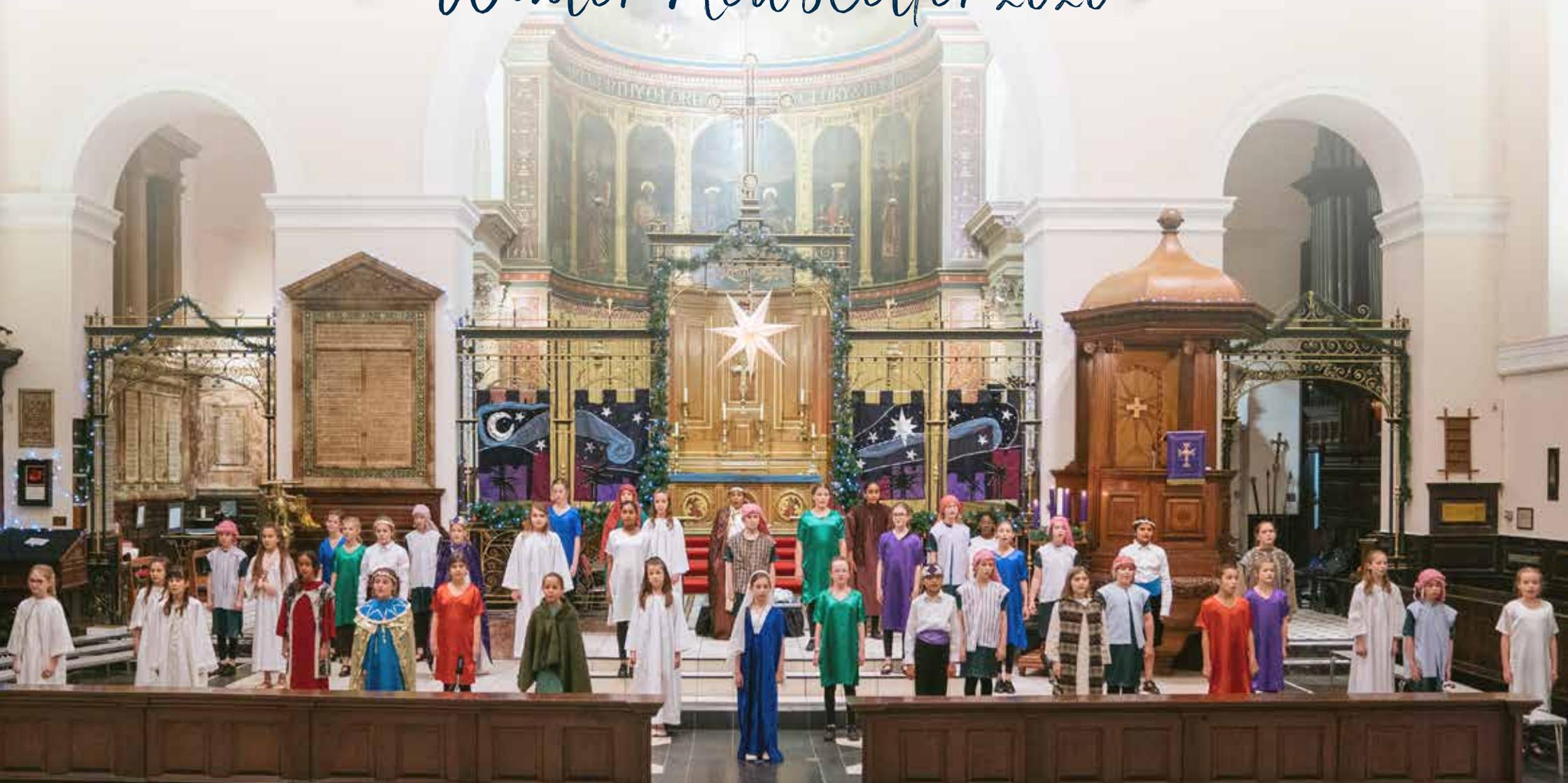




GUILDFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Winter Newsletter 2020



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WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



There cannot have been a more challenging few months with which we have all had to cope in the last 75 years. In times of adversity, true character is often shown and this has certainly been the case with the girls and staff at GHS. We returned at the start of this term faced with a raft of restrictions and new challenges. Throughout the past few months, the girls have been magnificent, progressing their learning and making the most of all the opportunities that have been made available to them. The staff have also been truly inspirational, keeping all the girls safe whilst creating an amazing learning environment for them. My thanks to everyone for all their hard work this term.

