



## Newsletter January 2016

# A Miracle in Town



This year's Key Stage 1 & 2's Christmas Production of "Miracle in Town" was a lovely traditional story of the Nativity. The story was beautifully narrated by Thomas Grainger from Oak Class whose performance was word

perfect. The

Upper School Choir supported the production with some amazing singing and individual performances. All the children did

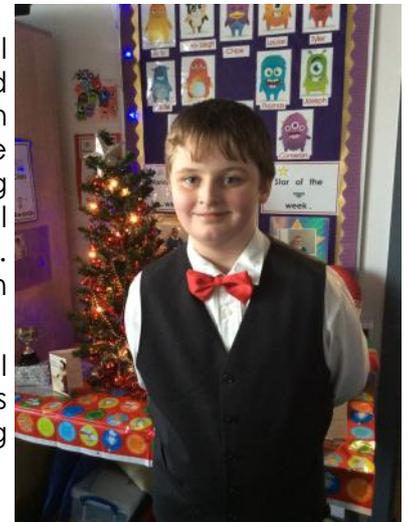
amazingly well with fabulous singing, acting and dancing.

The two

performances were very well

attended and we received some lovely feedback both from parents, governors and the external professionals who managed to come in and support the children.

Well done to everyone involved — we are very proud of you all.



### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER**

Dear Parents & Carers

A happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a pleasant Christmas break and that you are enjoying the start of the new year, despite the rain! We welcome our children back to a year that promises to be as challenging, exciting and eventful as the last. Thank you to all of those who supported our fund raising event for Children in Need. The children had some spectacular 'hero' costumes and your donations of cakes and biscuits was very much appreciated. We raised nearly £400—a wonderful effort for such a small school. The BBC came into school in November and filmed a small group of pupils. They will be on CBeebies 'Something Special' Programme from January 12th– 13th February, see if you can recognise anyone! I look forward to seeing you over the coming term.

Miss E. Stanley  
Headteacher

## OAK CLASS



Oak Class enjoyed a visit to Old Tree Nursery, where they met Santa and enjoyed gift wrapping in his workshop.

The children also enjoyed tasting and making a range of sandwiches.



## Acorn Class

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 making mud pies and clay hedgehogs, whittling sticks and having a fire with toasted marshmallows.

All the children have enjoyed all the outdoor activities and a great time was had by all.

Acorn Class have enjoyed visiting St Bartholemew's Church. We explored key features of the Church, listened to a story, sang a song and we thought of our own prayers.



Some pupils in year 10 have been travelling on the local buses to Wolverhampton town centre as part of the Independent travel skills course. This course is one of the life skills activities which we hope will prepare pupils for independent travel when they go to college. Eight pupils have also taken the Bus test which involves travelling to town and back on their own. They did this successfully and have certificates and can travel independently to school if parents wish. Another group of pupils from years 10 and 11 will take their tests in the Spring term. Can I say many, many thanks to Mrs Grove for all her hard work in helping the pupils to pass.

## Ash Class – Autumn Term 2015

Ash Class have had a fantastic first term to this academic year. All of the new pupils have settled in really well and the three pupils that were in Ash class last year, have been exceptional role-models.

All pupils have enjoyed a range of sensory exploration activities that have been done to help develop our fine-motor skills.

In literacy we have really enjoyed a story 'The Foggy, Foggy Forest'. Ash class loved the story and produced some brilliant work. Everyone had fun dressing up as a character from the story!



## Conservation –Year 9

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 Dudley Zoo included a talk about 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 – a Bearded Dragon called 'Baldrick', a snake called 'Drake' and Chinchilla called 'Muffin'.

**Mr Fletcher**



# ANOTHER FANTASTIC TERM OF SPORT

## PE at Penn Fields

Classes have been taking part in the new National Curriculum over the last term. We have been looking at Team Based games (football, basketball and TAG rugby ), Gymnastics, Fitness (circuit training, Boxercise, Tabata Training ) and Netball Games (short tennis, badminton and volleyball ). The level of fitness, skills and effort has been really impressive and improved to a very satisfying level.

Key Stage 4 Group 3 have started to look at Young Leadership where they've been working on different core PE skills with small groups of lower school.

