

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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Friday 15th December 2023

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Here we are on the verge of the Festive season break. I have long awaited a white Christmas, and judging by the weather predictions, I will have to wait a bit longer!

Our Christmas meal was a huge success on Thursday. With wonderful food being prepared and served by our dedicated kitchen team, we ate together as a school, the only occasion we do so through the year. Sean, Zoe, Julie, Debbie and Zaiba were thanked by Alex Hennessey and James Dean in the annual student speech, rounded out with a huge round of applause.

We were joined by several special guests - Daniel Linney, a recent Sunnydown graduate, returned to be with students and staff discussing his plans for a future as a chef. The Friends of Sunnydown (FoS) were represented by families including Mr Caruana, Mr and Mrs Williams, Mr and Mrs Gair, Mrs Emms and Ms McGookin. These families had supported the Sunnydown Pound Christmas shopping event, helping to 'sell' gifts and wrap them so that the young men could share gifts with loved ones. Many thanks to the team, always inspired by the efforts of Kelly Barnes and her family members who came along to help with this event. Gordon, Ann and Patsy were our guests of honour. Over a period of almost 30 years, their charity - Children With Special Needs Foundation - have raised and distributed in excess of £8 million pounds. Sunnydown have received some of this and inviting CWSNF to be our valued guests of honour was a small token of our appreciation.

Miss Kiddier coordinated a cake sale which by some reports, rivalled 'the best ever' though the jury remains out. Gabe might have an opinion on that. What is for sure is that no student missed the opportunity to have hot chocolate, biscuits and cakes of the highest quality.

Sunnydown's Got Talent is a genuine highlight of our yearly celebrations and the entire school watched a mix of live and pre-recorded acts. The list of acts with the winners, as voted for by students, is below. It takes a great deal of courage to perform in front of friends and staff, so to each young man who did so, I want to say thank you and express my pride in their courage, confidence and resilience.

Students return to school on Wednesday 3rd January at normal time. For clarity, taxis will arrive between 8.30am and 9.00am and students will follow a regular Wednesday timetable with no school assembly.

Governors often go unnoticed and unrecognised, working hard behind the scenes. Their time and expertise as volunteers supports Sunnydown being the school it is, and with strategic vision, the school it can become. Many thanks to the FGB for their support and challenge throughout the year and into the future.

What remains is to acknowledge the efforts of my staff team to ensure your sons receive a world class education. Our focus is unrelentingly in developing an understanding of your son, and supporting them to learn when they are classroom ready, enhancing their abilities to self-regulate their emotional state. We have the greatest chance of success when working closely with families and to those who 'buy in' to what we offer, thank you.

And finally, to the Sunnydown wider community, mums and dads, uncles and aunts, grandparents, young men, I wish you the merriest of festive seasons and every success for the New Year.

Merry Christmas.

Paul Jensen





Sunnydown's Got Talent

Well done to everyone who took part in Sunnydown's Got Talent yesterday afternoon. It was heartwarming to see and we are pleased to announce the following winners and participants:

Prize	Winner
1st Prize (tie)	Jayden Peters and Lucas AND George Whatling
2nd Prize	Max Gibbins
3rd Prize	Hayden Howells

Participants: Alfie Tharle, Dominic Hanley, Felix Drummond, Freddie Dunne, George Whatling, Hayden Howells, Jayden Peters, Jayden Smurthwaite, Kamauri Craig, Lucas Abrams, Max Gibbins, Nathan Small.

FoS Raffle prize winners

Congratulations to all the winners listed below on their winning tickets:

Prize	Winner
1st Prize - TV	Harry Franklin (9N)
Dzert vouchers	Kasra Alavi (9N) Max Mahboobani (11C) Danielle Marsh-Dean (Luke Dean, 9N) Petty Abrams (Lucas Abrams, 11 M)
Bliss Cafe voucher	Callum Dowie (8C)
Morrisons voucher	Luke Luo (7P)
Scoop company	Harvey Caruana (9N)
The Project voucher	Jess Salliss (Loui Salliss, 7P) Barry
Hampers	P Baker (Milo Baker, 7P) Sam Kirk (Keiran Kirk, 11M) Amanda Scott (Hamish Scott, 10T) Vicky Clarke (Charlie Carter, 9N) Candice Lacey (Jack Bristow, 8W) Alexander Thompson (7C)

Christmas Poem Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered this competition. Please see the results below:

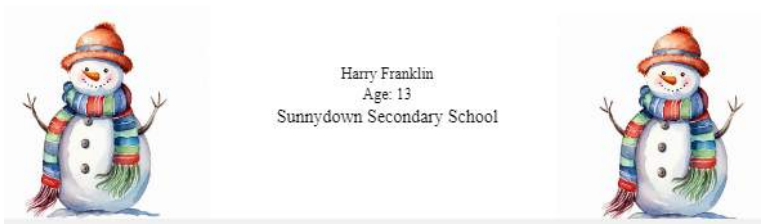
Prize	Winner
1st Prize	Harry Franklin
2nd Prize	Toby Chapman
3rd Prize	Callum Annis

Other entries: Antonny Harper, Charlie McSorley, Finley Marley, Harry Vaughan, James Dean, James Millar, Jamie Rogers, Kamauri Craig, Logan East, Max Mahboobani, Nathan Small, Ollie McEvaddy, Oscar Stewart, Ryan Gellett, Sonny Burgess, Sonny Chater, Ty Small.



