



Newsletter Spring 2015



This year Key Stage 1 & 2's Christmas Production of "Angel Express" was a lovely take on the Nativity Story. The story looked at the Angel's response to the arrival of the new born king. All the children worked hard and did two very successful performances, with lovely singing, acting and dancing. A big thank you to all the staff involved in supporting our pupils, helping to make this production a great success.

Pupils from all key stages took part in the Christmas Tree festival at Beckminster Church. Pupils worked with Mrs.

Blower & Mrs. McGregor to create Christmas decorations by recycling CDs and Jigsaw pieces to create a snowflake tree. The event raised more than £750 towards the 'Acorns' children's charity.



This year pupils contributed £1 to wear colourful t-shirts for the day. Staff & parents/carers donated so many cakes and biscuits for the cake sale that we will still be eating them after Christmas! We were delighted to be able to donate £275 to Children In Need.



Thank you for your generosity.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents & Carers

A happy New Year to you all. As you will see from our newsletter, last term was a very busy one with pupils undertaking a wide range of activities both to support the curriculum and also to recognise and celebrate a number of religious events.

We welcome to Penn Fields 4 new members of staff, Mrs Lavender who is Elm Class teacher, Mrs Craddock and Mrs Janos who teach in Ash Class and Miss Moore who will support pupils in Lower School. I look forward to seeing you over the coming term.

Miss Stanley

Christmas Card Contest 2014

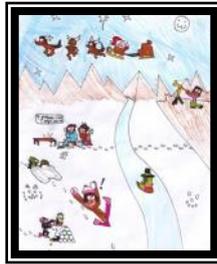
The annual Penn Fields Christmas Card contest once again proved to be a great opportunity for all our budding artists. The contest was extremely difficult to judge due to the fantastic entries. A big thank you to



McKenzie, Ash



Ashani



JJ, Class 10

Christmas Fun



Youth Club Autumn 2014

The beginning of term offered evenings still light enough to visit Baggeridge Country Park for a walk and picnic although as the evenings became darker activities became school based and pupils enjoyed swimming, sports hall activities and computers as well as plenty of chatter!

After School Clubs continue to be oversubscribed and we try to allow as many pupils as possible to enjoy the experience for at least one term each year. Pupils will be given letters for you to express interest. Pupils take part in a variety of activities and enjoy a meal alongside their friends before going home

Mini Enterprise— Stage 4 Group 1 raised £95 for Compton Hospice by holding a 'Go Yellow' event. The group made and sold yellow bracelets, key charms and cakes as part of their mini enterprise work Well Done!



The Nurture Group have recently completed their current project in D&T. They have been learning about buildings and their many different uses and looks. As part of their learning they designed and produced cardboard model buildings in a style of their choice. The whole group worked really hard and produced some lovely models.



House Competition

At the end of each module of work pupils in all years from Oak upwards took part in the Inter House competition for the subjects that they have been learning. So far pupils have competed in football, TAG rugby, badminton and basketball. Points are added up over the year for each of the houses and the results are announced at the end of the year. At the present time the houses are very close with only a few points separating all 3 Houses.

A TRIP TO THE GRAND THEATRE

Last term, the Nurture Group set off on a magical journey to The Grand Theatre to see Peter Pan. All of the pupils were a credit to the school.

•KS2 after school club takes place on alternate Tuesdays until 5.30pm

•KS3/4 after school club takes place on alternate Thursdays until 5,30pm

•KS5 after school club takes place on alternate Fridays until 6.00pm

We would politely request that parents arrive promptly to collect their children as staff will drive those children home where there are transport issues.



Acorn Class have had a very successful six weeks of Forest School activities. They have had the chance to learn simple Forest School rules and participate in lots of outdoor learning.

The activities have included den building, mud pie making and whittling sticks. All of the activities have encouraged the children to use natural materials.

Key Stage 1 & 2 will be doing a theme about 'Under The Sea' during the Spring Term. The children will be going on a trip to The Sea Life Centre and finding out about water life.