6<sup>th</sup> Form students have been attending Aldersley Leisure Village Gym and have also been learning how to improve their swimming. Pupils really enjoyed the experience of attending a gym and were taught how to pay for themselves, take themselves up to the gym and then how to train in different ways using the Cardio Vascular machines and the weight/resistance machines. Pupils really gained in confidence and were very quick to become independent of the teachers.

During swimming lessons pupils were taught how to improve their swimming techniques and how to swim for longer.

Well done to all pupils this term. You should be very proud of your learning and keep up the hard work.



Year Group	Day	Activity
Key Stage 3 & 4 boys	Monday	Football
Key Stage 3 & 4 Girls Football	Monday	Girls Football ( 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sitting )
Key Stage 1, 2 & 3	Tuesday	Dodgeball
All year groups	Wednesday	Badminton
All year groups	Thursday	Basketball
All year groups	Friday	Boxing

## Penn Fields Sports Teams

### Alternative Sports - 6<sup>th</sup> Form

All the 6<sup>th</sup> Form pupils went to Two Rivers School in Tamworth to take part in an Alternative Sports Day. They had an amazing time trying out Ultimate Frisbee and Touchball. Well done all of you.



Cross Country This was a very good day over all with 4<sup>th</sup> place being secured. Some notable running performances were from **Amba, Michael McIntyre and Ashani** The rest of the Team also competed very well. This was an extremely difficult course. Great effort everyone.

### Badminton

8 pupils went to the Badminton Tournament at Aldersley and competed very well against some really strong opposition. Individually **Patrick, Megan and Sim** did very well. Overall we came a very credible 4<sup>th</sup> place which is very pleasing considering high the standard .

### Football

We played Wightwick School with a very strong side but were losing 5-2 at half time. With a few 'encouraging' words at half time the players really turned it on by winning the game 9-6. A brilliant performance by all of the team.

Well done to the whole of Key Stage 2, 3, 4 & 5 you are a credit to the school and we can only hope for even further success in the future. The numbers at the clubs and the improving sports results show that hard work, dedication and patience will help us go from strength to strength. Well done everybody. **Mr Jones.**

### Sports Clubs

These have been very successful with excellent numbers turning out each week. We have around **50 different pupils** attending 'Sports' clubs each week. This is an amazing achievement. Well done to all those that give up their lunchtimes.

### KS3 Competency Curriculum: Remembrance Day.

As part of their Friday afternoon work about their local area KS3 visited Merridale Cemetery and laid crosses that they had made on the graves of fallen service personnel from World War 1 and 2. Pupils were taught about the range of nationalities that contributed to the war effort both in this country and abroad. Pupils also thought about the sacrifices that people made to secure our freedom.



### KS3 Design Technology: DVD design.

In Design and Technology, year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to design their own DVD or game cover. They could either draw their design by hand or work using a computer. They also were taught about the age rating system and what was appropriate to watch or play for their age.



### Supporting Charities — Children In Need

Staff and pupils dressed up as 'heroes' this year and bought lots and lots and LOTS of cakes and biscuits!! With your generous support we sent over £300 to Children in Need. A big thank you to everyone involved from Pudsey Bear



### Wolverhampton Fire Service Links -

#### Year 8 Safety visit: Chasewater.

Pupils went on a safety themed walk around Chasewater Country Park (located between Walsall and Lichfield) with local firefighters. Pupils discussed issues about water safety, rail safety and stranger danger. Everyone had a great time even though the weather wasn't the best. Well done class 8!



### KS3 Competency Curriculum: Local Parks.

As part of their Friday afternoon work, about the local area, ks3 found out about the local leisure services offered by the nearby parks and open spaces. The pupils enjoyed using the outdoor gyms, play areas and sporting facilities in Bantock Park, Bradmore Recreation Area and Himley Hall. The pupils also were taught about good public behaviour, stranger danger

### KS4 science visit to Co-op stores

KS4 Group 2 and 3 visited the local Co-op stores in Warstones as part of their work on a unit called "Energy in the workplace". They looked at sources of energy used in the store and then identified ways by which energy was being wasted; i.e. leaving electrical appliances like computers and printers on standby. After the visit pupils had to write a short report about their visit and suggest ways by which energy could be saved by the supermarket.



