



International  
School Award  
2008 - 2011

# St Andrew's School Bedford

e-newsletter November 2011

## Music Tour to Tuscany



The combined St Andrew's and Pitsford School choir singing in the church of San Agustino in San Gimignano.

In the second week of the October half term, twenty St Andrew's girls joined twenty pupils from Pitsford School for a music tour of Tuscany.

Three concerts were given. One in Florence, one in Pisa and one in San Gimignano. Combined with the performances and rehearsals was a full programme of cultural visits which included the Duomo, the Uffizi Gallery, The Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens, the Leaning Tower in Pisa and many other famous sights.



Pisa



As well as singing in the choir some of our girls played flute and cello in ensemble groups.

It was a fantastic experience for the girls. The experience of performing in such amazing venues, the history and

culture of the region, were all greatly enjoyed by the girls and staff and firm friendships were made with the pupils from Pitsford School.



## Dates for Your Diary

**Fri 2 Dec**

PTA Christmas Party Disco: Years 5 and 6

**Wed 7 Dec**

Years 3 and 4 Christmas Play

**Fri 9 Dec**

PTA Christmas Party: Years 1, 2, 3 and 4

PTA Christmas Party Disco: Years 7 and 8

**Mon 12 Dec**

Junior and Senior School Carol Services at St Andrew's Church

## STOP PRESS

The PTA Christmas Fayre raised over £1600. Thank you to everyone who organised, took part and attended.

## Thank you from Operation Christmas Child



Giorgia and Scarlet are pictured with some of the wrapped shoeboxes of toys which you generously donated to Operation Christmas Child. They have been collected by Mrs Jordan and are now on their way to disadvantaged children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia.

## Screen Printing in Art



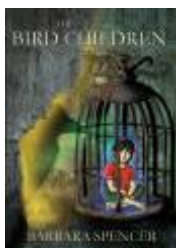
The Art department is developing art textiles and with support from the PTA, purchased a machine which converts drawings and imagery into screens for printing, without the need for chemicals.

Year 10 were the first year group to be able to try the new process and really enjoyed it. They are keen to develop their work using the technique.



## Author Visit by Barbara Spencer

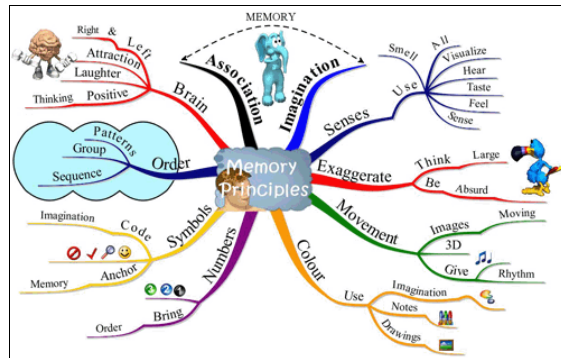
Year 7, 8 and 9 enjoyed a visit by author Barbara Spencer, whose latest book, *The Bird Children*, was published earlier this year.



Barbara gave a talk about her journey to becoming a writer, highlighting the historical figures who have inspired her, such as Harriet Beecher Stowe who was a leader of the American anti-slavery movement.

Barbara also talked about the inspiration and ideas in her new book. Thanks go to our librarian, Clare Grimes, for arranging Barbara's visit

## Year 10 Workshop Day on Memory, Study Skills and Revision



Year 10 students spent Wednesday 23 November learning about how their memory works and the best ways to memorise and revise information for examinations.

The practical, interactive workshop was led by Roger Tolliday from the Learning Performance Company. The sessions covered peg words, image chains and association mapping as well as advice on how to organise revision. The feedback from the girls was unanimously positive.

As part of the day the girls were given a book which detailed all of the ideas and techniques and will be a resource in the rest of their GCSE course.

### Parents' Workshop

In the evening Roger gave a presentation to the girls' parents, explaining to them the techniques the girls had been taught, so that they can support their daughters at home. Many parents commented on how helpful they found this.

## St Andrew's School Development Fund

### Summer Ball

Saturday 30 June 2012

at

The Sharnbrook Hotel

Save the date for your diary

## Walmsley House News

### Year 1 Geography



In Geography this term Class 1A have been investigating maps.

They have looked at maps showing where they live and also maps showing the area around the school. The children had letters to post home and decided to use a map to plan their route to a nearby post box. They followed their route carefully and filled in the street names as they went.

Everyone made it safely back to school thanks to their excellent map skills.

### Foundation, Year 1 and 2 Tennis Session



The Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 class enjoyed 'Tennis Taster' with coaches from the Riverside Tennis Centre.

### BBC Children in Need in the Nursery



Children in Need is always a good excuse for the nursery staff to be silly and the staff and children

raised money by having a pyjama day. Over £45.00 was raised for this good cause.

### Year 2 Literacy A letter to America



Year 2 pupils have been learning to write informal letters in their literacy lessons.

As part of this work, Mrs Young told the class that they would be sending letters to the children in the

Year 2 class at the Jordan Creek Elementary School in West Des Moines, Iowa.

The children have written informal letters introducing themselves, their families and their interests and these are being sent to the children at Jordan Creek.

The Year 2 teacher at Jordan Creek is Mackenzie Keenan, who completed a section of her teacher training at St Andrew's two years ago.

The children in Year 2 are really excited about receiving their replies and having American pen pals.

### Nursery Parents Christmas Workshop



Nursery children enjoyed a flurry of glitter and all things messy at the Christmas

Saturday workshop. Parents and grandparents alike had a great time with the children making crowns, snowflakes and tree decorations.

Thank you to all the nursery staff and parents who made us a lovely selection of cakes and biscuits to sell. We raised a grand total of £30.00 which we will put towards buying some new equipment.

## St Andrew's Day Service



Our annual St Andrew's Day Service took place on Friday 25 November.

This is a very special occasion as the Junior and Senior sections of the School come together. Our theme this year was sharing our gifts and talents.



We enjoyed the Year 6 modernisation of the parable of the talents and drama presentations from Year 8 about the best ways to use our talents.



Music was provided by the Junior pupils, the Senior Choir, Year 8 and Annie Tomblin in Year 10, who played a beautiful piano solo.

The collection of £100 was donated to two charities; St John's Hospice at Moggerhanger and the Bana ba Metsi school in Botswana.

## House News

### Pink Day

Our Pink Day events to raise money for Breast Cancer Research were organised by the House Captains and School Council Committee. There were a variety of activities, including name the teddy and guess how many sweets in the jar. The teddy was called Nugget and won by Francesca in Year 8. Raza in Year 2 guessed the correct number of sweets - 178. Thanks to all who organised, took part and donated cakes. In total £440.85 was raised.

### House T-Shirts

The new house t-shirts are on sale in the uniform shop. Congratulations to the winning designers, modelling the t-shirts in the picture. Stuart—Hayley Gilbert, Tudor—Libby Sadd, Windsor—Cora Marsh.



## Biathlon



Pupils in Years 5 to 8 have taken part in a national Biathlon competition.

Girls in Year 5-7 had to run 500m and swim 50m. Year 8 girls had to run 1000m and swim 100m. All times have been submitted to Biathlon GB.

Competitors with the fastest times will be invited to the semi-finals at Crystal Palace on 5 February. We are waiting to hear how our girls have done.

## National Show Jumper—Beth Symington in Year 11

Beth and her horse Patch competed in the British Show Jumping National Amateur Championships at Aintree International Equestrian Centre from Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 November.

This is a fantastic achievement, the culmination of twelve months of work. Congratulations Beth.