

Bringing Christmas alive through Music



I AM often reminded whilst Zoom-ing my relatives of the stark difference between the real and educational worlds during the current lockdown. For teachers and students, life is seemingly normal, albeit with a few more masks and hand-washing stations- here at school, we're in the midst of Christmas preparations, decorating our Chapel, recording our Nativity, and practising our carols. With all our windows open, singing and music-making is spilling into every classroom, office and playground, uplifting staff and students alike. However, retirees, hospitality workers and young families are having a very different Christmas experience, facing loneliness and financial struggle. At such a time many would normally turn to some festive comforts - Christmas markets, Carol Services, Nativities, Winter Wonderland, shopping with seasonal tunes in the air. But without these events open, and facing the reality of separation, Christmas music could have the power to fill the social void during lockdown. There are many studies pertaining to the positive benefits of music for spiritual and social development, and so we at school are trying to share what we can with our community to help.

As with a lot of establishments currently, we are spreading our joy virtually - entertaining young families via interactive baby events, raising money for charities by singing with the Children's Trust, using our normal musical events to donate and raise awareness for good causes. For a lot of our pupils at school, musical events have meant everything to them this term, providing camaraderie and spirit albeit in very different formats. We hope that you can also experience the magic of Christmas through local and virtual music.

Matt Blunt

Director of Music

St Catherine's Prep School

Virtual Baby Cats (0-4 years)

Christmas Special

Monday 7th December

Prepoffice.junior@stcatherines.info



Christmas 2020

the Challenger

Surrey Hills & surrounding areas

Inside this issue:

Christmas Leftovers

An Environmental Christmas

Give a Dog a Home

Dunsfold, a Premier Film Location



Salvation Army Christmas Appeal



LAUREN, the owner of the newly started small business Hampers by Lauren, has donated 50 toys to Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal, plus a number of extra toys that people were able to purchase from the website at a heavily discounted price.

Lauren says "in 2018-2019 there were 4.2 million children living below the poverty line in the UK and I expect it will increase dramatically this year due to hardships exacerbated due to Covid. I was playing with my son, enjoying his toys with him when I wondered how many children will

wake up on Christmas morning without a new toy to open, so I wanted to do something to help. I hope this will go some way to making a child's Christmas more special this year. Thank you to kind people out there who supported my wish to help children via the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal.

If you are looking for Christmas Toys with the mum stamp of approval, a new baby hamper or present, please go to www.hampersbylauren.com and see some of the lovely items she has available.



Hampers by Lauren do all the hardwork sourcing quality products to create luxury new baby hampers; toy hampers and subscription boxes. Enabling new and expectant mums to rest, relax and enjoy their pregnancy or new baby.

All Hampers come with the Mum Stamp of Approval!

03330506610 WWW.HAMPERSBYLAUREN.COM



**Baby Cats -
Christmas Special (0-4 years)**
Monday 7th December 2020

Assessment Day (Years 1-6)
Tuesday 5th January 2021

Open Morning
Friday 5th February 2021

Contact: prepadmissions@stcatherines.info



St Catherine's Prep, Bramley

GSA Day & Boarding School since 1885 | 4 - 18 years
Guildford GU5 0DF | www.stcatherines.info