### Penn Fields Youth Club

After school Youth club is where pupils can go once a fortnight, activities include walks and bike riding around Baggeridge Park, fun in the pool, ICT and games in the Sports hall.



## **Speech & Language**

Autumn term has been good!! We have continued to support therapy with individuals, groups and class work. Ginger Bear remains a popular intervention in key stage 1. Friendship Street is an ongoing intervention including pupils from Lower School, and our Makaton group has remained open to pupils from both Lower and Upper Schools. All pupils involved in speech and language interventions have remained enthusiastic, and have made steady progress.

Lego therapy is now a key approach in most of our social groups as a tool to support language development in terms of speaking and listening. It has been very motivating to our pupils and they have experienced using a range of duplo and lego materials to construct their models with, and as you might guess some are reluctant to dismantle their creations!! We hope to further support key stage 1 pupils with the introduction of a shared therapy intervention group during the coming New Year. We aim to involve lego therapy strategies from both play therapy and communication therapy perspectives, and will keep readers informed of any developments in future newsletters.

You may be interested to know that JJ made a special presentation to a group of friends as a social communication task.



He presented slides based around his special interest in Anime. He delivered his presentation really well and his friends were very complimentary towards him. They all appeared to enjoy the event, asking lots of questions that he was more than able to respond to. Well done JJ!!

Gurvinder is also planning a presentation concerning cricket using Gridplayer to support his expressive language skills. He has worked very hard to gather information together about the history of cricket, the rules and how the game is played. We are looking forward to listening to the whole presentation on completion in January.

Gridplayer is becoming more widely used within therapy, and we are planning to include this technology in the classroom for users who have been allocated ipads from Wolverhampton AAC. We are able to personalise individual ipads and propose to modify the vocabulary in agreement with curriculum and class activities.

Our final piece of news is that Mrs Brett, who has been responsible for assessing our speech and language therapy caseload, will be taking Maternity Leave at the end of January, and Miss Hicks will take responsibility for assessments during her absence. We wish Mrs Brett all the best, and look forward to seeing her and the new baby soon.

## **Parent Support Group**

The Share Group would like to thank all parents, staff and visitors who gave so generously to our Christmas raffle and refreshment stand at this year's school production. With your help we raised over £130 which will fund the parents group well into the New Year! A special 'thank you' to Irene Slater, Dawn Hughes and Jayne Morris for all their hard work. As always Share group would be happy to welcome any new members in 2016! Merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Congratulations to Mrs Attri who won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in our Christmas hamper draw!



Remember there are four sections to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Expedition, Volunteering, Skill and Volunteering. All sections must be completed to achieve the full qualification.

Class 11 are continuing to work hard towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. At the beginning of October they completed their second practice **expedition**. They again carried their big heavy rucksacks and walked about 20km along local canal towpaths and disused railway lines but this time camped at Baggeridge Country Park. The final assessed expedition will be just after Easter 2016.

Class 10 have started their Duke of Edinburgh's Award work with great enthusiasm. All groups enjoyed working as a team to walk and navigate in the local area during the first half of the Autumn term. They then used the Trangia stoves to develop their camp cooking skills and over the last few weeks a new activity has been introduced to the programme as part of the **skill** section – First Aid. All pupils are currently following a St John's Ambulance course to teach them the skills needed to deal with an accident or emergency. This course will continue until the end of January and then all groups will be taking part in a **volunteering** activity in the local community during their DoFE lessons.



Please remember that it is also important that all pupils involved, regularly attend a school lunchtime (or community) sports club as part of their **physical** section.

**Mr Fletcher – DoE Award Manager**

**Drama with Mrs Morgan and Ms Morris**

We have had a great start to the year with lots of great drama work. In the spring term we are lucky enough to have the 'MAT' Theatre Company working with some pupils again.



**Key Stage 4**

Autumn term is always a busy term in KS4 and this year was no exception. Year 10 pupils have started their coursework for their Entry Pathways qualifications and some groups of pupils are studying a range of GCSE courses including Maths, English, Science, Art & ICT. Pupils have also been completing their Independent travel skills course, Citizenship and Licence to Cook.



