



## Dear Parents

In the blink of an eye, another term is behind us! On behalf of all the Staff I would like to thank you for your incredibly generous Christmas gifts and kind words this festive season. We have had some fantastic opportunities to celebrate together in the past few weeks, most notably the Nativity plays and the Carol Concert. Everyone can now have some time for a well deserved rest over Christmas. We wish you all a happy, safe and blessed Christmas.

## FORM ONE

Please spare a thought for our Form One girls over Christmas. Many of them have Senior School Entrance Exams in early January and, whilst they may well get a few days respite over Christmas, I am sure they will be revising hard. This is a stressful time for them and their parents but we are confident that our girls are well prepared and will be successful, regardless of the school they apply for. We wish them every success in the exams!

## GRACE KELLY LADYBIRD TRUST

Thank you for your kind donations at the Christmas Nativity Productions and the Carol Concert. A grand total of £695 was raised. The team at the Grace Kelly Ladybird Trust works to raise awareness, fund research into rare cancers of childhood and produce educational materials. They also provide support to families. Childhood cancer is the number one medical cause of death of children in the UK and they are working to change this. The money raised will, I'm sure, be very gratefully received.

## CO-ED DISCUSSION

The Governors met recently to move forward the debate about Co-Educational provision at Rydes Hill. They have tasked the Senior Leadership of the School with some fact finding in the coming weeks. They would also like to meet with Parents and Staff to hear their views. The meeting for Parents will take place at the next Parents' Forum on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

## HOOKE COURT

Well done to Higher Prep for representing Rydes Hill so superbly on their recent residential trip to Hooke Court. The class travelled back through time with Miss Boyle, Mrs Lappage and Mrs Herbert to stay at the Tudor Manor House in Dorset where they lived as Tudors for three days. The girls worked hard and got a great deal out of the trip, including some wonderful happy memories. Thank you to Miss Boyle, Mrs Lappage and Mrs Herbert for giving their time to accompany the girls on this trip.

## DONATIONS OF PENS AND PENCILS

Mrs Campbell would like to pass on her thanks for the kind donations of pens, pencils and crayons which will be taken to an education centre in Indonesia this Christmas. She will send photos in the New Year to show our donations being given out.

## DATES

Please remember that 7<sup>th</sup> January is an INSET day and the School will be closed for staff training. The teaching staff will be learning to use the new iPads, so hopefully you will see the fruits of this new found knowledge in the New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back to School on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

## Mrs Norville



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## SPLASH AND DASH BIATHLON AT GHS

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December we took 27 girls from Prep to compete in the annual 'Slash and Dash' Biathlon at GHS, and the fancy dress theme this year was 'Christmas Decorations'. There were 7 schools involved and all schools took part in a parade at the start to showcase their costumes. Some schools sang a song, some showed off their gymnastics skills but Rydes Hill performed their 'Rocking Around the Christmas tree Dance' amazingly and we went on to win 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the fancy dress parade!

U9 started with their Stoke park run whilst U10 and U11 were inside competing in the squadron relay – the U10 came 2<sup>nd</sup> in their heat and U11 came 3<sup>rd</sup> in theirs! After a much needed hot chocolate, the groups swapped over with U9 swimming and U10 and U11 running outside (which had now become very, very cold!). Each age group had up to 50 runners each and the fastest runners from each school were awarded medals. A huge congratulations to Tilly T for coming 6<sup>th</sup> in U9, Scarlett T for coming 12<sup>th</sup> in U10 and Olivia C for coming 17<sup>th</sup> in U11 with her fantastic push to the finish line! The competition was very tough with Danes Hill, GHS and Notre Dame placing in all age groups and Rydes Hill finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall. Well done to everyone!

We were treated to some lovely food and treats in the warm whilst the presentations took place and the girls had a wonderful (but cold!) afternoon. Thank you to Mrs Taylor and Mrs Lappage for all their help at this event. Merry Christmas everyone.

**Mrs Jayne Bowles and Mrs Di Morris**



It's DOUBLE DONATION WEEK until Sunday 16th December at #easyfundraising, so make sure you don't miss out on FREE donations when you're doing your online Christmas shopping! To find out more, visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/double-donation-week>

## INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN TEACHING?

St Polycarp's CTSA will be holding their first open afternoon of 2019 for anyone interested in a career in teaching. The event will take place from 1.30 - 3.15pm on 15th January at St Polycarp's School in Farnham and will answer any questions you may have regarding how to start your exciting journey to qualify as a primary school teacher. Places are limited and must be booked in advance by emailing [teachingadmin@stpolycarps.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:teachingadmin@stpolycarps.surrey.sch.uk)

## Happy Birthday!

### Birthdays in the coming weeks!

18th December	Tito B
20th December	Alyssa M D
26th December	Aurelia P
26th December	Ines R
30th December	Isabelle H
31st December	Henry C
4th January	Maria F
5th January	Ava B
8th January	Charlotte H-J
8th January	Aylssa M



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## *A fond farewell to Mrs Spooner, Mrs Smith and Mrs Ellis*



It is with very heavy hearts that we bid a fond farewell to some of our longest serving and most loved staff team. Next term Mrs Sue Spooner (cleaner for 14 years), Mrs Carolyn Ellis (Housekeeping Manager for 23 years) and Mrs Carol Smith (School Secretary for 29 years) will all be starting a well deserved retirement. We would like to thank them wholeheartedly for all they have done for Rydes Hill, most especially the exceptional care they have given to our children. We are sure that they will come back to visit us and tell us all about their adventures in their retirement, but in the meantime we wish them all a happy and restful Christmas as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

## *A Christmas Poem*

After Christmas you will be receiving the first edition of the Rydes Hill Newspaper, written by the children. We thought it may be nice to have a sneak peak on what is in the first edition. This poem, entitled 'Christmas Time' is by Loriane in Form One.

Christmas time is finally here  
There is festive cheer all around  
Whilst people go from shop to shop in  
A cacophony of joyous sound.

Houses turn on bright Christmas lights  
Illuminating the long streets,  
Showing doors all warm and inviting  
And snow-covered gardens quaint and neat.

Children frolic in crystal snow,  
Making snow-angels, wide and tall  
Whilst parents go to markets where  
Picturesque goods can be seen at each stall.

Nostalgic scenes play in each home;  
People lovingly reunite.  
And the night sky smiles upon it all,  
With its twinkling stars shining bright.

Christmas time is finally here  
There is festive cheer all around.  
But no one will come to bring me any gifts  
As I sleep on the merciless ground.

