



Friday 4th December 2020

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Christmas is upon us and I have shifted from my traditional Bah Humbug self to embracing the spirit of the festive season wholeheartedly. However, I am not sure that it will extend to wassailing. I am so pleased that classrooms are being decorated, that the Cherry Tree is covered in festive lights, that our Christmas tree is fully decorated, that Christmas songs are being sung and cards being shared. Such a wonderful time.

Several staff and families have approached me regarding the sharing of gifts as part of Christmas. Saying thank you is human nature. However, to ensure that saying thank you through gifts is well managed and transparent, all schools have Staff Code of Conduct policies, and usually within that policy is a statement about gifts.

Our policy is available on the School website. In part it states that *'Christmas, Easter and End of Year will see some families wish to express their gratitude through small gifts. This is fine, however, please bear in mind the following:*

- *Staff should not accept any gift/offer of hospitality that may be assessed as an inappropriate inducement by others*
- *It is unacceptable to receive gifts on a regular basis or to suggest to children that gifts are appropriate or desired*
- *Staff must not accept **significant gifts** or hospitality from children, parents, actual or potential contractors or suppliers*
- *Staff must report to their line manager all gifts/offers of hospitality and ensure these are recorded*
- *Our FOS often explore ways of saying thank you to the whole school staff.*

To help celebrate Christmas, **Friday 18th December** will see a Christmas Dinner, a variety of activities, and a **finish at 2.00pm** on that day, as opposed to the current 2.30pm finish time. More details will be shared in due course.

The PE changing room work commenced this week with a great deal of stripping out of old fittings. I can confirm that the asbestos removal will take place the week commencing 14th December.

By way of reminder:

- During asbestos removal, there will be workers in white hazmat suits on site
- No workers associated with the refurbishment will access the school area without direct school staff supervision
- The gym can be used by staff and students throughout the works
- Heras fencing will be erected between the log cabin, science lab and the changing rooms so students and staff can still access both

- Log cabin access is from the science lab side as opposed to end of the gym
- A hole in the brick wall near the log cabin is being cut out on the first day. Site contractors will access the gym via this entrance
- Flint shed and 'canoe shed' remain accessible for students directly supervised by staff

During the Year 9 assembly I had the privilege of listening to the young men discuss the story behind the book 'Rabbit Proof Fence'. This coincided with the Thought for the Week - Racism: Accepting and respecting differences by welcoming people of different colour, ethnicity, nationality or race. It was a powerful and mature conversation. Mrs Jensen has been able to secure one of the first screenings in a school in the UK of another Australian movie following the educational experience of Duwaun - a 10 year old Aboriginal who experiences struggles to balance his traditional Arrernte/Garrwa upbringing with a state education, whilst facing scrutiny from the police. It is a powerful story of hope, and a reminder of the strength of First Nations people, their families, and communities. I look forward to the reviews of this thought provoking documentary and the collation of the joint work by the English, Art and DT departments. This level of collaborative work is to be commended.

I am looking forward to meeting Year 10 for an assembly on Monday, reflecting on their thoughts about tolerance, the thought for this week, and to their ideas about role models, the thought for next week.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Paul Jensen

### **Year 11 Exams - Summer 2021**

Practice exams are scheduled for the next two weeks for Year 11. Timetables for these have been published already. It is so important that all students are reassured and reminded that these are opportunities to rehearse the process of sitting the exams as opposed to being used as a predictor of grades or outcomes. Mr Lord and I intend on visiting Year 11 this afternoon to discuss this, and the latest guidance from the Government around Summer exams. Taken from the BBC news website, the latest announcement is summarised below:

- More generous grading than usual, in line with results from Summer 2020, so that this years cohort is not disadvantaged
- Students getting advance notice - at the end of January - of some topic areas covered in exams to focus revision
- Exam aids - such as formula sheets - provided in some exams to cut down on the memorising required
- Additional 'backup' exams - to be held in July - to give students a second chance to sit a paper if they have to miss main exams or assessments due to illness or self-isolation
- And a new expert group, which will monitor variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country
- In extreme cases, where a student misses all their papers, a teacher-assessed grade will be given

### **A message to all families who drive their sons to school**



Cedar Park is a private road situated off Whyteleafe Road approximately 200 yards north of the entrance to our schools. A resident has identified some parking that is at best inconsiderate and at worst illegal. If you do drive and have parked in Cedar Park or any local roads, please be mindful of our neighbours.

