

Prep School

ROUND UP



Friday 4th December 2020

The Head's Update

Christmas is well and truly around the corner! Christmas music is playing around the Prep School, filming for the virtual concert is taking place and it is certainly colder!

Christmas Countdown from Mrs Davis

As we entered the season of Advent this week, my spirits were lifted when I had a preview of the Senior and Youth Choirs' performance of Carol of the Bells. It really sounds wonderful and the atmosphere that has been created is magical. [Click here](#) to see the trailer. The full concert will be available to watch on our YouTube channel from 5pm on Thursday 17th December. I suggest warming a mince pie, pulling on a Christmas hat and settling down with your family to view it when it goes live. Many thanks to the Music, Drama, Dance and Marketing departments who are putting this concert together and I know it will be a very special memory for the archives and a highlight of this challenging academic year.



Staff News

It was lovely to welcome back Miss R Taylor this week after her maternity leave. For family reasons, Mrs Laetitia Davies will be taking a break from teaching French and Spanish to Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 for the rest of this academic year. Miss Annabelle Peron and Mrs Ana Torres Miller will teach the weekly lessons, respectively. We wish you all the very best Mrs Davies.

Chelsea Year 1

Congratulations to Chelsea C in Year 1 who has recently been awarded her first trophy in Taekwondo! Well done Chelsea! [Click here](#) for more information.

Eleri receives a Blue Peter badge

Many congratulations to Year 3's Eleri B-J who has received a Blue Peter badge in recognition of her trying out a variety of sports. [Click here](#) for more information.

COVID 19

I thought it would be useful to inform parents of our provision in the event of your daughter having to self-isolate at home, or indeed, if it is necessary for the whole year group to do so. Dare I say it, we haven't had to send a whole year group home as yet, but we are prepared to 'flip' to Mixed Model Learning if this were to happen. The information is specific to [Early Years](#) (Nursery and Reception), [Key Stage 1](#) (Years 1 and 2) and finally [Key Stage 2](#) (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6). I hope this reassures you that we are prepared for every eventuality. Please get in touch if you have any queries at all.

Tenovus Virtual Lovelight Concert

As you know, a virtual Lovelight will be aired on Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7.30pm and Howell's Prep School are very proud, once again, to have been invited to take part. The concert will consist of some items recorded by Howell's students during the early summer lockdown in addition to some socially distanced singing being recorded this week by the girls from Nursery to Year 6. In addition to this, some of our Year 6 girls will feature fabulous poetry they have recently written. Our Year poets are **Verity H, Isabelle C, Jasmine B, Kiana M, Georgia C and Erin H**, many congratulations! Our items will appear alongside the Tenovus Sing With Us Virtual Choir, TV and radio personality, Wynne Evans and special surprise guests! If you would like more information and to purchase a household viewing 'ticket', please visit <https://www.tenovuscancercare.org.uk/event/lovelight/> for more details.

Swimming

Next week it will be the turn of the **S** classes.

Christmas Cards

I am very sorry but we are not going to be able to allow the exchange of Christmas cards in school this year, I know you will fully understand the reasons why. We will encourage the girls to share their festive wishes with their teachers and friends verbally instead!

Reminders

Monday 14th December Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 girls may wear party clothes to school (remember to wear a coat and sensible shoes).

Tuesday 15th December Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 girls may wear party clothes to school (remember to wear a coat and sensible shoes).

Thursday 17th December Nursery – Year 6 girls may wear a Christmas Jumper over their uniform as it is Christmas Lunch!

Friday 18th December Nursery – Year 6 Virtual Assembly broadcast to classrooms.

Howell's will close for Prep School students at 12.30pm and there will be no after school provision. Buses will be running and will be leaving as soon as possible after the Senior School finishes at 12.45pm.

Clubs – end of term arrangements

As we approach the end of term, please see below for information regarding when the Prep extracurricular clubs will finish. The majority of clubs are finishing next week. A few will continue into the last week of term. Please note there are no clubs after school Friday 18th December as we finish school at 12.30pm.

A huge thank you to all the staff who lead the clubs and provide opportunities for the girls to enjoy a variety of activities, both lunchtime and after school.

Clubs finishing w/b Mon 7 th Dec	Clubs finishing w/b Mon 14 th Dec
Cookery Mandarin Football Gymnastics Speech and Drama All music clubs All sport clubs KS1 Jazz dance Nursery French and Spanish club	Ballet Spanish French Owl Performing Arts Club KS2 Jazz dance

Clubs will begin again next term on Monday 11th January. The full timetable for the Spring Term will be published and sent to parents before the Christmas break.

Face Coverings

I am sure you are aware that the Welsh Government has updated its guidance in terms of face coverings in schools. To reduce the risk of transmission amongst parents and relatives, please wear masks at drop-off and collection times. Maintaining a clear social distance at all times will also reduce risk and set a good example to the girls. Please follow these guidelines and encourage your child to follow theirs too. Along with regular hand washing/sanitising and social distancing, this will reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 at school as far as possible.

Walking Bus

To book a place on the Walking Bus to/from Pencisely Road next week, please [click here](#).

Howell's ranked 107th best independent school in England and Wales

I was delighted to hear that the Sunday Times has ranked Howell's as the 107th best independent school in England and Wales, moving up 26 places since last year.

GDST Talks Programme

We recently launched the GDST Talks programme with a presentation from Consultant Psychologist Dr Deborah Woodman of Evelina Children's Hospital on how to help your child through COVID-19. You may be interested to watch a recording of the talk, which you can find [here](#). This will be available until Monday 4th January. Please also [click here](#) to read some useful information and links which Dr Woodman shared during the talk. You can find out more about upcoming GDST Talks events [here](#). For further information, please contact hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net.

Sleeping Beauty

The Original Online Panto Company, in partnership with Polka Dot Pantomimes and Ticketmaster Universe, are streaming a beautifully filmed version of Sleeping Beauty with an all-star cast full of spectacular sets, wonderful costumes, song, dance and fun that will run from Mon 14 Dec – Sun 3 Jan.

Tickets cost £14.99 plus a 50p processing charge per family, and for every ticket sold Howell's will receive up to £4, which will go to our Bursary Fund. When you buy your ticket, you will be sent a streaming code, and once you activate it you can watch Sleeping Beauty as many times as you over a 4 day period on a smart TV, tablet or phone. You can also upgrade with your very own individual Christmas video message from Father Christmas.

For more information including a trailer and a link to buy a ticket, visit www.universe.com/howell

Have a lovely weekend.

Judith Ashill, Deputy Principal, Head of Prep School