



# Girls' Newsletter - 7th January 2022

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 7th January 2022

Cumnor House School

## *A Message from Mrs McShane*



Welcome back! I hope that everyone had a good break and I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022.

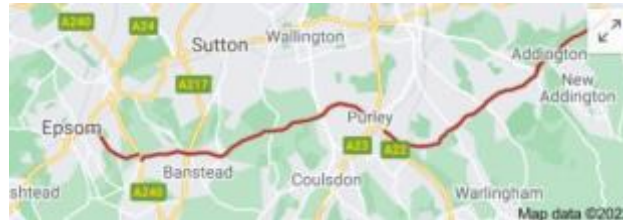
I would like to say thank you, many parents and children gave me, and staff, very lovely Christmas gifts at the end of term and there were some very meaningful messages written in cards. Thank you so much for this kindness. I was unable to write individual letters of thanks to people and hope that you will accept my heartfelt thanks here.

On Wednesday the girls, came through the doors with smiles, bright eyes and enthusiasm for the day ahead, pleased to be back with their friends. I think, in spite of the ongoing Covid situation, we need to look forward with optimism. We will continue to be cautious, taking all appropriate precautions to keep our community safe but the emphasis remains on ensuring that our girls get as full and rounded experience as possible. We were disappointed that the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena was postponed but we will look forward to the new date later on this year. We will resume taking the girls out to places where we assess the Covid risk to be as low as possible.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Fiona Myall to our fold, she is our new Head of Music and comes with a wealth of experience from working at Whitgift School and also, more recently at Junior Guildhall. She is a woodwind specialist, being an oboe player, and I am certain that the girls will be inspired by her.

When I was preparing a new year assembly I thought I would talk to the girls about what roads we might follow etc in 2022, so I looked to see where the A2022 was and if there were any notable things along its

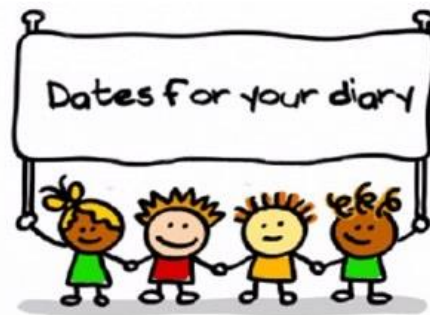
route that would inspire us. It seems that the A2022 is rather more local than I had imagined and all of the children recognised, live or have been to many of the places along its route. One part of this road is Foxley Lane, so of course a very notable thing along the route is Cumnor House School for Girls! I will still look for notable things along the route which will hopefully inspire the girls in assemblies this year.



Also this week we have talked about the phrase “New Year. New You” and how we don’t want to be completely different people but what we can do to be the new improved version. The girls offered suggestions of smiling more and being positive, of being helpful to others, that they would demonstrate kindness and that they would learn the art not just of giving compliments but being able to accept them graciously. We all recognised that we need time to reflect on what we do and to learn from our mistakes so that we can be our best self. We agreed that we wanted to be the best at getting better.

**"I am In competition with no one I have no desire to play the game of being better than anyone I am simply trying to be better than the person I was yesterday" Anon**

### *Important Dates for your Diary*



Monday 17th January	U8-U11 Swimming gala at Downsend
Wednesday 19th January	Reception outing to Discover Children's Story Centre
Saturday 22nd January	Year 3-6 Cross Country League @Woodcote High School
Wednesday 26th January	Year 6 Hockey v Banstead Prep (a) 2.30pm
Tuesday 1st February	Year 5 trip tbc
Wednesday 2nd February	Year 5 Hockey v Seaton House (h) 2.30pm U11 hockey (a) Aberdour
Friday 4th February	SA U11 Netball Tournament
Monday 7th February	Swimming gala U8-U11 @ Banstead Prep
Tuesday 8th February	4.30pm - 6.30pm Parents' Evening online (details to follow) Year 3 Hockey (a) v Aberdour 3pm
Wednesday 9th February	Year 6 Hockey Tournament @Banstead Prep 3pm 5pm - 7pm Parents' Evening online (details to follow)
Thursday 10th February	Reception Fairy Tale Ball tbc Year 4 Hockey v Aberdour (h) 3pm
Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February	Half-Term

## **Reminders.....**

### **Morning Drop-off**

I would like to remind parents that the school day begins at 8.00am, and this is when pupils will be allowed into school and when there will be a teacher on duty in the playground. The only exception to this is for the girls who are attending breakfast club. Please do not bring your daughter to school early and expect her to wait outside the door unattended, this poses a safeguarding risk, so we will admit her to the premises and you will be charged for breakfast supervision.

### **Coats**

As we enter Winter, the weather has noticeably turned. It is essential that the girls are warm and have **school** coats and the correct scarf, hats and gloves. These can be either the old style or the new style. There are three families with coats on order from Perry's and are awaiting their arrival, but there are a great many girls who are not wearing a school coat and one has not yet been ordered. Please order a coat as soon as possible if you do not have an old style coat, I would suggest ordering a size bigger to allow for the blazer that will be worn underneath. Until the correct uniform arrives, a black coat is acceptable. Year 6 pupils, only, who do not have an old style coat that fits may wear a non-uniform black coat. Over the last eighteen months we have been very flexible regarding uniform with lockdown and change of supplier etc but it really is time to get back on track as much as possible with the correct uniform being worn.

