

This week

- Sat 17 Jan: Cross Country Event at Bridgewater School
- Wed 21 Jan: Consultation evening appointment request to be returned to school by parents/carers
- Thu 22 Jan: Visit by Dacorum Symphony Orchestra

Dates further ahead

- Tue 3 & Thu 5 Feb: Consultation evenings, 4.15 - 7.45pm
- Fri 6 Feb: Comedy Night (joint event by the Friends of Thomas Coram and Victoria School Association)

[A full calendar is available on our website](#)

Notices and reminders

School lunch money reminder: it is important that you keep a note of how much money is on your child's school lunch account (WisePay - My Wise Account), as we are unable to supply your child with a school meal without payment being available on meal accounts. Please bear in mind that payment is not instant and can take a few days to reach the Thomas Coram account.

All children in Key Stage 1 now receive Free School Meals automatically. [If you think your child, in Key Stage 2, may be entitled to Free School Meals](#), please apply online at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals for a quick and easy confirmation of eligibility. Alternatively you may ring 0300 123 4048 between 8.00 am and 8.00pm Monday to Friday or between 9.00am and 4.00pm Saturday.

On Thursday 15 January all children were given a copy of the appointment letter for the [forthcoming consultation evenings](#) on Tuesday 3 and Thursday 5 February. These should be returned to school by Wednesday 21 January.

We would like to give you advance notice of a [Parent E Safety workshop](#) for all the schools in Berkhamsted at Westfield Primary School on Tuesday 3 March. Refreshments will be available at 6.45pm and the meeting (approx. 1.5 hours) will start at 7pm. Further information will follow soon.

Recent letters

Last week we sent out these letters which are also available on our website:

- Spring Term Consultation Evenings 2015

This week's attachments

Today we're attaching:

- Invitation from Hertfordshire Music Service to take part in a children's opera
- 4th Berkhamsted Brownies request for adult volunteers

Invitation for involvement in Brundibar



Would you like to be part of an exciting performance of *Brundibar* (a children's opera) at the Watford Palace Theatre in the Easter holidays? This is a chance to work with a professional opera company and orchestra (Mahogany Opera Group and members of Southbank Sinfonia).

It is a big commitment, but one which will be so rewarding. Having watched the first performance of this touring production, I am confident that you will be in for a treat! **Please come along to Dacorum Music School on Tuesday 27th January at 4.30-5.30pm for an informal audition.**

Dacorum Music School is located at Heath Barn, St. John's Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 1NP. Tel: 01442 214599 or email: dacorummusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Many thanks
Rufus Frowde (Conductor of Brundibar)
Hertfordshire Music Service

Attendance at all rehearsals is compulsory. The commitment of this fully staged production is as follows:

Tuesdays, 4.30- 5.30pm - Rehearsals at Dacorum Music School:

3/2, 10/2 & 24/2

3/3 (4 – 6pm), 10/3 (4 – 6pm), 17/3 (4 – 6.30pm), 24/3, 31/3

Friday 13 February, 1.30pm Attend *Brundibar* performance - South Bank

HALF TERM

Friday 20 February Principals: 9.30am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 5pm.

All: 5.30 – 8.30pm

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Saturday 4 April, 9.30 – 1.30pm Stage Rehearsal. Venue tbc.

Thursday 9 April, 10am – 4pm Principals only stage rehearsal. Venue tbc.

Friday 10 April, 10 – 4pm Stage rehearsal. Venue tbc.

PRODUCTION WEEK

Monday 13 April: 10am – 4pm (principals only). Venue tbc.

Tuesday 14 April: 10am – 5pm. Venue tbc.

Wednesday 15 April: 5 – 8pm. Watford Palace Theatre (WPT)

Thursday 16 April: 10am – 4pm (WPT)

Friday 17 April: 2.30 – 5.30pm (WPT)

Saturday 18 April: 3 – 6pm Dress rehearsal, 7pm Performance (WPT)

Sunday 19 April: 3pm Matinee Performance (WPT)

Please return the slip below to the Dacorum Music School office, either in person or via email (addresses above) or bring to the rehearsal on Tuesday 27th January.

✂

Name of pupil:

Name of parent/guardian:

Telephone of parent/guardian:

Email address:

Parent/guardian signature:

I give photographic consent: Yes/No

Are there any medical conditions we need to be aware of?



4th Berkhamsted Brownies - We want to offer your child a place at Brownies - can you help?

We are currently looking for new adult volunteers to help run 4th Berkhamsted Brownies. This is a successful brownie group with an excellent reputation in the local community, providing opportunities for up to 24 brownies if it is led by 3 qualified adult leaders and 1 young leader. In order to ensure the ongoing success of the group we need to train 3 new adult volunteers so we can grow the brownie group and keep up the good work.

This opportunity is open to anyone - you don't have to be a parent and no previous experience is required as full training is provided. We meet on Mondays from 6pm - 7.15pm during term time. Our meetings are held in the Court House next to St Peter's Church on the High Street.

We have vacancies in January 2015 for girls on our waiting list but we need new leaders to help us before we can offer these places. We are looking for 3 adult volunteer leaders.

This involves a regular commitment of 1.5-2hrs on Monday night itself, and some involvement in planning and administering the group. You will also occasionally attend Guiding events and training on a weekend day. You will be required to complete a CRB check, attend an Appointment interview and ultimately become a uniformed Guiding Leader.

If you believe you can commit to this role, ideally for a minimum of 2 years, your child will be offered a place in Brownies.

You'll not be on your own and you don't need previous experience in Guiding. Experienced Guiders will be with you for weekly meetings for the first 6-12 months and you will be working with at least 2 other adult leaders every week.

You will also be a member of the wider Guiding organisation - a significant resource for ideas, information and access to a free, CV-enhancing training programme.

We know childcare might be a problem, and we welcome younger children at the meetings. Previous leaders have successfully brought their younger children - there's always something to distract them!

We are as keen as you are to give your child the personal development, adventure and friendships associated with joining the Brownies. If you help to make it happen, your children will have places in 4th Berkhamsted Brownies and beyond.

There's more information about volunteering in Guiding at www.girlguiding.org.uk. If you'd like to discuss the role, or come and see one of our Brownie meetings in action, please contact Karen Walker at karenewalker@btinternet.com.