Winter Wonderland

The snow looks like glitter,
The chill wakes the world,
The glitter covers the land.
The red robin flies out of its nest,
For its family who needs to find food and rest,
While the badger is in the mood.
The branches bend over like wire,
The sound of birds glistens the air,
The blanket of snow shows that winter is belong,
Would you like to be under the snow?
All the robins say no, no, no
As the snow falls at night the animals feel a sense of delight.



Charity Cake Sale

On Thursday 14th December myself, Ollie and Oscar (Year 11) held a cake sale to raise money towards our trip to Australia back in May of this year. Thank you to everyone who baked or brought in cakes, we made an amazing £155!

Miss Kiddier

Charity Activity Books

Activity books packed full of puzzles and games for all ages of children have been sent home with each child, either on Thursday or today. These have been donated from the Shooting Star hospices whose trusts were founded almost 30 years ago and it now costs £10 million a year to keep Shooting Star hospices open and £9 million of this has to be raised through donations to keep the service running in order to continue to provide respite and end of life care plus a lifeline for over 700 children and their families throughout Surrey and across 15 boroughs of London, 365 days a year, free of charge. Consequently the hospices are incredibly grateful for the support they receive. You may notice that Sunnydown School also sponsored part production of the activity book. Happy holidays. While it may not be used by all of our boys, perhaps you have other children, nieces and nephews, neighbours, who may benefit from the gift.

The Return of Jafar

On Friday 8th December we were thrilled to have drama students from Sunnydown taking part in our Christmas show – The Return of Jafar. They were Kamauri Craig, Freddie Dunne, Nathan Small and Harrison Williams, supported by Ethan Lyons and Leo Sumsion. These young actors did a fantastic job as the mischievous market children who steal from the market sellers and then get to meet Aladdin! They were also a credit to the school, demonstrating great flexibility and listening skills and mountains of empathy and teamwork. Well done all!

Beth Wood - Prospero Theatre

Chess Club

A thank you to all the boys who have attended the chess club this year. The final of the upper school chess tournament was a hotly contested match between Jayden Smurthwaite and Max Gibbins. Well done to both boys for making it to the final. The overall winner was Max. Well done to him and to everyone that took part.

Upper school chess club will continue Tuesday lunch times. On Wednesdays there will be a bike maintenance drop in for lower school.

Thanks and Merry Christmas!



Gabe

Autumn 2023 Reading Achievers

Well done to all students who kept up their reading skills this term and a big congratulations to all that managed to reach gold, silver and bronze targets. Please see the list of students at the end of this newsletter.

Mrs Wood

Ski Trip

We are exploring the potential of a Sunnydown Ski Trip to possibly take place in January 2025. There will be more information to follow in the new year and opening of a register of interest.

Mrs Pletts

Online Safety

Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter re ‘12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to enjoy a Tech-FreeChristmas.’

Mr Cassim

Thought for the Week
(W/C 11th December 2023)

Reflection - Spiritual

Thought for the Week
(W/C 1st January 2024)

Welcome back - Setting goals for the new year

Mathematician of the Week

The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Webb is

Frankie McSorley
(7C)

For his positive contributions to the maths lessons & excellent work this week

& awarded by Mr Zadok is

Nathan Small
(10D)

For increased independence in learning

Writer of the Week

The recipient of Writer of the Week awarded by Miss Newcombe is

The whole of Year 11

For their excellent resilience and dedication to their English mock exams.

House Points

Charlie Histed | 650 House Points

Forthcoming Events 2023/24

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
Friday 15 th December	End of term 1.20pm finish
Thursday 4 th January 2024	Year 11 PW2 Trip to see A Christmas Carol
Thursday 20 th June 2024	Scheduled formal graduation event 🎓
Wednesday 15 th - Friday 17 th May 2024	Year 9 residential trip

Autumn 2023 Reading Achievers



100% (5 House Points)

Ty S
Lucas A
Josh B
Alexander N
George W
Toby C
Logan E
Edward G
James H
Freddie Ph
Charlie Mc
Nathan S
Harvey C
Dominic H
Alfie M
Callum A
Charlie H
Lithar P-B
Freddie C
Robert H
Zac H
Kya L



80% + (3 House Points)

James D
Sonny C
Charlie C
Harry F
Jacob K
Jonathan E
Ollie T
Noah A
Jack B
Ethan L
Alex P
Freddie Po
Callum T
Kamauri C
Callum D
Thomas E
Harrison W
Daniel L
Frankie Mc
Sam W
Oscar G
George Mc
Eddie S



80% + (1 House Point)

Varen E
Ryan G
Callum L



Ollie Mc
Oscar S
Alex H
Jamie R
Harry V
Luke D
Kai B
Jacob R
Jacob N
Alexander T
Hayden H
Luke L

Huge Congratulations to all students who achieved reading success this term

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step counts and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Myla Ahera designs and delivers the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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 @national_online_safety

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