



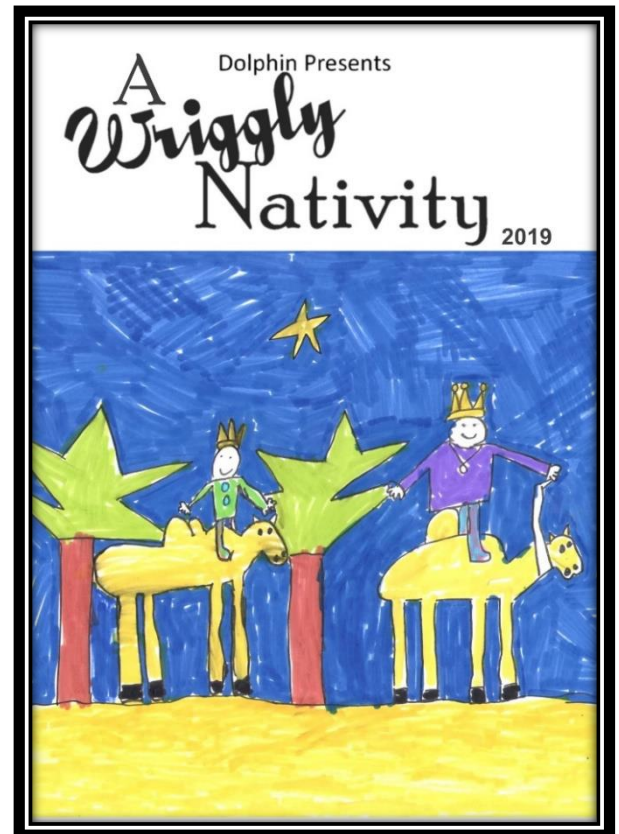
5 December 2019

Dear Parents

The Lower School 'Wiggly Nativity' was like a shaft of light, shining out the Good News of Jesus' birth. It was a very joyful occasion as the children's delight in retelling the nativity story, in a wonderfully new and creative way, was evident for all to see.

All of our pupils took part with such enthusiasm showing they knew the words and actions to a tee. Indeed, with a couple of children being unwell and not able to be at the performances, their classmates readily stepped into their shoes, without any fuss. All the Lower School staff worked as a great team and are to be thanked for their support.

Mrs Colman, who wrote and directed the play, did a superb job. Her talents were apparent not only in creating the play itself, but also in engaging all the children in such a happy and positive way. The 'Wiggly Nativity' was a treat for all of us who saw it.



Visiting Poet

This week we had the great privilege of hosting James Carter for a poetry day. Being the National Poetry Ambassador, James was part of the grand prize for Edward Pugh's first prize winning poem. He spent the day with us, engaging in assemblies and workshops celebrating poetry. His charismatic and quirky approach captured the pupils' imaginations, opening their eyes to new ways of 'finding the right word to express an idea'. His sessions were helped with the use of his melodica, Steve. Afterwards, there was a unanimous flurry of accolades for this new found passion for poetry, from parents and pupils alike!

For those that would like to order a copy of one of James' books, please visit his website and follow the instructions to place an order www.jamescarterpoet.co.uk .

A sample poem from James Carter for your delectation:

Impossible Gifts

These are the gifts
that I would if I could
give to you . . .

The moon wrapped in the pull of a magnet,
a bucket of stars mixed with the softest cloud,
an angel's heart sewn to a rainbow cloak.

I would give to you...
the ring of hope placed on the invisible hand of God,
the force of gravity wound around the first snowflake to fall,
the speed of light bundled up in a scarlet sky.

I would give to you...
the song of a bee drowned by the loudest battle cry.
the laugh of a baby hidden in the depths of the River Nile,
the sting of a jellyfish trapped in the bluest sea.

I would give to you...
the tear of a phoenix buried in the chest of a griffin,
the prick of a needle encrusted in the crown of King Arthur.

These are the gifts I would
if I could give to you.



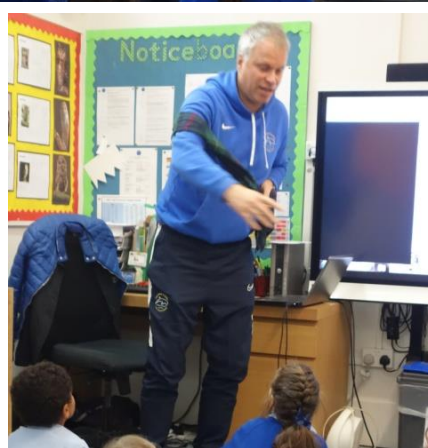
Surprise Horticultural Visit from Father Christmas

Last Friday Father Christmas made an early stop off in the Dolphin Garden, before settling into Hamptons' Santa's Grotto. He gave the children a beautiful Red Windsor espaliered apple tree and helped them plant it in a carefully prepared spot – against the South facing wall. Before he left he also kindly gave the children some goodie bags.