Christmas has been particularly special this year as we have had to find a whole new way of celebrating the festivities. We have been able to have our Carol Service, Nativity, Christmas Fun Run, Carols Around the Christmas Tree Concert and a visit to Santa's Grotto despite all the restrictions. It has been quite an experience to have performed all our events in front of a camera rather than a live audience – it has at times felt more like a TV studio than a school! We are delighted with the results and that the girls were able to continue to take part in these important events which set us all up brilliantly for Christmas.

I hope whatever you can manage to do over the Christmas break with your loved ones is joyful and fun. Have a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a restful holiday and we look forward to a new start in 2021!

Mr Mike Gibb



GHS NAMED THE SUNDAY TIMES SOUTHEAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE DECADE



Guildford High School has been named The Sunday Times Southeast Independent School of the Decade by Parent Power, The Sunday Times Schools Guide 2021. Parent Power is widely acknowledged as the most authoritative survey of the country's best schools and identifies the 2,000 highest-achieving schools in the UK. Guildford High Junior School ranked first in the national preparatory school league tables and our Senior School has ranked in the top 10 for each of the past eight years.

Announcing the award, Alastair McCall, Editor of The Sunday Times Schools Guide, said:

“There are very few schools that can match the consistent excellence of Guildford High. Children of all ages thrive, and high academic standards run through the age groups... Academic success tells only half the story, however. Under the outstanding leadership of Fiona Boulton, pupils flourish both inside the classroom and out, encouraged to pursue their extracurricular interests – from Music to Sport, Debating to Drama – at the highest level. Pupils leave confident of their place in the world and ready to embrace the challenges it throws at them. For sustained brilliance, Guildford High School is a richly deserving winner.”

SIR JON COLES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF UNITED LEARNING, MARKS THE AWARD



Over the past ten years, under the leadership of Fiona Boulton, GHS has grown from being a very strong academic school to being at the forefront of what 21st century independent education should comprise and how leading independent schools should behave in working alongside others. It is no surprise that this is reflected in the award of Southeast Independent School of the Decade from The Sunday Times as GHS has consistently been in the top three highest achieving girls schools in the country over the last ten years. However I am very pleased that this award also commends the school's wider contribution to its pupils' lives. Across sporting and artistic endeavours, pupils at GHS are routinely representing their region and country in national and international events; reaching the highest echelons in their chosen fields and going on to continue their learning and enjoyment at the best global universities. As a school within our Group, Guildford High School plays a vital role in our United Teaching training programme and in sharing its resources, best practice and expertise with staff and pupils across United Learning. Never shy to admit where it has learnt from our academies and other schools and always generous in its willingness and time to work with others, GHS repeatedly demonstrates how the best of the independent sector can work in partnership with the best of the state sector to deliver outcomes that no school could achieve on its own. Above all, this award is testament to a highly dedicated team of colleagues and generation after generation of ambitious, resilient and altruistic young women who attend Guildford High School.

PRE-PREP NATIVITY

The Pre-Prep Nativity, 'The Angel who Nearly Missed it All', was an unusual performance this year because, on the day, there was no singing or dancing. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had recorded all the songs and dances the day before and, with some technical genius, this was all put together for our remote audience. A whole array of emotions was felt as the Late Angel tried to be on time to spread the good news, meeting many funny characters along her way. Relief and joy were felt by all, including everyone at home, that the angel had arrived just in time, for once, to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus.

With bright costumes, dazzling lights, a wonderful new script and some catchy songs and dances, all the girls enjoyed sharing the Christmas story, even without a live audience in the hall cheering them on.

