telephone the school as we must keep the lines clear for urgent messages from the coach stewards.

The default setting unless shown otherwise on the school website is that the school is open.

General Advice for poor weather

Pupils should wear sensible boots and plenty of warm clothes. Please do not let your son set out inadequately or unsuitably clad. He should have a spare pair of socks and shoes in school during a period of bad weather.

10 Minute Rule in the Prep School

Now the darker evenings are here please help us to ensure your son is safe by reminding him about the 10 minute rule, which is no child should remain on his own or in an area in the car park or another section of the school (i.e. Music School) for longer than 10 minutes.

He should come back to the Prep School where a member of staff is always on duty and will make the appropriate communication.

Sports Fixtures

Please try to come and support your son if he is selected to represent HABS in a Sports team. We all know the boys are "spurred on" when mum or dad are cheering on the side lines! Please make a particular note of Saturday fixtures that are likely to involve your son.

If Saturday fixtures are cancelled due to bad weather a notice will be placed on the Main School Website by 8.00 am in the morning.

Please note that all fixtures are on the Parent Portal, and you can keep a check on all the sporting results, chess results and the latest Donkin Cup results on the Prep School Website.

Kit

We recommend that boys wear a tracksuit, skins and gloves during the winter months. On our return in January as it is the football term, we insist all boys wear shin pads as this is an essential part of their kit. Moulded studs and Rugby studs are suitable footwear for the football term.

After School Care Facility

If you are wishing to use our After School Care Facility please do not book your son via email as Mrs Morelli is not always able to access her emails throughout the day. Please use the telephone number 0208 266 1889 between 9.00 am - 3.00 pm, and after 3.00 pm on 07871 261800.

Please note that After School Club will finish at 4.00 pm on Thursday 18th December 2014

Healthy Eating in the Bates

A week of healthy eating was a resounding success in the Prep last week. Sugary and processed deserts were off the menu and the boys were given a huge range of healthy deserts. There was also a taster station to give the boys the opportunity to try some new and exciting fruits and vegetables. The boys really took advantage of the wonderful options available and we are happy to announce that we will be continuing our healthy eating drive beyond this week. Watch out for future initiatives which we hope will fuel their enthusiasm and interest in healthy eating.

Survey

Thank you to those parents who have completed the survey. The results will help the Pre-Prep & Prep Leadership Team determine where we need to improve. I will of course let you know the overall picture as we really do value highly the partnership we share with you in the education of your son. (results will be available in the New Year).

Forest School Update

We are pleased to announce a new development to the Year 3 Curriculum called 'Forest School'. This is an outdoor-based learning programme where the boys are encouraged to connect with nature, and develop outdoor skills such as den building, use of tools, cooking over open fires and exploring their creativity.

Two new outdoor clubs have also been introduced; Bushcraft and Adventure Training. As these clubs generated such a huge level of interest we would encourage you to extend this interest through your local Cub or Scout group, where local experts can further your son's knowledge and love of the outdoors.

Diary Dates

I attach a copy of the Spring Term diary dates. A copy of the Spring Term 2015 Fixture Card will be enclosed with your Skylight Magazine or sent out in January when the new term begins.

End of Term

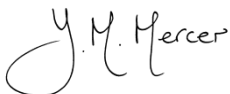
Please note Prep boys will be dismissed from the Prep School premises at 11:45 am on Friday 19th December 2014.

We look forward to welcoming back all the boys in the Pre-Prep and Prep School on **Monday 12th January 2015**.

Please note only boys in Year 6 will attend school on Friday 9th January 2015 to sit the 11+ entrance examination.

On behalf of my colleagues I wish you a joyous and peaceful festive season and thank you for all your support throughout this term.

Yours sincerely



Yvonne Mercer
Head of Preparatory School

Open House for Current Parents

Friday 30th January 2015

9.15 - 10.30 am

or

11.00 - 12.15 pm

In recent years this event has been well attended and extremely well received by parents.

“Open House” is an informative occasion which provides an ideal opportunity for you to **observe your son** in his lessons, as well as visiting any other classes you are interested in which are taking place in school on a Friday morning.

As this is a normal teaching day, I would respectfully request that you refrain from interacting with the staff or pupils, so that as far as possible my colleagues can teach your son as per a ‘normal’ teaching day. We would also appreciate you moving to an alternative class after approximately 30 minutes to enable other adults to enter the classroom. Due to Health & Safety regulations we are unable to provide seating on this occasion.

Your son will be expected to be in school at the normal time, and parents are invited, on arrival, to wait in the Prep Hall (where tea and coffee and newspapers will be provided) until the lessons commence at 9:15 am (or at 11:00 am after playtime).

