

Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The first school term is drawing to a close. It has been a busy term and so much learning has taken place. The youngest children are now so much more confident in the classroom; they know the routines and are developing their independence skills. The older children have had interesting topic work and weekly life skills lessons together; they have learnt to work together across the two classes.

We extend our thanks to Ombretta Chiaro who has worked valiantly this term on sorting out the library and categorizing the books. This work is now complete and, as Ombretta leaves our staff team, our thanks and best wishes go with her. Miss Jude from Class A has started a mural of storybook characters in the library area and this will make the area even more attractive.

We also say goodbye to Carmen loachim who has been working alongside Esther in the office. Carmen has helped with sorting computer files and making documents for us and, together with Esther, disposed of our outdated archives. She has also been responsible for organizing the lunchtime supervisor rota. I suspect that we will be seeing Carmen from time to time in the school but again, our thanks and best wishes go to her as she stops regular work hours with us.

And finally, of course, our Executive Director Willy Grijze is leaving the HSV and education on 1st January 2017 as he starts out on the new adventure of being retired. Willy has worked at the HSV since 2007 and has done much to 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. Our sincere thanks and very best wishes go to him and we hope that he will now have time to do all the things he has always wanted to do!

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 you informed.

Michelle Jones (Oliver) and Caroline Wortman (Ethan) have agreed to be representatives on the parent committee for Three Little Ships. I will meet with them in January to update them on developments in the pre-school. If you have questions about protocols or suggestions for general improvements then please pass ideas to them for discussion.

Finally, may I wish you very happy holidays, a Merry Christmas to those who celebrate this festival and a healthy, Happy New Year. I will continue to work in the school next term and, with the rest of the staff team, we look forward to seeing you all in January.

Helen Claus (Interim Director) and the Lighthouse and Three Little Ships teams

Important Dates

22nd December – school closes early for winter break at **12:30**

9th January – school reopens for the Winter Term

13th January – school closed for study day on maths and our new Numicon materials

25th January – Three Little Ships 10th birthday celebration

The school calendar for 2016-2017 is on our website

Happy Birthday to all those that celebrate in December and January

27th December – Lisa Mayhall

6th January – Leonie Spronk

Contact Person

If you have a concern or a worry about your child, then please do discuss this with the class teacher. General concerns or worries can also be discussed with the Director. You can make an appointment through the office or email with a meeting request to hclaus@hsvdenhaag.nl

If you have a concern about something connected to the school and want to discuss this confidentially with someone for advice, then you can also speak to the school's Contact Person: Lisa Mayhall. Lisa is generally in school on Wednesdays but can also be emailed via lmayhall@hsvdenhaag.nl

Twitter accounts



Please check into our Twitter accounts to see what we are doing and let family members know too. We are posting photos and updates on Twitter rather than on the website as it is quicker and we can keep you more up-to-date. We love to have messages retweeted and quoted.

The accounts are: @lighthouse_se @tlsclass1 @LseAlison @LSEClassR

News from Three Little Ships

The TLS finished up their dinosaur topic with a loud *rawr!* The children really enjoyed learning about many different types of dinosaurs, counting and categorizing them and learning if they ate plants, meat or both. Unfortunately we said farewell to the dinosaurs but welcomed Sinterklaas and his Pieten on December 5th. The children were very excited and eager to show Sinterklaas how well they could sing his famous songs. Recently, the children have been getting into the winter spirit with many fun activities. So far we have learned about ice; how it is formed and how it turns into a liquid, painted snowflakes, and expanded our vocabulary with new words such as: snowflake, ice, mitten, cold, penguin, lights, jingle, snowman and winter. We will end our topic with a lovely winter concert on Wednesday 21st December and blast off into our new topic: space and shapes in January.



News from Class A

The past few weeks have been full of festive fun in Class A – first preparing for Sinterklaas and then for Christmas. We all enjoyed it when Sinterklaas came to our class. We sang for him in Dutch and he gave us all some lovely presents. Thank you Sinterklaas and your Piets!



Now, we are busy getting ready for Christmas. We made a Christmas Tree using handprints and decorated it with glittery baubles. Now we just need a star on top. We have made Christmas cards and angels and even some graphs about Christmas.



News from Class R

Class R have been working on inventions, especially how inventions have made our lives easier than before. The children have found alternatives for the umbrella, but also useful applications to tidy up a bedroom, portals to wonderful worlds, reminders and even for demolition purposes! We went on a discovery journey at the Science Centre in Delft, looking at forces of gravity, chance, patterns and what happens during an earthquake. Photos of the trip can be found on Twitter.

In our life skill program, the theme has been different types of dough and baking: from pepernoten (rolling), cutting shapes (Winter themed) and decorating (melting snowman) – photos also on Twitter. Unfortunately we can't tweet the fabulous smells in school on Fridays...

Our next school newsletter will come out in February!