### **Christmas Tree donation - Thank you to Charlie**

Christmas has come early to Sunnydown. The Care team, including students, ably supported by kitchen staff, have decorated our Christmas tree.



The tree was donated by a young gentleman who has created a small business selling the trees. He has an affiliation to Sunnydown and wanted to give something to us. At the end of the newsletter is a poster with details of how to go about ordering a tree from him, should you wish to. They are delivered to your doorstep, free, if within 5 miles of Reigate.

### **Food Technology equipment**

Due to the current Covid restrictions in place at school regarding the use of equipment, we would be extremely grateful if you could ensure that your son has his cooking hat and apron packed and ready for his Food Technology lesson each week. At present we are unable to loan out any kit. It is also extremely important that these are washed each week before coming back into school to protect against any contamination. Thank you in advance.

**Mrs Hull**

### **Greenhouse T-Shirts**

This week's Greenhouse goes to Alexander Neale, a young man who always works positively with others, is a great team player, has a positive attitude, stays focussed in the classroom and is an excellent role model. Well done Alexander.



## **Friends of Sunnydown**

**Festive Fun Snow Day** - This fun event is only weeks away now - follow this link for more details: [https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydown events](https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydown%20events). Fingers crossed for dry weather (or perhaps some real snow?!)

**Staff Fund** - If you would like to contribute towards a gift for the staff at Sunnydown, details can be found on the same link. Please note the deadline is **11th December**.

(If you would prefer, you are able to pay directly to the bank account for either of these. Details are as follows - please reference Snow Day or Staff Fund):

Bank: Santander  
Sort Code No: 09 01 28  
Account number: 89549767

**Amazon Smile** - If you are yet to purchase those last-minute Christmas gifts, do consider shopping through Amazon Smile and select Sunnydown School as your chosen charity. Sunnydown will receive a donation from the purchases you make - at no cost to you! Thank you.

## **50/50 club winners for November -**

Tamsyn Hendry - 1st prize  
Eleanor Pincent - 2nd prize

Congratulations to you both!

Lastly, we would like to say a big thank you to Clive Giddings at Clive Allen Jewellers for the donation to Friends of Sunnydown - much appreciated!

**Melanie Bridges**  
**friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk**

## **Boarding News**

We can't believe it is only two weeks until we break up for the Christmas holidays! This week the young men have been playing with the Lego, been out on the astro, in the gym, cooking up all sorts in the kitchen and loving the Christmas films!

Mrs Austin and I have had a virtual visit from our Standard 20 Inspector, Caroline Lucas, this week and next week the boys will be doing a Kahoot quiz on Wednesday with Clare, the Pupil Advocate. Both these independent visitors have their contact details, next to their photo, displayed on the notice boards in the boarding area so the boys can contact them directly should they wish to.

Can I remind all parents that the Secret Santa presents need to be with us on Monday, so if you haven't already sent them in, could you please do so for Monday please.



Have a lovely weekend.

**The Care Team**

**Thought for THIS week was: Racism - Respecting differences**

Here is 11D's summary of this week's Thought for the Week:

- Racism is a negative effect on the health
- A prejudice
- Undermining confidence of others
- Feeling of shame
- Tensions in relations

**Thought for NEXT week: Role Models - How do others see us? How do we want to be seen?**

A role model, sometimes known as personal hero, can come in different forms, such as family, friends, teachers or celebrities. True role models are those who possess the qualities that we would like to have. They influence us in a way that makes us want to be better people, to advocate for ourselves and our goals and take leadership on the issues that we believe in. We often don't recognise our true role models until we have noticed our own personal growth and progress.

