

The Rydes Hill Times

... our weekly newsletter keeping parents in touch



Letter from the Headmistress

New Pupils

Week beginning 26th January

Fri 30th Upper Transition parents Coffee Morning 8:30am

Sat 31st Rydes Hill U10 Netball Tournament 8:30am—1:00pm

Week beginning 2nd February

Mon 2nd Form One walk to Newlands Corner

Thurs 5th FRHPS Clothes Swap 8:00pm

Fri 6th Lower Transition parents Coffee Morning 8:30am

Dates for your diary

Mon 9th Parents Evening 5pm—8pm (Kindergarten—Form One)

Thurs 12th U11A & U11B Netball—v-Queen Eleanor's (Home) 3:45pm

Parents Evening Nursery new parents 4pm—6pm

Parents Evening 6pm—9pm (Kindergarten—Form One)

Dear Parents

Thank you to all the parents who helped and also went to support the girls taking part in the swimming gala at St Catherine's. Thank you also to Mrs Henry and Mrs Morris for organising this. Please see the report on page 2.

Well done to Lucy for creating a winning design for a birthday card to be printed by the Watts Gallery at Compton. The Surrey Advertiser newspaper article is on the Achievements Board.

Huge thanks to Grace's mother for the very generous gift to Rydes Hill of a number of almost new and very smart teachers' desks, chairs and cabinets. We are so delighted by this generosity and a photograph will follow in the next newsletter.

I do encourage parents to come to our 12 School Netball Tournament on Saturday 31st January between 8:30am and 1:00pm. Refreshments will be provided; it is always an exciting event and the children are spurred on when parents are supporting.

Attached to this week's newsletter is a flyer about an exciting event organised by the Friends on Thursday 5th February from 8:00pm. This is the first time Rydes Hill has held a Clothes Swap!

Congratulations to the Friends for selling all the tickets to the Scottish Ball on 7th March; the evening promises to be great fun. There is a new appointment to the School Senior Management Team following the decision by Mrs

Tessa Forbes to step down as Deputy Head (Pastoral) and focus on her already demanding role as Director of Music, which she fulfils outstandingly. We are grateful for her splendid contribution over many years. We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Jo Smith as Deputy Head (Pastoral). Mrs Susan Kelly's title has changed from the old-fashioned Director of Studies to Deputy Head (Academic). The school's Senior Management Team consists of four members of staff, the Head, the Bursar, the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and the Deputy Head (Academic).

Wishing you all a happy and restful weekend.

God bless.

Stephanie Bell

Mrs Stephanie Bell M.A. (Oxon)
Headmistress

Welcome to the Rydes Hill community this week to the following new pupils and their parents:

Nursery
Erin
Lauren



Nursery

In Nursery this week, the children have had great fun learning the letter H through a variety of ways. Here are some of the Nursery children wearing their Hats!



Swimming Gala

Swimming Gala -v- St Catherine's, Barrow Hills and Barfield 14th January 2009

On 14th January, a team of Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 girls went to swim in a gala at St Catherine's. It was a non-scoring, friendly "have a go" gala.



All the Rydes Hill girls swam in numerous events, including front crawl, breast-stroke, butterfly, backstroke, medley and freestyle relays and the finale was a squadron race where two girls from each age group swam a length each: an exciting end to what was a great experience for the girls and thoroughly enjoyed by staff, girls and spectators.



The following girls are particularly commended for their efforts: Kate and Laura and the three Under 9 girls who were taking part for the first time. This is an annual event and hope to see even more girls willing to "have a go" next year!

Mrs Di Morris & Mrs Vicky Henry
PE Department



Netball Report

Netball Matches -v- St Catherine's 20th January 2009

The Under 11, Under 10 and Under 9 A teams played floodlit matches against St Catherine's on Tuesday 20th January. The Under 11s were 0-5 down after the first quarter but with great determination and good play, pulled back by the end only to lose by 3 goals, the final score being 12-9 to St Catherine's. All the team are to be commended on their spirited play.

The Under 10s, in their match, took the lead and never lost it! Good attacking play and outstanding shooting gave them a 15-8 win over St Catherine's. Well done to all the Under 10s on this outstanding result.

The Under 9s, still early on in their match experience, were up against a tall, fast - passing and skilful St Catherine's team. To their credit, all the team showed good determination and good sportsmanship in trying their hardest at all times and were rewarded with a goal towards the end of the match, much to the spectators' delight! They lost 1-12. Well done to all the teams on their determined efforts. Also a big thank you to Mr Halling for driving the mini-bus and to all the parents who supported from the sidelines and helped with transport.

Mrs Vicky Henry, Head of PE

Debating Club

Week ending 16th January 2009

Speakers of the week are:

Form One:
Isabel

Higher Preparatory:
Rebecca and Lucy

Well done girls!

Scottish Ball Raffle

There will be a small raffle on the evening. If any parent or business would like to provide a prize or voucher for this, please would they let their Class Rep know, or alternatively, bring the prize or voucher into the School Office.

