

JANUARY 2012



Penn Fields School News Letter

PENN FIELDS CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION—'PRICKLY HAY'

The Lower School Christmas Production of 'Prickly Hay' surpassed all expectations. The lead roles were played word perfectly by Ethan Tunstall and Tom Griffiths.

An enthusiastic cast of Classes 1 — 4 were supported by the school choir and our percussion orchestra. There were two excellent performances by everyone involved. Thanks must go to Mrs Dillon for her musical directing and Mrs Watkins on piano. A mention must

also go to Mrs Payne and her team for their work in assisting the pupils, arranging costumes and for the staff who helped with the scenery. Both performances played to a full house so a big thank you must go to all of you who were able to support our Christmas Production.



Children In Need

Penn Fields School raised over £150 for Children in Need with spare change collected in a bucket. A big Thank You for your generosity.

N.B: Please notify school if your child is absent or needs to be collected for an appointment.

Dear Parents/Carers, Friends and Governors

As you will see from our January newsletter, Autumn Term 2011 proved to be a very busy one with a wide and varied programme of activities that supported our curriculum. The term ended with an excellent lower school Christmas Production of 'Prickly Hay' which received a multitude of positive comments. In the final week we had a whole school carol service at Beckminster Church followed by lower school parties, a Key Stage 3 disco and a bowling trip and buffet for pupils in Class 10 & 11.

The new school building on the Highfields site is well underway and on schedule for us to move in September 2012. I will be writing to you shortly to allay any concerns you may have about our new school.

Finally our congratulations go to Mrs Watkins, part time school pianist and admin officer. Mrs Watkins has been awarded an M.B.E. In the Queens New Years Honours list for her service to St John's Ambulance Brigade. A well deserved award for all of her hard work and dedication—well done Mrs Watkins we are very proud of you!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to meeting with you in 2012.

Miss E. Stanley
Headteacher

Key Stage 4 Vocational Training V.R.Q



As part of the year 11 VRQ, pupils have been participating in a bike maintenance course. They have learnt how to change tyres, fix punctures, and adjust brakes and all other basic skills to keep a bike road worthy. These skills have been put into practice in the afternoons as they have been out bike riding near Gailey Lake, learning the importance of road safety.

Timkens

Five Year 10 pupils have recently started their BTEC Qualification at Timken Vocational Training Centre. Two have participated in painting and decorating where they have learnt what skills and tools are needed to decorate a room. Three have learnt skills needed to Brick Lay. All have successfully completed their level 2 qualification. They now have the choice of working in another area. Year 11 pupils are working towards their level 3 in pottery. They have made slab pots, thumb pots, coli vases and plates that they are in the process of glazing.



Bowling Trip

Key Stage 4 had their annual Christmas treat, and enjoyed a morning out bowling at Hollywood Bowl, Bentley Bridge just before Christmas. For some pupils it was their first time 10-pin bowling, however, everyone had a fabulous time and all the pupils want to go again!



Towers Residential Visit



Year 11 went to Towers for a week at the end of October with Mr Jackson, Mrs Stirling-Edge and Miss Parry. They enjoyed many activities including rock climbing, canoeing, hill walking and exploring slate mines. Once again everyone had a wonderful time particularly enjoying the Towers meals!

Class 3 & 4 Music Project

15 pupils from Class 3 and 4 are taking part in the Music Services Whole Class Project. This term they have been working with Mr Craner on a singing and percussion unit.



No Pens Day Wednesday

This term KS1/2 have participated in 'No Pens Day Wednesday'. The aim of the day was to spend one day focusing on speaking and listening activities. A good day was had by everyone involved.



Visit to The Black Country Museum



Lower school enjoyed a visit to The Black country Museum as part of their theme work about food and shopping. They found out about shops a long time ago and had a special visit to an old cinema.

Class 9's visits to Ironbridge and Cressage



This term Class 9 has been out of school on two Geography Field trips. A Stream Study of the Wom Brook and exploring the River Severn at Ironbridge and Cressage. Here they are on the flood plain at Cressage. The flood plain is very flat and the River Severn has formed huge loops called meanders.

In Ironbridge Gorge the River Severn flows in a very direct route and has steep valley sides. When you stand on the Ironbridge you can see how straight it is. Class 9 measured how wide the river is here and at Cressage by pacing it out. The river is much narrower in the gorge.



Tree to Beckminster

Mrs Causer & the Transition group designed and made decorations for the Christmas tree festival. Many classes went to look at all of the displays. Although it was not the church's aim, over £1500 was raised and will be equally divided between the church funds and Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.



Multi-Skills Sports Event

Some children in Class 3 represented Penn Fields in a multi-skill sports morning. They all did really well, and were hoping they will go on to represent the City in the Black Country Olympics next year!

Sporting News

Pupils from Key Stages 3 & 4 have played a number of matches this term against Westcroft. While we haven't won, there were some very encouraging performances from the pupils involved. There have been both basketball and football clubs for Key Stages 1, 2, 3 & 4 which have been extremely well attended.

Jay Beech in Year 11 competed in and won Gold in a swimming Gala. Well done to Jay.

We have introduced a number of sports that pupils may not have experienced before such as boxercise, tri golf, tag rugby and rowing. These have all been met with lots of enthusiasm from all the pupils.

SMILE event – on 18th November 6 pupils from Year 6 and 6 from Year 7 took part in a number of sports at the Aldersley Stadium. The day was a huge success with two boys, Reggie and Mackenzie being selected for future athletics events. Well done boys. Year 11 Young Leaders have been organising and leading a number of sports afternoons for Class 2. They have run Tri Golf, Multiskills and other activities.

