



## **BSM's Weekly Newsletter 13 June 2009**

**Influenza Pandemic Alert at Phase 6** – Last Thursday the World Health Organisation increased its influenza pandemic alert from phase 5 to 6, the highest level, and declared that “The world is now at the start of the 2009 influenza pandemic.” Consequently, the school will be working with its partners to closely monitor the spread and effects of the virus, which has not yet reached Oman.

It is very important that our children make good hygiene a habit and wash their hands frequently. Please would you reinforce this message at home. Thank you.

The school's current position is to continue with all aspects of school life as normal. However, I will contact you if this needs to change.

You can keep up-to-date with progress and advice by monitoring the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office's link: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/swine-flu> and/or the WHO's website: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int) .

If your child is unwell in any way then please keep them at home and, if necessary, contact your doctor. Please do not send sick children to school. This is our standard advice to parents and needs to be followed even more carefully under present circumstances. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

**The Flu Hotlines for Oman are 92466422 and 99851003.** Please call if you have any concerns or require information.

**Senior School Timetable Changes** – On 25 April I wrote in our newsletter that “In order to improve teaching and learning we have been looking at the feasibility of moving to a 10 day timetable in the Senior School next year and increasing the length of lessons but reducing the number from 8 to 5. This might mean that the Senior School will finish at 2.00pm instead of 1.55pm. No changes are planned for the Primary School. I'll keep you posted.”

I can now report that Mr Keach has almost completed a new timetable that successfully incorporates these changes based around five 65 minute lessons per day spread over a 10 day timetable cycle instead of the current eight 40 minute lessons per day throughout a five day week. This change is a product of Mr Keach's review since he joined us as Head of Senior School last September and matches advice given by the inspectors who inspected our school in March (see page 8 of our inspection report).

The increase in lesson length will improve opportunities for extended periods of concentrated learning, and the reduction in the number of lessons per day will result in less time being lost by students walking between lessons. Both will help improve the quality of learning.

Mr Keach will shortly be writing to you with the details.

**Year 3 Art Day** – Year 3 enjoyed a fabulous Art Day on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Mrs Ainsworth gave the children a fantastic opportunity to create some lovely watercolours of landscapes; Mrs Brundrett inspired the children to produce fabulous acrylic paintings of Omani men and women and Mrs Eden danced to loud music with the children to create some totally wacky splash paint and glitter art, creating quite a stir in 3C. We thank all three of you for giving the children a day they will never forget.



Mrs Brundrett and Mrs Ainsworth working with Year 3 children

**Year Three Charity Event on Sunday 21st June** - During the school day, Year Three will be selling refreshing fruit smoothies, cakes and biscuits to children in the Primary school to raise money for this year's chosen charities. We are hoping to raise a significant amount of money and would really appreciate your support. Teachers will have a list of your child's chosen cooling drinks. Each smoothie will be 500 Baizas and cakes and biscuits will be priced individually. We will remind children to bring money to school on or before the day. We look forward to cooling your children down healthily!!

**Last Choir Standing...The Result!** - Last Tuesday evening in the packed auditorium of the magnificent Al Bustan Palace Hotel, choirs from each of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 battled it out to become the last choir standing. It was an excellent competition and an entertaining evening. Every choir sang exceptionally well and were judged on their musical technicalities, control and presentation, with differences in age also taken into consideration. After just over two hours of exciting singing the Last Choir Standing was Year 4. Very many congratulations and well done to everyone for representing your year groups and our school so well.

Thank you to the buskers who persevered over the throng - they raised an admirable 68 rials in total: They were Elliot Turner (6B), Sofina Suhaimi (4F), Ross Grieve (5TT), Jordan Whitelaw (3E), Tessa Kolster (4F), Santiago Hernandez (5T), Robert Starling (4B), Josh White (6B), Lyam and Callum Hutchinson (7LG, & 8CL), Calvin Buckley (8CL) and Renata Roeterink (8TP).

We are very grateful to the management of the Al Bustan Palace Hotel for their sponsorship and support, and to Mr Ray Archer of Geochemistry Associates for his sponsorship of the prizes.



