

A Truly Original Affair

The THS Christmas Fair is a tricky one to explain to those who have never experienced it.

In a nutshell the wonderful team of FOTH elves transform the school into a Winter Wonderland in an hour!

This Thursday the pupils spent that short time up at the church and returned to school when snow fell from the heavens. The boys were amazed to see a snowboard simulator in the playground, many more activities scattered in what once were classrooms, gift stalls in the hall, refreshments for adults/young on view and of course Santa's Grotto in the mini bus car park! Not a franchise coffee or cheese outlet in sight – just pure home-grown fun – organised in house, for our community.

Special mentions to the super creative elves Sarah Merry and Nicole Riad for designing and building the grotto, Julia Earl for co-ordinating the grotto plus very special thanks to Ailsa Beaumont for providing many of the transformative props supported by Helen Harrison, Lara Helayel, Liv Oates and Andi Rosandic.

The aforementioned elves do, of course, have a chief elf – Jane Bhandal. Weeks of planning came to fruition yesterday and our collective thanks go to Jane and her team for putting on such a spectacular event.

Last, but not least, our gratitude to Rob James, who fulfilled a lifetime ambition by taking on his secret mission!



A Different Type of Sleigh



This week saw the latest road test for Car Construction Club. Some Year 5 pupils have been busy with Mr Churches building our very own electrically powered car.

Of course any 'lego-head' will tell you that the main enjoyment is in the assembly - but there is also no denying the fun of screeching around the playground at surprisingly quick speeds!

Next week we dismantle the THS version of Formula E and give a new group of Year 5 boys the opportunity to put their engineering skills to the test next term.



HOUSE MATCH FOOTBALL RESULTS

As every year, the house match football is a really fun week where the boys get to play in teams with other boys of varied abilities and ages. Older boys looking after younger boys and certainly plenty of younger boys showing the older boys how it's done! Last week was no exception and despite some slightly 'naughty' weather, all five tournaments were played outside. Thank you to all the parents throughout the week who came to watch and support their sons. All of the tournaments were very close and the games won by the odd goal here or there. Despite this, Newton and Shackleton dominated across the age groups on this occasion winning all five tournaments between them but both Nelson and Scott achieved two second places. The overall House football winners are calculated by a simple league system with 4 points for a win in a tournament, 3 for 2nd, 2 for 3rd and 1 for 4th. This year's champions & overall house football winnersdrum roll please... by just one point are.....**NEWTON!**



Very well done to all the boys who represented their houses so well and played some fabulous football.

Mr P



Next week's PE, games & Swimming; please check the diary page of the newsletter carefully to make sure you know when and when not your son has PE, games or swimming next week. Thank you.

Christmas Lists

Reception
have been busy
helping Santa
get ready for
Christmas



Hankies at the Ready!

There are few things as delightful, and at times tear-jerking, as the Junior School Nativity. As we go to press the boys will be singing their hearts out and acting out the greatest story ever told. Overleaf there is a selection of photos from the dress rehearsal. As you can see the Junior School staff have been very busy making costumes and props - the boys look absolutely spectacular. Congratulations to Ms Whittingham and Mrs Barnett in particular for directing such a fabulous show!



Year 2 Drama and History

On Friday, Year 2 combined their History learning with drama thanks to the talents of Mrs Rau. After making appropriate head-wear for the period, complete with a fanciful ostrich feather,



we looked at and discussed pictures about the Gunpowder Plot plotters. The boys offered their ideas about the plotters feelings and motivations that demonstrated their prior knowledge. Then in groups, they created an improvisational scene. The boys acted out a meeting chaired by Robert Catesby at the Duck and Drake which put the plans to blow up the Houses of Parliament in motion. The Year 2's showed knowledge and impressive acting skills and thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



Carol singing in the local community

Thirty choristers from the Senior Choir were selected to sing a range of carols at the Barnes Green Community Centre this week. The boys performed to a very welcoming and receptive audience which was made up of members of the FiSH Neighbourhood Care charity. The FiSH charity aims to combat loneliness and social isolation in older and vulnerable people living in Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen, enabling them to live independent and dignified lives. The select group of choristers sang beautifully and got everyone into a Christmassy mood. After the concert the boys were treated to a few chocolates and chatted to the audience. Tower House School hopes to perform for the FiSH charity again soon to help the boys connect with their local community.