P.S.D. News

The Transition group have been looking at 'Community Action' where they had to identify who in the community could offer them support. This course culminated in the group going to the Firestation at Merridale where they met fire-fighters Brian & Tony who were superb. The group looked at how the station works and where they train, eat, sleep and how they come down the fireman pole. They also travelled to Merridale Court flats where there is a police base and met PCSOs Natasha and Pip. The pupils had a fantastic time.

The Year 10 group have been working in the garden to help the environment. They cleared leaves, planted winter pansies, cleared the pond, organised the benches, raked gravel, made a compost bin, built hibernation boxes, sanded benches and put compost in the planting beds.

The Year 11 group have been studying 2 subjects. They worked on Team Building skills then went into the quadrant garden where they worked as a team and cleared leaves, planted winter pansies, organised the benches, sanded benches and put compost in the planting beds. This will go towards their 'Working as part of Group' course. The other subject 'Community Action' has offered the group the opportunity to work at Bantock House. Here they learnt how to clean and maintain the house for visitors. One pupil was the inspector each week while the others learnt the correct cleaners/dusters/wipes/waxes that had to be used for each room or furniture.

Mr Jones



Youth Club

Youth Club was a success this term with lots of treats and activities from Believe2Achieve playing outdoor sports and games. We had fun at our Christmas Party with games such as 'The Chocolate Game.' Everyone had a great time and ate far too much chocolate.

Penn Fields Artwork

Recently the school was visited by the artist Ruth Spaak. She worked with a variety of pupils and Mr Yates the art teacher. Ruth has helped to create a wonderful artwork that is displayed in our school and will move with us in September when we go to the new site. Ruth uses recycled materials, mainly plastic, to produce bright, colourful and detailed artworks, she will be returning to visit us and work with Class 1 in the New Year.



Christmas Card Contest 2011

Pupils at Penn Fields once again excelled themselves to produce a fantastic selection of Christmas cards in our annual contest. Pupils from Class 1 through to Class 11 all got into the Christmas spirit and it was a very difficult choice for the judges to decide the winners of each Key Stage. Congratulations to the winners and all those who entered.



KS1 winner: Claudia Bourke (class2)



KS2 winner: Melissa Bradley (class 4)



KS3 winner: Bethany Smart (class 9)



KS4 winner: Emerlene Michaels (class 10)

Busy Term for Key Stage 3

Some pupils are in the choir and have taken part in Harvest Festival, Remembrance Service, and the Christmas play as well as at Beckminster Church for the Carol Concert. The singing was superb.

Once more, Friday afternoons have been very busy. Visits to Essington Farm, Road Safety (Year 9 TOGO NOGO), Fitness, Icing biscuits, Christmas Crafts and Art Displays have all been enjoyed this term.

The Christmas disco was enjoyed by all and brought to an end a very busy term.

ASSEMBLY ROTA SPRING TERM 2012

DATE	CLASS/STAFF
Wednesday 4th January	Miss Stanley
Tuesday 10th January	Mrs Callister
Wednesday 11th January	CBSO—no assembly
Tuesday 17th January	Miss Moran's Literacy Group
Wednesday 18th January	Music Workshop—No Assembly
Tuesday 34th January	Mrs Morgan
Wednesday 25th January	Class 11
Wednesday 1st February	Mr Jackson's Literacy Group
Tuesday 7th February	Mrs Griffiths's Literacy Group
Wednesday 8th February	Class 4
HALF TERM	
Wednesday 22nd February	Class 2
Wednesday 29th February	Mrs Hall's Literacy Group
Tuesday 6th March	Mr Yates
Wednesday 7th March	Class 10
Tuesday 13th March	Mrs Nock
Wednesday 14th March	No Assembly WJEC Exam in Hall
Wednesday 21st March	No Assembly WJEC English in Hall
Tuesday 27th March	Mr Hussain
Tuesday 28th March	Class 3
Tuesday 3rd April	Mrs Blower
Wednesday 4th April	Class 1

Assemblies normally take place on a Wednesday at 9.55am, unless specified differently above. Occasionally assemblies may have to be cancelled or the dates changed. If there is any doubt, please telephone the school on 558640.

IMPORTANT

Please remember MOBILE PHONES should not be brought into school by pupils. The school cannot be responsible for the safe keeping of phones. Only independent travellers are allowed to bring their phones into school, and these MUST be handed into the office at the beginning of the day

School Dinners
 The cost of school Dinners is £2.00 per day. This should be paid weekly (£10.00), in advance, on the first day of the week. Please ensure you give the office at least a weeks notice if you wish to change your child's meal arrangements

Breakfast Club
 If your child attends Breakfast Club, the cost is £1.50 per day, payable on the day or paid weekly in advance, on the first day of the week.

Milk Money
 If your child is in class 1-4 and you would like them to have semi skimmed milk, the cost is £10 per term. Unfortunately we can no longer provide whole milk. This should be sent in by Friday 20th January at the latest.



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Quick Check – Diary Dates

January

- 3rd — **INSET DAY**
- 4th — School re-opens to pupils
- 19th — GCSE Maths Exam
- 20th — GCSE Science Physics Exam
- 26th — GCSE Science Chemistry Exam
- 31st — Governors Meeting @ 3.30pm

February

- 13th — 17th **HALF TERM**

March

- 14th — Entry Level Maths Exam
- 15th — Entry Level ICT & RS Exam
- 20th — WJEC Science Exam
- 22nd — Entry Level D&T Exam

April

- 6th — 20th **EASTER BREAK**
- 23rd — **INSET DAY**
- 24th — School re-opens to pupils

Please keep this page as it contains important information for the coming term.