

KSS Newsletter

December 2016



Dear Parents,

December is a very special month for children at the HSV. We look forward to receiving some very special visitors. Yes we mean Sinterklass on Monday December 5th and then Father Christmas just before the holiday. It is a very magical time in school with lots of excitement and anticipation.

Many parents work hard with our to make our school celebrations a great success, all year round. We would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to all that staff and parents who give their time and effort to make these times so special for the children. Some of our HSV pupils have also been helping others less fortunate than ourselves through the annual shoebox appeal. Thank you to all of you who made a donation.

This year we are selling a HSV calendar for the festive season. We hope that you are able to support this initiative. Please note that the last day for calendar orders is December 9th. Click [here](#) to view the calendar.

As it gets colder outside and the nights get longer we have lots of events to look forward to. We are all looking forward to various our concerts and the Festive Dinner during the last week of term. Details will appear in the local part to this newsletter.

There are two early closures in December. School closes at **12:30 on Monday December 5th for Sint** and for the last day of term on **Thursday December 22nd**. We return to school on Monday January 9th 2017. We wish you all a happy holiday season and best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016!

Kind regards,

Lorraine Janet Dean
Director of the International Department

Frans de Jong
Director of the Nederlands Afdeling

Festive Dinner

All locations will host a Festive Dinner on Tuesday 20th December from 5.30-6.45pm. More information will follow with the details for your child's location. Please note that it on a Tuesday this year.

Staffing News

As you have already heard we will be saying goodbye to our Executive Director Willy Grijze who retires on January 1st 2017. Willy has worked at the HSV since 2007 and has done much to both develop and professionalise the organisation as well as bring financial stability. In the last year there have been four successful school inspections and he is leaving us in very good shape. As the directors we would like to say that it has been a pleasure to work with Willy and thank him for all he has done for our schools. We look forward to supporting the new interim director, who will join us after the break. His name is Hans van der Vlugt and he has extensive experience in similar positions as well as working with the Dutch Ministry of Education. Recruitment for the permanent position is underway and we will keep parents informed.

Ms Katie Hargreaves begins her maternity leave after the Christmas break. Bernadette Danaher already took over her ID6 class.

From the MR

In the November MR meeting the new GMR member, Birgit Le Haen, was warmly welcomed. She will take issues discussed in the MR meetings, which are also relevant to the GMR to the next GMR meeting. This will keep communication open and transparent. She will also keep the MR informed of issues raised during the GMR meetings which may be of interest to the MR. This is a very welcome improvement.

The new MR representative for the Dutch department, Marc Swaab, was also warmly welcomed. The MR was also informed that the new VNS teacher representative will be Cyrille Vermaat. She is replacing Katie Hargreaves who is no longer only based at the VNS location but works across all locations.

Forthcoming Holiday Dates, Study Days and Early Closures

School will close at 12:30 on the following days:

Sinterklaas Monday 5th December 2016

Christmas Thursday 22nd December 2016

Study Days

Our next study day is Wednesday February 1st 2017. On this day there will be no school for children in ID R, 1, 2 3, NA 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Christmas Holiday

As indicated above school will close at 12:30 on Thursday 22nd December. School is closed for the Christmas holiday from Friday 23rd December until Friday 6th January. The children return to school on Monday 9th January 2017.

From the KSS Location

Playground development

At the time of writing a section of the playground is being levelled and laid with a green fake grass surface. It has been a long time in the planning and we are delighted that it is finally happening. We hope that it will be ready before the end of the week and will improve the appearance of our small playground. We also have a mud kitchen for the younger children. Messy play is an important part of a child's development and we are sure that the children in ID R and 1 will get a lot of use out of this new kitchen.

Gym Kits

Please can we remind you that your child should have the correct clothes to change into for gym lessons. They should have the yellow HSV gym t-shirt (available from Ms Joke at €7), shorts or tracksuit trousers and non-marking indoor sport shoes. In a number of classes there are children who habitually forget their gym kit. Please send in the gym kit on Mondays for the week's lessons.

Ice Skating

Once again our local residents association has organised the [plastic ice rink](#) in the pop-up park in Beatrixlaan. We have arranged for the children to

visit with their class teacher and Mr Sytse, our gym teacher on Monday 12th December during the gym lessons. We hope that the children enjoy the opportunity to learn or practise their skating skills! The organisers are always looking for volunteers, if you are able to help in the evenings or weekends, please contact them.

Christmas Concerts

We warmly invite you to our annual Christmas concerts which will take place on Tuesday 20th December as follows:

- ID R,1,2,3 concert at 09:00
- ID 4, 5, 6 concert at 14:00

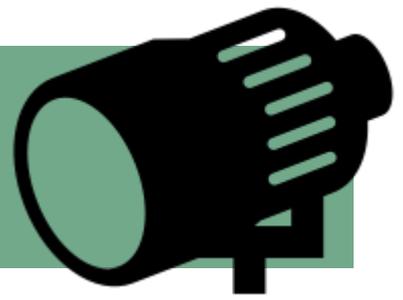
Please note that the morning concert is often very busy and space is limited. We cannot have pushchairs in the gym and ask that these are left in the main entrance hall. Younger siblings are welcome but we expect them to sit quietly and not disturb the performances. We ask the audience to avoid using their phones and have them switched to silent. We also ask that photos and videos of the performances are not shared on social media to respect the privacy of others families. Finally please be warned that there is no parking outside the school for parents. Please look to park in one of the side streets of the school that day.

Kind regards,

Lorraine Wittenberg
KSS Location Leader



SPOTLIGHT ON



ID3 children have been studying dinosaurs this half term. There has been great enthusiasm since the Entry Point, when they entered the room to the roars of dinosaurs. The children have found from research that dinosaurs unlike some other reptiles have their legs directly beneath them in contrast to, for example, a crocodile. They have also learned about the fossilization process including the environment in which a fossil is found and formed. Lastly, they have learned to use tools and materials to make dinosaur art.