Mrs Dawn Aytoun





KS2 CAROL SERVICE

There was excitement in the air, as we held our Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church. Our hearts were pounding and we were shaking with anticipation. We changed into our costumes and everyone helped each other to get ready; the church was filled with joy and laughter. After an inspiring introduction from Reverend Canon Cotton, and an amazing rendition of *Infant Holy* by Chamber Strings, we processed down the side of the magical church, holding our flickering candles with pride, and taking our place in the pews. Whilst the beautiful Advent candles burned, we acted out the story of the Nativity. We sang our hearts out and appreciated every second of this fantastic experience, which was live streamed to parents. Overall, it was an amazing night. We are so grateful that we had this opportunity to celebrate the meaning of Christmas.

Class 6W



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

As we continue to make our mark with creative and inventive ways of sharing our festivities, Carols Around the Christmas Tree was a wonderful day of recording various ensembles and choirs, all with a Christmassy feel. There were plenty of instruments wrapped in tinsel and girls in festive headwear. Not much is going to stop the Junior girls celebrating and enjoying their music making. We hope the final video is enjoyed by many. What talent there is on show across so many instrumental mixes. We all enjoyed recording although it was not quite the same without our appreciative and vocal audience!

Mrs Rachel Wardell



WINTER ART ROUND UP

Thank you to the girls for yet another incredibly creative term. We have balanced some at-home and classroom Art, all completed with energy and enthusiasm. The Art room wall is adorned with 'The Big Draw - A Climate of Change' display. Every girl in Years 1 - 6 created multimedia paintings of endangered species to raise awareness of climate change.

Across the year groups, we have completed lots of projects including tissue paper turnips, Camille Walala style collages, Alexander Calder string portraits, Kandinsky multisensory drawings, wire shoes, Arcimboldo style painted heads, Frida Kahlo collages and ceramic snowmen to name but a few.

To round off the Michaelmas Term each of the girls made a Christmas bauble for the Junior School tree. We had some beautiful and clever designs including Rudolph, 3D stars and a glorious angel by Rosie Yendole to top our tree.

Miss Amy Langfield



RECEPTION'S ENCHANTED TOY BOX WORKSHOP

We had so much fun with Openbox. We had a teddy bears' picnic, where we pretended to eat some yummy food and there were pretend grapes. We also had a party and we all did lots of dancing. Then we turned into ballerinas and we spun around and around. Kenn pretended to be Geppetto and when he woke up we all had to 'freeze', it was so funny! We loved the workshop.

Reception Butterflies



YEAR 1 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE WORKSHOP

Year 1 were delighted to attend the fantastic Florence Nightingale Openbox Workshop. We stepped back in time to learn all about one of the most influential women in history. From her early life and upbringing to her time caring for the injured soldiers of the Crimean War, we absorbed an enormous amount of facts about Florence and loved acting out her life. Kenn and Iain were funny and we really loved the workshop.

Form 1C



YEAR 2 ADVENTURE THROUGH TIME

Openbox took Year 2 on an 'Adventure Through Time'. They started in 1605 with Guy Fawkes, thinking about how unfair it is to be told you are not allowed to do the activities you love doing. They then landed in Baker Lane, fighting the Great Fire of London. They travelled as First and Third-class passengers on the fated Titanic. The day ended on a high point, as they joined Neil Armstrong as the first man on the moon. A day filled with laughter and awe: so many brave people making the world a better place.

Mrs Dawn Aytoun



YEAR 3 AND 5 SCIENCE TALKS

We never thought that we would go on a trip through the solar system in Year 3! We were amazed by the incredible facts we learnt about the solar system and were shocked to find out that there are ice and volcanoes on different planets and moons. Year 5 learnt about space and the Apollo missions. We never realised how fascinating the Apollo missions were with the Space Race between America and the Soviet Union. America may have landed the first man on the moon, but technically the Soviet Union did get the first living, breathing creature into space – fruit flies!

Nandini and Aria, 3B and Anna and Emily, 5C



AUTHOR JENIFER KILLICK TALKS TO 6S

6S were thrilled when we saw Jenifer Killick, author of Crater Lake, popping up on a surprise Teams call. She explained where she found all her ideas and inspiration for writing from. Her funny characters made us all laugh and we had great fun playing games which are played by characters in her story! We were able to ask her questions at the end of the talk and she gave us some very informative answers. The virtual visit with Jenifer was very interactive and super fun: we were all left with grins on our faces at the end of the session.