Grade 5 Music Theory Success

Congratulations to James Tonge, Alex Akinluyi, Theo Trout, Toby Williams and Ed Slack for passing their Grade 5 Music Theory. All of boys achieved a strong pass or merit and I'm so pleased that their hard work and dedication paid off. Taking Grade 5 music theory forms a key part of a rounded musical education and helps performers, composers and listeners to develop their tonal language. An understanding of how written symbols relate to the elements of music, and having the skills to interpret and translate them into sounds, empowers us to communicate and experience music in a meaningful way. Well done boys! If anyone is interested in joining the Music Theory club please email Miss Whittingham: whittingham@thsboys.org.uk

Miss Whittingham



Year 5 Charity Fundraising

Many thanks to all those who supported Year 5 in raising money for the British Red Cross on Thursday 28th November. The Year 5 boys worked hard in their art lessons to create festive linocut prints which were then made into cards and sold on Thursday and they are very pleased to announce that the total raised was £198!!

Well done boys for your hard work and creativity!



The Christmas Forest

Our school Christmas tree has been provided by The Christmas Forest, who is opening their pop-up shop in Putney on 21st November. They will be selling a fabulous selection of sustainably grown, freshly cut Christmas trees all handpicked for their quality. There will be different varieties and a huge range of sizes all displayed in a forest-like setting. Holly, wreaths, mistletoe and treats for the kids too. For every tree sold, they donate to plant a tree in the African drylands through Tree Aid (treeaid.org.uk), changing lives for thousands of some of the poorest families in the world. Come and wander through and pick your perfect Christmas tree and enjoy an extra festive glow knowing your trees means something more, not just for Christmas.

Open 8am- 10pm, Monday to Sunday until December 23rd.



RIDDLE ME THIS A riddle to solve as a family.

No matter how I try
to keep them warm and dry,
my feet (I don't know why)
refuse to pass one by,
and they insist that I
go wading through the sky

Answer in next week's newsletter
The answer to last week's riddle was 'a belt'

Forthcoming Events

NO CLUBS THIS WEEK

Mon 9th	-	Guest speaker in Senior School assembly For Year 4 charity - VICTA	10:40am
Tue 10th	-	Carol service rehearsal at Christ Church for Choir, Orchestra and readers. Boys need instruments and music Boys performing to be collected at 4pm from Church All other boys will be at school, please collect at 4:15pm NO GAMES FOR YEARS 4 AND 5	2:00pm
Wed 11th	-	Carol service rehearsal at Christ Church for Choir, Orchestra and readers. Boys need instruments and music Boys performing to be collected at 4pm from Church All other boys will be at school, please collect at 4:15pm NO GAMES FOR YEARS 6, 7 AND 8 Years 1, 2 and 3 will go to Church to rehearse in the afternoon but will be back at school for normal collection time. NO SWIMMING FOR YEARS 2 AND 3	2:00pm
	-	Carol Service Boys should be in their seats at 5.45pm and sit with their Head of Year and year group <i>Please note - at the end of the service there will be a collection in aid of Christ Church so if you wish to donate please bring a little cash. Thank you all for your support.</i>	6:00pm
Thur 12th	-	CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY Wear your funniest Christmas jumper to school for a £2 donation to the Junior School charity, Trees for Cities	
	-	Junior School Pantomime No GAMES FOR RECEPTION AND YEAR 1	9:30am
	-	Christmas Lunch	Lunchtime
Fri 13th	-	NO PE FOR YEAR 6 AT BANK OF ENGLAND Boys to come to school in uniform	
	-	Whole School final assembly	10:15am
	-	END OF TERM	
	-	Junior School collection	12:00pm
	-	Senior School collection	12:15pm



Mr Gregory Evans, Headmaster

Have a lovely Christmas!