This week we will consider the following:

- Who could be your role model?
- What positive qualities does this person have?
- What do you admire most about them?
- How have they inspired you?
- How could you be more like your role model?
- How could you be a role model to others?

**Mrs Jensen**

**Science guess the picture competition**

Picture of the week is shown below. Last week's answer was rat lungworm. What is the rat lungworm? Snails eat infected rat droppings. The parasite grows in the snail before rats eat the snail, and the parasite matures in the rat. Animals like frogs or crustaceans (shrimp, for example) can also be hosts for the developing worm, and humans are infected when they eat infected snails, slugs, frogs, or crustaceans! The winner is Connor Mason (10W) and a prize will be delivered on Monday.





**Mr Djehiche**

**Scientist of the Week**

The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Djehiche and Mr Cybuch is Kieran Kirk (8M) for cooperation.

**Word of the Week**

**Wassail (verb)** – please see end of newsletter (w/c 7th December 2020).

**Mrs Herring**

**Chef of the Week**

The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is Alfie Wilson (7T).

**KS3 Friday Curriculum - 11th December 2020**

Class	Activity	On/Off site	Activity
7D	Humanities	On site	World Maps. Fantasy Maps and Worlds.
7T	Humanities	On site	School Uniform
8C	RICE Challenge	On site	Year 8 will be using teamwork and alternative thinking to solve a series of challenging problems. School uniform
8M	RICE Challenge	On site	
9J	Food Experience	On site	Christmas Cake Decorations - School Uniform
9P	School Project	On site	School Uniform - Please bring a coat

**House Points**

Certificates and prizes for earning House Points this week will be handed out next week. They go to:

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Max Gibbins         | 50 House Points  |
| Kal-El Harris       | 150 House Points |
| James Millar        | 200 House Points |
| Tomas Bodkin        | 300 House Points |
| Edward Bridges-Pugh | 350 House Points |
| Henry Hilton        | 350 House Points |



The weekly top scorers are detailed below:

KS3	Burntwood	Nathan Small
	Buxton	Edward Gair & Kieran Kirk
	Portley	Teddy Foster & Max Mahboobani
	Whyteleafe	Max Gibbins
KS4	Burntwood	Jacob Connery
	Buxton	Ben Tushingam, Daniel Linney & Harry Monkhouse
	Portley	Henry Hilton & Joe Harley
	Whyteleafe	Mason-Ray Hayden

Word of the week w/c 7th December 2020

# Wassail

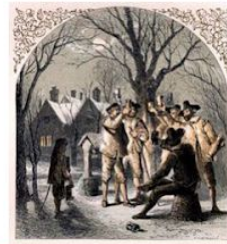
verb

To go from house to house at Christmas singing carols.

To drink plentiful amounts of alcohol and enjoy oneself with others in a noisy, lively way.



wassailing is a very ancient custom that is rarely done today. The word "wassail" comes from the Anglo-Saxon phrase "wæs hæl" which means "good health".



I HOPE YOU'VE BEEN NICE THIS YEAR!

# CHRISTMAS TREES TO YOUR DOOR!

**FREE DELIVERY WITHIN A 5 MILE  
RADIUS OF REIGATE**

## PRICE LIST

### ❄️ HANDPICKED PREMIUM GRADE TREES

4 FT £30  
5 FT £45  
6 FT £60  
7 FT £75

CAN SOURCE UP TO 10 FT OR POTTED TOO!

❄️ TRADITIONAL ORNATE IRON STANDS £20

❄️ 16" HANDWOVEN PINE WREATHS £20

❄️ COLLECTION AND SUSTAINABLE  
DISPOSAL (RH1 + RH2 ONLY) £10

## CONTACT US

HOW CAN I ORDER/ ENQUIRE?

❄️ CALL/ TEXT:  
07541 392007

❄️ EMAIL:  
REIGATECHRISTMASTREES@OUTLOOK.COM

❄️ MESSAGE ON INSTAGRAM:  
REIGATE\_CHRISTMASTREES