Sophie L, 6S



6W VIRTUAL AUTHOR VISIT: ANN-MARIE HOWELL

6W enjoyed a virtual visit from Ann-Marie Howell who is the author of The House of 100 Clocks. We looked at a few pictures which inspired her to write her book and talked about some ideas before we all shared a story opening which we had written ourselves. Ann-Marie listened to us read them and was extremely impressed by our ideas. We asked her a few questions and received some very interesting answers. She told us that she had originally wanted to be an actress! We learnt a lot and really enjoyed the talk.

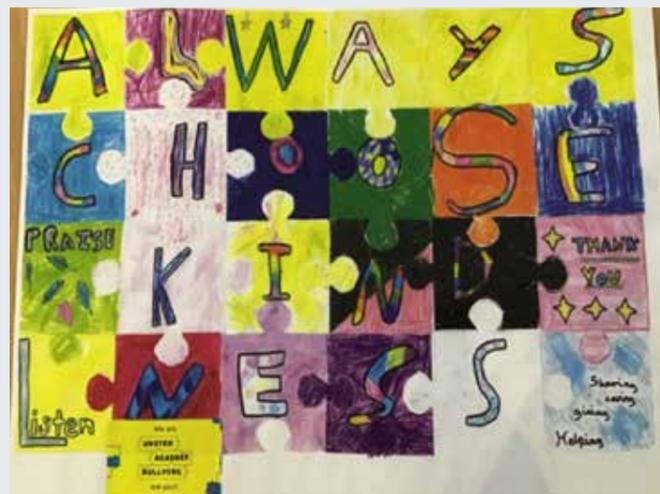
Class 6W



CELEBRATING KINDNESS AND FRIENDSHIP AT GHS

We began the week with a wonderfully colourful Odd Socks Day to celebrate our individuality and the fact that we are all different. The theme for this year's campaign was kindness and friendship; we have worked very hard this term to develop our sense of community, discussing our shared values and the ways we support each other. Whilst separated in our bubbles we used the theme to bring us closer together and we have been very impressed with the girls' community spirit and collaboration in sharing this important message. Each class and year group completed a range of different tasks and activities around kindness throughout the week; we shared 100 acts of kindness, made a recipe of ingredients for a good friend and recognised ways in which we could be a good friend, we created posters to be displayed around school and, on Friendship Friday, we created colourful friends for Elmer. A brilliant week of discussion, reflection and coming together to unite within our community.

Mrs Katy Hughes



YEAR 6 MOUNTAIN MAKING

Year 6 made some incredible play dough mountains with each group being allocated a different mountain type. There were volcanic, fold, dome and fault block mountains. Some people were at home but we called them on Teams, put our cameras on and showed them how we made them. Some used more realistic colours whilst others used their imagination, ranging from greens to pinks and bright orange. We had an hour to form stop motions, PowerPoints, and picCollages. Some groups made time lapse films of us building it and some made small miniature models of a person climbing it! We enjoyed sharing our fun facts about our mountains at the end of the lesson.

Scarlett and Ava, 6S



GHS CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Christmas cards have been written this term by the whole school to local residents in care homes. Our pen pals in Years 7-8 are also still exchanging letters with local elderly residents. Many residents have enjoyed watching and listening to our recent musical performances and they are looking forward to CDs of Christmas carols arriving soon.

Our relationship with Loseley Fields continues to flourish; our teachers have been sharing subject knowledge with theirs. GHS also rehomed some of our redundant printers to local charities and organisations which, not only ensured they were reused, but also had the wonderful upside of introducing us to charities who we look forward to working more closely with in the future.

Thanks to your incredible generosity our Christmas Games Appeal has been a wonderful success. We have been able to give a game to all the vulnerable children in the local primary schools we are working with. The Junior School girls crafted and wrote beautiful cards to go with them. Thank you!

Mrs Jenni Hall



WINTER SPORT ROUND UP

What a busy second half of term the PE department have had! It goes without saying that we have been missing the excitement of our usual Inter-School fixtures. However, we have still planned and enjoyed an action-packed festival of Sport here in the Junior School.