To assist us with car-parking and refreshments, please return the slip at the end of this Newsletter to your son’s Form teacher to indicate whether you will be attending this event.

I do hope you will join us on Friday 30th January 2015 for a fascinating glimpse into “Life at Habs!”

The Haberdashers’ Aske’s Boys’ Preparatory School

Open House for Current Parents

Friday 30th January 2015

(9:15 - 10:30 am or 11:00 - 12:15 pm)

Please return this form to Mrs Jones by Friday 5th December 2014

Son’s Name Form

We would like to attend the Open House Morning at **9:15 am** or **11:00 am** (please circle)

Number of adults attending: 1 or 2 persons (please circle)

Parent Signature. Date

Prep School Diary Dates

Spring Term 2015

Thursday 8 th January 2015	7+ Entrance Examinations NO SCHOOL FOR PREP or PRE-PREP
Friday 9 th January 2015	11+ Examinations (Year 6 boys only) NO SCHOOL FOR PREP BOYS OR PRE-PREP IN YEARS 3 - 5
Monday 12 th January 2015	SPRING TERM BEGINS For Prep & Pre-Prep
Monday 19 th January 2015	7+ (Round 2) Assessment Day NO SCHOOL FOR PRE-PREP/PREP BOYS
Friday 30 th January 2015	Open House for Parents (<i>further details to follow</i>) 9.15 - 10.30 am or 11.00 - 12.15 pm
Thursday 5 th February 2015	Year 3 & 4 Curriculum Meetings 7.30 - 8.15 pm followed by "Get Together" Evening (Years 3/4 & 5/6 Parents)
Thursday 12 th February 2015	Ski Trip Meeting - (Years 5 - 6) 7.30 - 8.30 pm
HALF TERM Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2015	
Monday 23 rd February 2015	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR BOYS
Tuesday 24 th February 2015	Spring Term begins
Tuesday 3 rd March 2015	Year 4 Trip to St Albans Abbey - 9.20 - 2.30 pm
Thursday 5 th March 2015	Prep Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening (Years 3 -6) 4.30 - 8.00 pm
Wednesday 11 th March 2015	Prep Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening (Years 3 -6) 4.30 - 8.00 pm
Tuesday 17 th March 2015	Spring Concert - 7.00 pm - Bourne Hall (Main School boys only)
SPRING TERM ENDS FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2015	

SUMMER TERM Monday 20th April 2015	
Bank Holiday - Monday 4th May	
Monday 20 th April 2015	Summer Term Begins Pre-Prep & Prep
Thursday 30 th April 2015	7+ New Parents' Evening - 7.30 - 9.00 pm
Monday 11 th - Friday 15 th May 2015	School Exam Week (includes KS2 SATS for Year 6 Boys)
Monday 18 th - Friday 22 nd May 2015	Year 6 Nettlecombe Trip - Somerset
Tuesday 19 th May 2015	7+ New Boys' Taster Afternoon
Wednesday 20 th May 2015	7+ New Boys' Taster Afternoon
Thursday 21 st May 2015	7+ New Boys' Taster Afternoon
Friday 22 nd May 2015	No School for Pre-Prep or Prep Boys (Staff Development Day) Year 6 Boys arrive back from Nettlecombe
HALF TERM Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May	
Monday 1 st June 2015	No School for Pre-Prep or Prep Boys (Staff Development Day)
Tuesday 2 nd - Friday 5 th June 2015	Year 6 Production Rehearsals
Saturday 6 th June 2015	Year 6 Rehearsals
Sunday 7 th June 2015	Year 6 Rehearsals
Monday 8 th June 2015	Year 6 Rehearsals
Tuesday 9 th June 2015	Dress Rehearsal to school
Wednesday 10 th June 2015	Year 6 Production - 7.30 - 9.00 pm
Thursday 11 th June 2015	Year 6 Production - 7.30 - 9.00 pm
Friday 12 th - Sunday 14 th June 2015	Year 4 Kingswood Trip
Wednesday 17 th June 2015	Prep Sports Day - 10.00 - 4.00 pm
Monday 22 nd June 2015	Year 5 Instrumental Concert - 9.30 - 10.30 am
Friday 3 rd July 2015	Year 6 Leavers' Prizegiving - 10.30 - 12.00 noon Summer Concert - Bourne Hall (Years 3 - 6) pm 1.30 - 4.00 pm
Monday 6 th July 2015	Trips Day (Years 3 - 5)
Thursday 9 th July 2015	Summer Term Ends

Autumn Term Begins - Monday 7th September 2015