

This week

- Mon 30 Oct: Pupils return to school after half term break
- Tue 31 Oct: Application deadline for secondary school Sept 2018
- Fri 3 Nov: FOTC Cake & Cookie sale, 4BW and 4VM

Dates further ahead

- Mon 6 Nov: Deadline for completed Christmas cards
- Wed 15 Nov: Parent consultation evening
- Wed 17 Nov: FOTC Cake & Cookie sale, 3RP and 3HW
- Tue 21 Nov: Year 3 and Year 4 flu vaccinations

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

Notices and reminders

Please be aware that the [deadline for applications to secondary school](#) is fast approaching. Hertfordshire County Council has informed us that parents/carers will need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of Tuesday 31 October; however, they recommend that it is completed by Friday 27 October, as there will be limited support available over the weekend for anyone having trouble applying.

Tickets for the [Rotary Fireworks Display at Berkhamsted Cricket Club](#) on Saturday 4 November are currently on sale at school. We receive £1.00 for every ticket sold through us.

On Tuesday 10 October your child was given a letter and blank card to produce [their own personal Christmas card](#). Cards must be returned by Monday 6 November.

HAND News is an online newsletter [for children and young people with additional needs](#). The October edition may be found at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews

Ashlyns School is currently advertising for an [HR/Cover Officer](#). The closing date is 30 October. The role is advertised on their website (and on Teach in Herts) www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/news/vacancies/

Recent letters

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

- Year 3 Data Check and Emergency Closure
- Friends of Thomas Coram Update
- New House Names

This week's attachments

Today we're attaching:

- Letter from the Executive Headteacher

[This week at St Peter's](#) – St. Peter's flower arrangers are desperate for helpers. You don't necessarily need to be able to arrange a pedestal as there are other smaller arrangements in the church. The Lady Chapel and the small window ledges are decorated at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Training can be given. If you are able to help on a regular or occasional basis please contact churchoffice@greatberkhamsted.org.uk

20 October 2017

Executive Headteacher: Mr R Halls BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Dear parent/carer

Our formal collaboration is now half a term old – time has flown by! I'd like to particularly thank the pupils, parents/carers, staff and governors at Victoria for making me – along with the new members of the senior leadership team, Mrs Crozier and Miss Bradford – so welcome.

Our collaboration aims to:

- ensure outstanding leadership at every level
- ensure high quality teaching and high quality learning environments for all
- ensure high quality governance
- ensure clear stakeholder accountability
- ensure that our distinctively Christian ethos underpins all our work

So far this half term, to work towards these aims, we've:

- begun to look more closely at progression in some of our curriculum
- aligned some of our school policies
- held joint governing body training on the Distinctive Christian Character for our schools
- begun to plan opportunities to increase pupil involvement between our schools
- continued our focus on working in partnership with Swing Gate Infant School, for example with our joint Harvest collection for DENS.

We've also created a page on both our websites for collaboration information, news and updates:

- www.thomascoram.herts.sch.uk/collaboration
- www.victoria.herts.sch.uk/our-school/our-collaboration

Nationally, there are a number of issues facing schools – pupil outcomes and progress, inspections, pupil numbers, school funding and the new national funding formula.

Schools are finding that one way to minimise some of these pressures is by working more closely together and achieving organisational efficiencies – for example as with our local community schools and their multi-academy trust proposals. As you're aware, our two governing bodies are committed to our schools working more closely together and, to this end, are continuing to discuss ways in which we can work more strategically in the future to ultimately ensure better outcomes for children.

Things are never still and calm in the world of education but we all remain committed to working in closer partnership to achieve the best learning experience for every child. Thank you for the crucial part you play in that journey – we hope to get you more involved after Christmas with sharing ideas for our future plans.

Have a great half-term break.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Halls
Executive Headteacher