We have played extended Inter-House tournaments in cricket, netball and cross-country, taken part in several virtual fixtures against various schools including St Hilary's and Danes Hill, and competed in Christmas Swimming Galas and Fun Runs. We have also had a record turn out to our extracurricular clubs!

During lesson time, the Pre-Prep girls have developed their fundamental movement skills and have really enjoyed using the gymnastics apparatus to balance, roll and jump their way towards Christmas. KS2 have exuded enthusiasm and excellence as they continued to progress their netball skills during games whilst beginning to learn the rules of football, hockey and rugby!

Miss Georgie Dustin



TOP 20 FOR GIRLS CRICKET

Guildford High School has recently been named in the Top 20 Girls Schools for Cricket in the UK. This is a fantastic achievement and we continue to thrive and go from strength to strength in cricket. Credit must go to the PE staff and girls for all their continued hard work. We continue to offer a range of extracurricular cricket clubs, along with a thorough summer curriculum of cricket.

Mr Ben Collins



INTER-HOUSE NETBALL

This half of term we have had the opportunity to run full Inter-House netball competitions over several weeks for the U9 and U11 age groups. Girls have played in full match conditions with extended time, strict umpiring and lots of rotations of positions. The U11 competition was very tightly matched with Abbot reigning victorious on goal difference. The last round of the U9 tournament was played indoors, due to the weather, but this did not dampen the passion and collaboration the girls brought to their tournament with Watts emerging as the winners.

The U10s condensed their tournament into a single (very cold) afternoon where they demonstrated wonderful attacking play. Well done to Watts who emerged victorious.

Our youngest netballers had their first taste of full competitive match play during the U8 Inter-House morning. The girls have made wonderful progress and proved they are ready to take on Inter-School fixtures when these start up again! Congratulations to Watts for their win.

The winner of the overall GHS KS2 Inter-House netball trophy for this year is Watts.

Miss Georgie Dustin



JERSEY POWERPLAY AND PICNIC

Instead of jetting off to Jersey over half term, Year 5 spent an afternoon competing in the PowerPlay Picnic consisting of a versatility netball tournament followed by some much-needed refreshments. It was a brilliant way to kick off the new netball season and so encouraging to see such a high standard of play across the year group. Congratulations to the winning team and the individual “most valuable players” who each took home a Powerplay trophy.

Miss Sarah Gill



JUNIOR SHOW JUMPING SUCCESS

Amelie, Keira and Elizabeth from Year 5 braved torrential rain and winds to take part in the NSEA Show Jumping qualifying competition at Coombelands. All of the girls did well and qualified for the NSEA National Show Jumping finals next term in both the 40cm and 50cm classes. Detailed results are as follows:

40cm class:

Team: 1st Guildford High School

Individual: 2nd Elizabeth, 3rd Keira, 7th Amelie

50cm class:

Team: 6th Guildford High School

Individual: 5th Elizabeth

NSEA Regional Finals, 50cm class:

Team: 3rd Guildford High School

Mrs Tara Oxley



SWIMMING GALAS

Whilst it has been an unusual term for the swimmers, with no ordinary swimming galas, the girls have recently enjoyed competing in the Virtual Swimming Gala organised by Danes Hill (which we won!) and our very own in-house Swimming Gala with the Elves vs Reindeers! The girls thoroughly enjoyed racing individual sprints, as well as the ‘Santa Sleigh Relay’ with a bodyboard and ‘Present Sinkers Relay’.

Miss Amy Lloyd



CHRISTMAS FUN RUNS

The annual Christmas Fun Run took place in a modified form this year. The Christmas costumes and accessories worn by the runners (and staff) were impressive and undoubtedly aided their performances!

The KS2 individual winners were Isabel (Year 3), Isla (Year 4), Jessica (Year 5) and Flora (Year 6) with the House winners being Abbot (Year 3), Haig Brown (Year 4), Abbot (Year 5) and Haig Brown (Year 6). All of the results for the KS2 girls carried points for their Houses and Haig Brown came out victorious overall.

The Pre-Prep Fun Run was held on site this year and all of the girls entered into the spirit of things with fabulous costumes and accessories. The course went around the junior playground with a dash across the Headmistress's Lawn and all girls were rewarded with Fun Run stickers at the end.

Mrs Sally Appleton





Inspiring Girls

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