### **School uniform**

Please ensure that your daughter's uniform is clearly named, we still get a significant amount of unmarked lost property. One item that has been missing for a while is a school blazer belonging to Amelia in Year 2. It was a brand new, new-style blazer and was clearly named and although we have checked every blazer in school, we have been unable to locate it. Could parents please check at home to see if they have a random blazer.

### **Woodcote Lane**

A reminder please to parents when using Woodcote Lane.

- Please do drive carefully being considerate of the neighbours
- Please drive at 15mph or below
- Please do not do any U-Turns in the road
- Please park on the school side of the road
- Please do not obstruct any driveways.

If, like on Wednesday morning, the gate fails to open it needs a little time to reset. Reverse back from the gate, wait a minute or two then drive forward. The gates should open. If the gates still fail to open please do not force them open as this damages the underground opening mechanism which is very expensive to replace. You will need to turn around and enter / exit the lane from Upper Woodcote Village.

The gate is set on a timer to be open at busy school times so this should not be an issue again.

### *This week at the Girls' School.....*

#### **Form Captains**

Congratulations to the following girls who were awarded Form Captain badges in assembly this week:

RM - Posy

RS - Aizah Q

1W - Aariya

2H - Sonakshi

3D - Rianna

4H - Yumna

5K - Zaynab



## Walk to School Posters

Congratulations to competition winners Posy (RM) and Lyla (3D) for their superb Walk to School posters. We look forward to giving out more stamps for those walking, scooting or cycling to school this term.



## Teacher's Pantomime - Review by Isabella M

Sitting there in the crowd, watching this beautiful story unfold, the teacher's pantomime 2021 is one I am never going to forget.

Each emotion in each scene I felt came to life in the teacher's expressions and postures. There wasn't a single part of the story that left me confused. Sometimes, as each teacher waltzed, tip-toed or strutted onto the stage, I couldn't quite work out which teacher was who! The make-up and the costumes were truly outstanding, and each outfit perfectly matched the character.

The amount of effort put into it was clear as the teachers spoke their lines with enthusiasm.

Personally, I enjoyed every moment of it.

Well done teachers!

## *Upcoming Events.....*

### **Purley Food Hub**

As you know we support Purley Food Hub and over the past few years we have tried to increase the support that we give as the number of families in our locality who need support is growing. Covid is taking a heavy toll on many people in all manner of ways. Over Christmas the Food Hub supported many families to enable them to have a little more than just the basics on Christmas Day. Mrs Mearkle volunteers at the Hub and was there on 23rd December, she remarked how sad it was to see that so many people need support to feed their children. She also commented on lovely it was that there were some nice treats to give to families too. Here is a quote from the Purley food hub newsletter:

**The final two sessions of 2021 were our busiest pre- and post-Christmas sessions since the Food Hub began nine years ago, with a total of 2,421 meals delivered to 169 clients and family members.**

**The two five-hour sessions each involved around 50 volunteers packing, despatching and delivering food parcels to 85 clients' homes throughout Purley, Coulsdon, South Croydon and Waddon.**

**Using picking lists that create bespoke parcels for clients and their families, we gave out over 2,960 items of food including 294 tins of meat and 424 tins of vegetables plus 262 cartons of milk, as well as dozens upon dozens of Christmas festive treats: chocolate selection packs and boxes, Christmas crackers, desserts and biscuits.**

The donations that you made at the end of last term will have made a difference to some of these families at this time. After Christmas the Food Hub's supplies are a little depleted and I hope that I we will be able to do a push to support them. They particularly need the following things:

- Long life whole milk
- Small bags of sugar
- Jars of peanut butter
- Tinned meat meals (not spicy)
- Packet soup
- Small bottles of squash
- Small washing up liquid
- Washing tablets/capsules

We will be discussing with the Pupil Leadership Team a day when donations can be brought in. Following that, we will make use of a Yellow "One Tin Bin" – currently sited in Piccadilly. We will

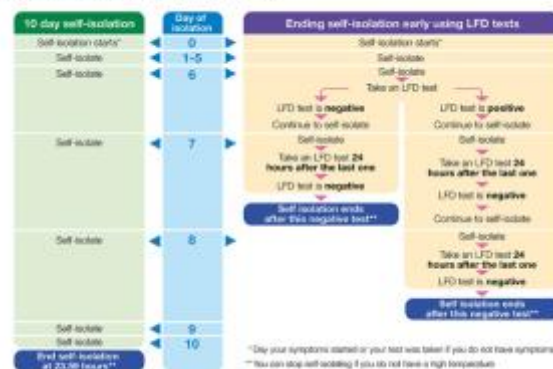
publish the needs of the Food Hub each month and parents, staff and hopefully local residents will occasionally add non-perishable items to the yellow bin. This will be collected periodically and taken to the Food Hub. We are very excited to be part of this worthy initiative that will make an ongoing difference in our local community.



*Other News.....*

**Covid Self-isolation Flowchart useful information**

Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result







Wishing you a happy, warm and restful weekend.

Amanda McShane

Headmistress of Cumnor Girls