

APRIL 2011

Penn Fields School Summer Term News Letter

Quick Check - Diary Dates

MAY

- 2nd May — BANK HOLIDAY
- 5th May — School Closed to Pupils LOCAL ELECTIONS

- 30th May — 3rd June HALF TERM

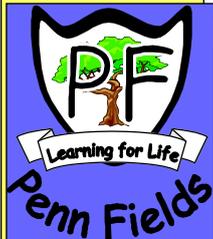
JUNE

- 6th June — INSET DAY—school closed to pupils
- 6th June — GCSE Maths Exam (pm only)
- 7th June — GCSE Biology Exam (pm only)
- 13th June — GCSE ICT & Maths Exam (pm only)
- 20th-24th June — ANNUAL REVIEWS WEEK
- 24th June — Yr 11's Leavers Assembly 2pm

JULY

- 1st July — BREAKFAST SPECIAL American Independence Day
- 4th July — INSET DAY—school closed to pupils
- 6th July — Parents Evening (6pm-8pm)
- 14th July — SUMMER FAIR 6pm
- 19th July — KS1/2 Sports Day (weather permitting)
- 22nd July — End of Term & Academic Year (school closes at the end of day)

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



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Penn Fields School News Letter

Penn Fields SHARE Group to Apply for a National Award



Penn Fields SHARE Group led by Mrs Hill assisted by Mrs O'Connor and Mrs Nabbs is aiming for national recognition.

A group of around 20 parents and carers meet regularly on a Wednesday afternoon. Staff work with parents on a number of different activities that can be undertaken at home with their children.

The SHARE Group has proved to be so successful that Miss Stanley and Mrs Hill are looking at aiming for a Leading Parent Partnership Award.

At Penn Fields School we recognise the value of working with and supporting our parents/carers and this partnership lies at the very heart of our school.

We believe that this award would provide recognition for the excellent links that we have already developed.

Any parent/carer interested in attending our SHARE Group will be most welcome. Please telephone Mrs Hill for further details.

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the start of a very busy summer term. The term had a disjointed start with days off for the Royal Wedding, a bank holiday and local elections but a full programme of activities are now under way.

On May 23rd, a group of pupils from Year 9 will be going on a weeks residential visit to a cottage in Gelliweg, North Wales. Our Year 11 pupils leave us on June 24th and we wish them well in their examination results and next placement.

Parents evening this term will be on Wednesday 6th July and our annual Summer Fair this year will be on Thursday 14th July. I look forward to meeting with you during the term.

Miss E. Stanley
Headteacher

The logo for Red Nose Day, featuring the words "RED NOSE DAY" in a bold, sans-serif font. The word "NOSE" is in red, and the "O" is a red circle.

Red Nose Day 2011

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Friday 18th March was Red Nose Day and once again the pupils of Penn Fields were eager to join in the fun and games. Year 10 & 11 spent the week baking and set up shop on Friday selling cakes and cookies of their own making, or kindly donated by parents, staff and friends.



After lunch many of KS4 took part in a sponsored dance which continued with great enthusiasm throughout the afternoon. It was with great pride that a cheque for £305 has been donated to Comic Relief to help children in both the UK and Africa.



Speech and Language Therapy



During this term both Year 1 and Year 2 pupils have enjoyed the return of Ginger Bear. Ginger is the key character in the 'Time to Talk' programme. The programme aims to develop oral and social interaction skills in simple steps. Skills are taught and practised regularly so the children experience success. The pupils have loved working with Ginger Bear's enjoyable and varied activities, and we hope that parents of the pupils involved have also enjoyed engaging with their child's homework plan. We really appreciate home reinforcement allowing opportunities for our pupils to develop the skills needed for access to the curriculum and to develop friendships.

Active Kids Day

On Tues 22nd March 8 students went to the Jennie Lee Centre for an Active Kids Day organised by the Wolverhampton Hearing Impairment Team. 28 hearing impaired students from 16 schools in the Wolverhampton attended.

The day consisted of a fitness session, street hip hop dance and judo. All students participated fully in the experiences on offer and all agreed they'd made some new friends, had some fun and got fit at the same time.

The day was funded by the Sainsbury's Active Kids voucher promotion and drinks/snacks were provided by the Wolverhampton Deaf Children's Society. Everyone was glad to get back to school for the rest! - Mrs J. Ashford (Hearing Impaired Team)



Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)



Penn Fields School

[Penn Fields School](#) [Classes](#) [Pupils](#) [Staff](#) [Parents](#) [Admin](#) [Governors](#) [Main Website](#)

Moving Forward with Penn Field's New Learning Platform. Visit our website today: www.pennfields.com

Please keep up to date with terms dates, school news, events & much more by visiting the website visitor's section today.

Parents will soon receive logins where they can access school letters, resources & information to help support their child's education.

Pupils have their own area for online learning, plus they share their own class area with news alerts, discussions, media & homework.