LEGO THERAPY

During this term we have

been developing resources for our forthcoming 'Lego Therapy' intervention strategy. Recent research suggests that Lego Therapy ***“Encourages children to communicate with one another to solve problems by building in groups to set rules.” (D Charnock, 2014)***

Furthermore, Lego Therapy allows children to practise turn taking, joint attention, sharing and listening, and general social communication skills. We are very encouraged by the outcomes of the research where groups of children have improved their social interaction skills following a period of 18 one hour sessions. We aim to start a new specific Lego Therapy group in the New Year involving three pupils from Year 7, and also include elements of Lego Therapy into other existing social communication groups. We're looking forward to launching our new intervention here at Penn Fields, and hope that our outcomes will successfully match those of the pilot study group. Further information of any progress or changes will be included in our next newsletter article.

Oak Class Make Scarecrows

Some children in Oak Class worked with a local artist to make scarecrows. They all worked well and helped each other to create their own designs.



Independent Support

Dear Parents / Carers

Penn Fields school has been offered support for parents /carers in writing their section for the Educational Health Care Plan.

This service is free of charge.

Independent Support offers information and support to parents and carers with Special Educational Needs (SEND) as well as helping young people with SEND in relation to the new Education Health Care Plans (EHC Plans).

Independent Supporters will work flexibly with young people, parents and carers on a 1.2.1 basis and can be accessed at any stage in the process,. They will help you to understand and be fully engaged with the process of assessment for converting to an EHC plan. Independent Supporters can provide support at meetings, with telephone calls, and researching and checking information for children/young people in relation to the EHC process. Independent Supporters can act as a point of contact for support and information during the process. Independent Supporter would also be able to support with creating one page profiles, navigating the local offer and also providing information on personal budgets.

Please see the leaflet at the end of this newsletter for contact details.

COSFORD TRIP

Over the course of 5 weeks all of KS3 have had the opportunity to visit RAF Cosford as part of their work on Remembrance. The pupils enjoyed the variety of planes on display and especially enjoyed the "hands-on" exhibits that helped them to understand the principals of flight. The group was very interested in how technology had progressed from the early days of flight to the modern day. Well done and thank you to all pupils and staff involved.



THINK -TANK—SCIENCE TRIP

Year 8 pupils enjoyed an educational trip to the Thinktank Museum in Birmingham. The museum has a vast collection of practical hands-on displays and activities which were immensely enjoyed by the pupils. Pupils discovered the technology used in the yesteryears and what technology may be part of everyday life in the future. They also interacted with and enjoyed looking at a wide range of old steam engines used in the industrial revolution to body part models including intestines, the lungs and the heart. Class 8 had a fantastic learning experience.



CHESTER ZOO

This term Class 9 have been learning about World

Environmental Issues. One of the topics was Animal Conservation where



they have learned about endangered animal species. Our visit to Chester Zoo included a talk about Orangutan conservation from one of the zoo keepers. We learned lots about why animals are endangered and what we can do to help. We also got to meet lots of endangered animals species such as Tigers, Orangutans, Elephants and Rhino's. In a recent survey carried out by the Daily Mail Chester Zoo was voted the best zoo in the UK and the 6th best in the world. We are very lucky to have such an amazing zoo close enough for us to visit. All of Class 9 had a fantastic day.

COLLEGE VISIT

Our Year 14 pupils and their parents / carers enjoyed a tour of Wolverhampton College – Wellington Road campus at the end of November in preparation for their transition in September 2015. We particularly enjoyed meeting up with past pupils and hearing about how much they are enjoying college, Year 14 will have a second visit in January when they will join a college class for the morning. Year 11 also have 2 college visits scheduled for January as they also have decisions to make about their transition in September.



All pupils in Key stage 4 have had the opportunity to travel to Wolverhampton Bus station by bus and learn about how to use the bus. Road and personal safety is

also covered. It is not expected that all pupils will become independent travellers but pupils have enjoyed the chance to show that they are mature and it is good preparation for when travelling to college.

Hollywood Bowl at Bentley Bridge was once again the setting for the Christmas celebration for years 10-14. Pupils enjoyed a game of bowling in the morning followed by an afternoon of activities which included swimming, football, snooker, watching a DVD or having a dance in our 6th form disco. On Thursday we got together again for a lunchtime buffet followed by another chance to take part in an afternoon of activities. Pupils and staff all enjoyed the opportunity to relax and enjoy

KS4 pupils were greeted by the Mayor of Wolverhampton when they visited the Art Gallery to work with an artist. Pupils used compressed charcoal to create a London city scene. The work will be exhibited at Wolverhampton Art Gallery in the New Year



ANOTHER FANTASTIC TERM OF SPORT

PE Lessons

Pupils have worked extremely hard this term learning new skills and improving their fitness levels as well as refereeing or umpiring different sports. We have worked on football, TAG rugby, badminton and basketball.