Miss Proctor Conductor of Last Choir Standing



Miss Proctor and Mr Megnin being thanked by the children



Congratulations to Year 4 – Winners of Last Choir Standing

**BSM's Youth & Community Choir 'Sing Summer'** – Last Wednesday evening BSM's Youth & Community Choir, Instrumentalists and Silver Sounds Steel Band presented Sing Summer in the lobby of the Intercontinental Hotel. It was an exceptionally enjoyable evening and the concert helped to raise awareness and support for leper invalids and their dependents in Kachele Village, Zambia. The musicians were:

Singers: Alice Caswell (7CB), Beatrice Karabaczek (10LS), Caitlin Anderson (8TJ), Daniel Louis Raynor (10MO), Edward Sims (10TG), Jared Jones (11MK), Kardelen Ozsoy (7CB), Louisa Berak (9GH), Lydia Butler (10JIR), Rachel Raynor (12NW), Sophy Purnell (10JIR) Venetia Sims (12HB), Veronica Karabaczek (12DA) and Victoria Amos (8TE).

Instrumentalists: Robert Starling (4B), Josh White (6B), Lyam Hutchinson (7LG), Callum Hutchinson (8CL), Calvin Buckley (8CL), Chloe Sinclair (12NW), Ewan Macfarlane (10TG), Jared Jones (11MK), Joanna Ashkhanian (9KW), Jonathan Talabis (10TG), Edward Sims (10TG), Jordan Jones (9KW), Lavanya Chowdhury (7SS), Olivia Yates (9KW), Tara Aziz (9GH) Mr Teiron Jones (Director of Music), Damien D'Souza (Guitar Teacher), Mark Gresty (Bass Guitar) and David Joseph (Drum Teacher).

Silver Sounds Steel Band: Akalanka Kodagoda (11MK), Hazim Zulane Othman (9SM), Jared Jones (11MK), Jordan Jones (9KW), Louisa Berak (9GH), Mohamed Hanaey (9SM), Olivia Yates (9KW), Rachel Raynor (12NW) and Robert-Scott Hughes (9SM).

**Sixth Form Charity Fashion Show's Final Total** – I am delighted to report that the Sixth Form Charity Fashion Show has raised a final total of OMR 11,223.700 (approximately GBP 17,950) for the two children's cancer wards of The Royal Hospital and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital. Well done to all involved, particularly to Emma Casemore (13AH) and Karyn Mackay (13AH), who jointly chaired the Sixth Form Fund Raising Charity Committee this year.



Karyn Mackay and Emma Casemore

**Double House Points** – Last week I awarded double house points to the following primary children for exceeding their teachers' expectations: Joshua Edmondson (6B) for French, Keanu Van Dyk (3C) and Aaryan Guglani (3C) for science, Amy Stockton (5T) and Isabelle Cunneen (5T) for English and humanities, Milo Blakey for design & technology and Adam Perry (6C) for French.

**Blue and Silver Masquerade Ball** – Please note in your diaries that we will be holding a Blue and Silver Masquerade (BSM) ball for about 400 at the British Ambassador's Residence on Thursday 12 November. It promises to be an outstanding evening! Further details will be released in due course.

**Low Attendance, Low Performance** – That's the conclusion reached by Ofsted after inspecting thousands of schools in the UK. Please try to keep your child's attendance levels up.

**Clunk-Click Every Trip** – Please make your children wear their seat belts. Thank you.

**Crawling Speed, Phones Down and Engines Off** – Please carefully crawl through our car parks, don't use your phone whilst driving, and turn your engines off when leaving your car.

**Cream-up and Hats On** – Please protect your child's skin with sun block and a wide brimmed hat.

**Are you Ready For School Closure?** - Have you learnt what to do in the highly unlikely event that we close the school and do you know where your Child Collection Packs are?

Have a good week.

Steve Howland MBE  
Principal

# Influenza A(H1N1)

## How to Protect Yourself and Others



Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue when coughing and sneezing



Dispose of used tissues properly immediately after use



Regularly wash hands with soap and water



If you have flu-like symptoms, seek medical advice immediately



If you have flu-like symptoms, keep a distance of at least 1 meter from other people



If you have flu-like symptoms, stay home from work, school or crowded places



Avoid hugging, kissing and shaking hands when greeting



Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands

**For more information:**

<http://www.emro.who.int/csr/h1n1/index.htm>  
<http://www.who.int/en>