In the run up to Christmas, KS4 & 5 joined together for a buffet lunch followed by an afternoon of activities. They also visited Hollywood bowl where they spent a morning bowling.

Next term year 11 will be looking forward to their transition to post 16 education. Visits are planned to Nova training, Wolverhampton technical college and to Wolverhampton College in Bilston where they can see what is on offer to them before they make their decision on their next steps.

All of the centres are very keen for parents to visit as well. If you would like an informal visit with your child please contact

Kerrie Green at Wolverhampton College on 07713277027

WVTC – 01902558350

**6<sup>th</sup> Form**

**Work Experience**

6<sup>th</sup> Form had a fantastic time at The Moat Project in Albrighton, learning new skills and developing skills in maintaining a garden. 6<sup>th</sup> Form also had the opportunity to fish the moat, a new leisure activity tried for some.



### KS3 Competency Curriculum – Cooking

The theme for this term has been 'Food in our community'. The pupils have made everything from sandwiches and scones to Jamaican patties and samosas with some Christmas 'Melting Snowmen' to reflect the festive mood. They have developed their culinary skills including slicing and chopping fruit, buttering bread, rolling out pastry and decorating cookies.

Well done, everyone!



This term Year 7 have been learning about the beliefs of different faiths in our community by finding out about their festivals and celebrations. Mr Hussain came to our lesson to talk to them about Eid al-Adha. They have made Diwali sweets, Christingles, sampled fruit and vegetables from the traditional British Harvest Festival, researched the Jewish Sukkot - and ate doughnuts as they found out about Hanukkah.

We are all looking forward to the festivals and celebrations in Spring 2016 –

especially Chinese

New Year and Easter!

LM



### ASSEMBLY ROTA SPRING TERM 2016

**Assembly Starts at 9.45 a.m.**

DATE	STAFF/CLASS
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Miss Stanley
Monday January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Callister
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Miss Moran's literacy Group
Monday January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Blower
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Mr Fletcher – Year 10
Monday January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Reverend Ben – St Bart's Church
January 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Jones
Monday February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs Stirling-Edge Year 11
February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oak Class
Monday February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs McGregor
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Morris's literacy group
HALF TERM	
Monday February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs Plant (St Bart's Church)
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Yates' Literacy Group
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Acorn Class
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ash Class
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Mrs Griffiths' Literacy Group
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Morgan
Monday March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Hussain
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Elm Class
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Mrs Timbrell's Literacy Group
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Easter Assembly

## Elm Class



In Elm class last term they enjoyed going on various educational trips, these include:

Visit to Wolverhampton Art Gallery – The children enjoyed looking at portraits, sketching and clay models.

Anti-Bullying day: Pupils were shown how to be a good friend by taking part in different activities.

Baggeridge Country Park: This was part of their theme work about Autumn and Colours – looking at autumn colours and collecting natural materials to create Autumn collages.



## Reminders to Parents:

– Annual Reviews and Educational Health Care Plan Meetings are coming up, please check your letters for the appointment date and time,

– A reminder also that black school shoes are part of school uniform and jewelry, apart from a watch and stud earrings, should not be worn at school. Thank you for your continued support.

## School Closures

**Information on all School closures can be found on the Wolverhampton Council website. Information will also be given out on the following radio stations:-**

[95.6 FM BBC Radio WM](#)

[02.2 FM Galaxy Radio](#)

[97.2 FM Free Radio](#)

[100.7 FM Heart](#)

[107 FM Signal 107](#)

Penn Fields school will always attempt to stay open but if road conditions are too treacherous and the L.A. cancel pupil transport, we will have to close school. We will inform all of our parents /carers by text message so please ensure we have your up to date mobile phone number.

## Spring Term 2016

Term Starts Tuesday 5th January 2016

**Monday 1st February—Staff training –School Closed to pupils**

Half-term Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2016

Term Ends Thursday 24th March 2016

## Summer Term 2016

**Monday 11th April—Staff Training , School closed to pupils**

Term Starts Tuesday 12th April 2016

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2016

Half-term Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2016

Term Ends Friday 22nd July 2016

**For further help or any enquiries  
please contact the school office on 01902 558640**