Cross Country

Although we went to the competition with a slightly depleted team the pupils ran extremely well indeed. Ben gained his usual silver medal and Amba finished a very credible 4th. Well done to all the pupils who took part as none of the pupils gave up this year and it meant we came 4th out of 7 schools. Brilliant effort everyone!!!!



Swimming

The swimming team was again hit by pupils being unavailable or absent from school. However the pupils performed and behaved superbly. Although there were no winners this year Amba came 2nd and 3rd in another 3 races. Adam Banks came 3rd in his race as did Patrick. We took a very small team yet managed to swim all the events. Navraj and Amba swimming all of the girls events and some Ryan, Patrick and Tobias swimming in the Year 10 & 11 races. Well done all and hopefully next year will be even more successful with a full strength team.

Football Teams

During the 1st half term our football teams played 2 matches. The first game was against Wightwick which both the Key Stage 3 and 4 teams won. Then the Key Stage 4 team played Westcroft and lost in an exciting, end to end, match. Well done to all pupils who took part.

Lunchtime Clubs

Sports clubs at Penn Fields have always been well attended but this term the numbers have been outstanding with 58 different pupils attending the 5 lunchtime clubs. A big thank you and well done to all pupils.

Day	1 st Sitting	2 nd Sitting
Monday	KS 3 & 4 Boys Football	
Tuesday		KS 1, 2 & Girls Football
Wednesday	Badminton Boys & Girls All key stages	
Thursday	Basketball Boys & Girls All key stages	
Friday	Boxing Boys & Girls All key stages	



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was started at Penn Fields last year for the first time. It proved to be a great success and

has now been introduced across all groups in Key Stage 4. Class 11 are continuing to work hard towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Earlier in the term they completed their second expedition and camped at Baggeridge Park. The final (assessed) expedition will take place during next summer term. Since half term they have again made weekly visits to the Moat Project in Albrighton where they have enjoyed doing some gardening activities towards their Volunteering section. Class 10 have enjoyed their first term of the Award. They have spent most of their time doing local walks and learning how to cook using a camping stove called a Trangia.



Next term they will also be having weekly visits to the Moat Project in

Albrighton to do gardening activities for their Volunteering section.

ASSEMBLY ROTA SPRING TERM 2015

2015

DATE	STAFF/CLASS
Tuesday 6 th January	Miss Stanley
Monday January 12 th	Mrs Callister
14 th January	Mrs Griffiths' Literacy Group
Monday January 19 th	Mrs Blower
21 st January	Oak Class
Monday January 26 th	Mrs Plant (St Bart's)
January 28 th	Mr Jones
Monday February 2 nd	Miss Moran's literacy Group
February 4 th	Mrs Stirling-Edge Year 11
Monday February 9 th	Mr Yates' Literacy Group
February 11 th	Mr Hussain
HALF TERM	
Monday February 23 rd	Reverend Ben
February 25 th	Mrs Morgan
Monday 2 nd March	Acorn Class
March 4 th	Mr Fletcher – Year 10
Monday 9 th	Mrs McGregor
March 11 th	Ash Class
Monday March 16 th	Mrs Timbrell's Literacy Group
18 th March	Elm Class
Monday 23 rd March	Mrs Plant (St Bart's)
25 th March	Easter Assembly – School only

Assembly starts at 9.50am.

For further enquiries please contact the school office on 01902 558640

A Special Note

I would like to say 'Thank You' to all pupils, parents/carers, staff & governors for all of the cards, presents, telephone messages given to me on the last few days of term, on the occasion of my retirement. I wish you all a very Happy New Year

Best Wishes

Mrs Stokes—the School Office (retired!!)

Reminders to Parents:

- Annual Reviews /Educational Health Care Plan Meetings are coming up, please check your letters for appointment date/time,
- As the weather gets colder, please ensure your child has a suitable coat for the weather. A reminder also that black school shoes are part of school uniform and jewellery apart from a watch and stud earrings should not be worn at school.