School Governors have an area of their own for documents, meeting agendas & minutes.

The school website is useful for everyone in the school community to be up to date with the latest news & events. Soon, logins will be distributed for the VLE (virtual learning environment).

Over the past year this has been developed and it has increasingly been used by staff and pupils, both in school and at home. We know many of you have found it very useful to be able to access the links to a range of safe and recommended websites which help your children to reinforce the work being done in class. As part of the BSF process the Local Authority have taken on a new contract for supplying the VLE - this means that over the next month the current VLE will stop working - but it is being replaced with a new one, which will include all the current functions in an improved format. It does mean that your child will need a new log-in name and password and we have been given the new details.

Class 3 play the Ukulele!

Class 3 enjoyed a music workshop. They learned 2 songs and how to play a Ukulele! Even the teachers joined in.



Internet Safety

The internet is such an integral part of children's lives these days. It opens so many educational and social opportunities, giving them access to, quite literally, a world of information and experiences. Whether on a computer at school, a laptop at home, a games console or mobile phone, children and young people are increasingly accessing the internet whenever they can wherever they are. As you would protect your child in the real world, you will want to make sure that they are safe whatever they are doing. To find out more about how to keep your child safe online, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents>

<http://www.childline.org.uk/explore/onlinesafety>

<http://www.getsafeonline.org>

Collecting Vouchers for School

Please can you help? We are collecting Sainsbury Active Kids Vouchers, Tesco vouchers and the Box Top 4 Books tokens that are found on the top of all Nestle cereal boxes. Please send these into school. These will be collected, sent off and exchanged for sports equipment, cookery equipment and books which will be used by all pupils. Thank you.

Class 9 Making Masks

Pupils in Class 9 have recently produced masks as part of their Art lessons. They have studied masks from Africa, South America, Australia and Native American cultures. They had a great



time and produced some outstanding work! Here are some of Class 9 proudly showing off their masks.



(1st picture, left to right: Jhmal, Sophie, Stuart, Matt, Luke, Joshua, Jason, Lauren, Emerlene. 2nd picture: Kimberly striking a pose)

Key Stage 2 enjoying Youth Club



Lower school after school club is proving to be a great success. Pupils are eager to spend their time after school having a great time with a range of fun activities that have included: outdoor sports, a trip out to McDonalds, playing video games, table football and much, much more.

Any KS2 parents wishing to sign up their child for the new terms after school club needs to contact the school office and request a letter straight away as places are limited.



Key Stage 3 Friday Afternoons

There has been a great deal of cooking this term. Pupils have made pancakes, biscuits and snacks on toast.



We celebrated Chinese New Year with a Banquet using chop sticks.

Pupils have also had Social Relationship lessons and Road Safety as well as a Doodle Day, Easter activities and making a Mothers Day present. We hope you liked yours. The children really enjoyed the wide range of experiences.

Vocational Qualification in Sport and Leisure for KS4 Pupils

Since September 2009 KS4 pupils from Westcroft Sports College and Penn Fields School have been working towards a vocational qualification in Sport and Leisure. The year 11 pupils are now coming to the end of their qualification, where they have completed the five mandatory and two optional units.

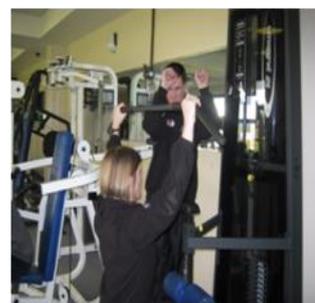
They have experienced some incredibly difficult and challenging tasks, which have been overcome by determination, team work and excellent communication between all. The course has also included three days work experience at Aldersley Leisure Village,



which has proved to be extremely productive with tremendous feedback from the centre's staff.

An exciting and challenging leadership event has recently been experienced by both year 11 and 10 VRQ pupils where they have had to manage the guidance and support of small groups of KS1 pupils in outdoor tasks at Kingswood Outdoor Activity Centre. The VRQ year 10 pupils are from both mainstream and special schools, sharing the same in-

terest and commitment, working as a team to achieve the same goals. The year 10 students were recently invited to Aston Villa Football Stadium to take part in a Dragons Den Presentation. This was written and delivered by the pupils to go towards funding their VRQ. This proved to be a positive confidence building experience for all involved.



Year 10 Pupils at Timkens



Year 10 pupils at Penn Fields School have been given the amazing opportunity to go to Timken to gain an Entry Level 3 qualification.

All the students have participated in entry level 2, pottery, bricklaying, carpentry plus painting and decorating. Thumb pots, triangular walls, wooden stools and basic painting and decorating techniques have been developed during the ongoing process of learning practical tasks to help with skills for working life. Whilst at Timken, pupils have also been

able to gain experience in a business enterprise called Sunbeam where young adults volunteer to produce fence panels for local government funded properties.