Year 2 Sapphires – Highland Fling

Mr Wright visited Year 2 to talk about Scotland. He brought the story of Bonnie Prince Charlie alive, explaining why he is seen as a hero to this day in Scotland. The children enjoyed hearing about how he attempted to overthrow English rule but had to flee dressed up as a woman. Unable to come to school in his full Scottish attire, Mr Wright brought some of the most important items and explained their uses. This included a sporran, a dirk which is a small knife, and a tartan sash. He showed the children where his city, Edinburgh, is on a map, and described some of the key landmarks. Sadly there was no time for a highland jig!



Uniform Check

We have noticed various interpretations of what constitutes normal school uniform arriving at the school doors, especially on these decidedly frosty winter days! We would like to remind all of our families to ensure that their children are attired in the official school uniform, including regulation plain navy gloves, hats and scarves. A copy of the uniform policy can be found here: <https://www.dolphinschool.org.uk/parents/our-uniform/> (password:Story1920). We will have a uniform check in the new year, so please take time over the Christmas break to check and replenish all necessary items. We are so grateful for your help with this.

Gum Shields

Please take note that next term Years 3-6 will be playing hockey and the children will need a gum shield to participate. Junior gum shields can be bought from Sports Direct online or in store.

After-school Clubs – catch up dates

Please note that there will be **no after-school clubs** next week except for the following catch up clubs: Monday 9 December – Dodgeball 15.45 – 16.30 and Girls' Football 15.45 – 16.45.

Staff News

At the end of this term we are saying goodbye to our lovely Mrs Holland, as she leaves us to move to St Helena with her husband. It will be an exciting adventure for them, but a sad loss for us. In January we will be welcoming Miss Darnell, who has already met the 1KH children and parents, as she takes on the role of class teacher for 1KH for the rest of the year.

Christmas Events - Reminder

Year 5 Topaz – Christingle Service

Year 5 will be attending the Christingle Service at Westminster Abbey in aid of the Children's Society on Friday 6 December. Pupils are working very hard doing lots of chores to raise money for this worthy cause.

Christmas Fair - Reminder

Please remember to give your present contributions to the team of class reps, who will be at the top of the entrance stairs on the mornings of Monday 10 December, Tuesday 11 December and Wednesday 12 December. If you have any questions, please do speak to your class rep. Each gift will be £3 and POD will let you know, via your reps, how many presents each child can purchase.

Carol Service

Upper School pupils (Y3-Y6) will be taking part in our Carol Service at St Michael's Church, Cobham Close, SW11 6SP on Wednesday 11 December. We would be most grateful if children could be dropped off in full school uniform (including blazers) at St Michael's Church at **18.00** at the South Door. Parents, you are then invited to head into the church for festive refreshments. Following the performance, if you are collecting children, you are asked to exit the church via the North Door and walk around to collect your child at the South Door. The Carol Service starts at 18.30.

Last day of term

On the last day of term... Children may wear their own clothes – suitable for a morning at school. The children can make a donation of £1; the money will go to *The Children's Society*. **Please note: No bikes and scooters can be stored at school on the final day.**

Assembly tomorrow

Our Friday assembly, to which all parents are always warmly invited, will take place at 11:15. Assembly will be very short as Upper School will then be rehearsing the songs for the Carol Service.

Parent Drop in and Parents' Prayers

Tomorrow morning from 08:30 – 08:45 Reception and Year 2KV parents are invited to visit their child's classroom. There will **no** Parents' Prayers tomorrow due to the trip to Westminster Abbey.

With best wishes

N. S. Baldwin

Mrs N S Baldwin
Principal

Forthcoming events

AUTUMN TERM 2019			
Winter uniform			
Date	Event	Time	Venue
Friday 6 December	Christingle Service in aid of The Children's Society (Year 5)	Morning	Westminster Abbey
Wednesday 11 December	Carol Service (Upper School)	18.00 for 18.30	St Michael's Church, Cobham Close
Thursday 12 December	Christmas Fair (Reception – Year 6)	Morning	School
Thursday 12 December	Assembly	11.40	Church
Thursday 12 December	End of term	12:30	School
SPRING TERM 2020			
Winter uniform			
Wednesday 8 January	Spring Term begins	08:30	School