Any donations will be gratefully received.
Chairman of Friends

Music

Individual Music Tuition

As the new term gets underway, this would seem a relevant time to look back at progress so far, and prepare for future achievements, particularly in the realm of individual music tuition.

Instrumental music lessons...and the 'P' word!!

There are an unprecedented number of children learning a myriad of different musical instruments at Rydes Hill this year – 54 individual lessons take place each week; in addition all the children in Upper Transition are learning the violin, and the girls in Lower Preparatory will take advantage of our complementary instrumental scheme to receive half a term's tuition on clarinet, cornet and flute during the course of this year. Many of the children are making super progress and achieving high standards, creating a sense of fulfilment and self-confidence which has a knock-on effect on their academic development and self-esteem. And how is this "super progress" achieved? Practice – there really is no substitute!

Practice means Progress!

The purpose of practice is simply to facilitate progress. However, it is unfortunately all too common for practising a musical instrument between lessons to be seen as a chore, rather than the positive reinforcement of newly acquired skills that it should be. We all lead such busy lives that setting time aside on a regular basis for an "extra" task can seem impossible. One of our piano teachers, Miss Karen Deering, wrote an article on practising for the Newsletter a couple of years ago, and, as the content is still relevant to all pupils regardless of the instrument they are learning, here it is again:

Some Hints on Piano Practice

The prospect of learning a musical instrument can be both exciting and daunting at the same time. You may have been inspired to learn through having heard someone play in a concert; maybe a friend is having lessons and you are amazed at what she can do. You decide to learn yourself and before you know it you are awaiting your first lesson with excitement and happy anticipation. Those first lessons are wonderful, interesting and, of course, still new. A term goes by and the first novelty wears off. You begin to feel frustrated that you are not making better and faster progress. Moreover, your teacher keeps mentioning that word 'practise' (amongst other things!). You may even begin to think that you have unwittingly taken on Mount Everest!! As a musician and piano-teacher I would like to reassure you that even we

Music cont'd

professionals have been there. I now love to practise but it takes patience and discipline to really achieve anything worthwhile in life. Here are some hints on effective practising that I continually pass on to my pupils, no matter how old they are or what standard they are at:

Have a practice schedule

Only you know what your weekly timetable is like. If you think you can squeeze in your practice during that leisurely moment, it just won't happen! Ideally, you should practise little and often, 4 to 5 15 minute sessions (for a beginner) a week is much better than one hour at the weekend. Memory of fingers and mind are better trained.

Know your notes and beat values

Unless these basics are well-known you will struggle far more when trying to learn a new piece.

Practise slowly

Unless you slow down (and it never fails to amaze me how fast we try and play what we do not yet know!), you will not have space to think about the matter in hand. Always practise consciously, never blindly.

Count!

Counting is rhythm and rhythm is the heartbeat of music, what keeps music alive. Even though you may not realise it, wrong counting or no counting will only add to your frustration. We instinctively know when something does not make sense rhythmically. The music will feel like a jumbled mess and only add to any existing insecurity.

5. 'Fingering makes or breaks a piece'

Stick to the fingering your teacher has given you; if you don't, your fingers will be confused and you are far more likely to make mistakes.

6. Practise problem areas

Play through your piece by all means but then concentrate on the difficult bits: repeating little sections slowly helps you and your fingers to get to know the music better.

Finally, a note to parents: It would be really helpful to your child if you could spend a few minutes now and again and supervise their practice. You do not need to have had musical experience, although that is, of course, invaluable. Especially in the early stages where there is a lot of music theory to be learnt, you can play a supporting part in helping your child develop confidence in this area. Not least, your child will realise that practising is important when they see their parents interested in helping them. It is an old saying, but in the end: **Practice Makes Perfect.**

Learning a musical instrument: - the benefits

You make a wise decision when you request individual music tuition for your child. Scientific research into the benefits of learning a musical instrument, particularly in relation to academic development and achievement, is well documented. Music increases and improves memorising and reasoning capacity, time-management and organisational skills, fosters self-expression, emotional intelligence and responsibility. Other well-known benefits in learning a musical instrument include the development of discipline, pride, concentration and social communication as well as the development of physical coordination and problem-solving skills.

Advice and help

Please do not hesitate to speak to me or your child's instrumental teacher if you have any questions or problems – we are here to help you and your children!

Mrs Forbes, Director of Music

Thought for the week

Consider the lilies of the fields, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Matthew 6:28-29



CHILDREN'S SECTION

House Points

Week ending 16th January 2009

CAMPION	150
GERALD	122
PATRICIA	191
PETER	114

Winning House: **PATRICIA**
Well done everyone!

Silver Book

Week ending 16th January 2009

Excellent Work

Camilla
Julia
Stephanie
Francesca
Hannah
Kitty
India

Excellent Conduct

Maria
Libby
Taya
Natasha
Abigail
Laura
Ali

Music Award

Lucy and Beate

French Award

Salma for working hard to remember her numbers.

PE Award

Laura and Kate

Special Girdles

Anna for outstanding behaviour

Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

January

	Charlotte
	Eloise
	Ella
	Isabel

