



# St Andrew's School Bedford

e-newsletter December 2009



*A peaceful and joyous Christmas to you, from everyone at St Andrew's*

## Opening of the Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's Church

Our Year 5 and 6 choir were the first to sing on the opening day of the Bedford Christmas Tree Festival in St Paul's Church.



Led by Mr Farnsworth and accompanied on the piano by Miss Halsey, the choir sang a selection of traditional and contemporary Christmas carols and songs.

The girls sang beautifully, filling the vast space of St Paul's church with their voices. Thanks to all the parents who came to support the girls.

We are already booked to be the first school to sing at next year's Christmas Tree Festival!



Years 5 and 6 at St Paul's Church

All our Children Shine Like Stars! - The St Andrew's entry in the competition



## Jesus' Birthday Party

The Years R, 1 and 2 performance of Jesus' Birthday Party was lively and entertaining and enjoyed by an appreciative audience of parents and friends.

Everyone was impressed with how well the children had learnt the words and music and they performed with great enthusiasm.



## Stable Manners



On Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 December the children in Years 3 and 4 gave wonderful performances of a nativity play called Stable Manners. The audience of parents, friends and invited guests from the local old people's home enjoyed the excellent acting, singing and dancing.

Back in September, when I was driving to North Wales to visit Year 5 and 6 at their residential centre I listened to the CD from this play. Imagine my surprise when I heard the lyrics "*I've got big brown eyes and shapely thighs, a body big and strong*". I double checked to see that I had indeed got the right CD!

As I listened to the rest of it what I discovered is a very funny and warm hearted Nativity Play. Three very



bossy animals are arguing about just which one of them is the most important in their particular stable. This just happens to be the stable where two very cheeky but incompetent robbers have hidden their loot. In the middle of all of this adventure and debate alongside rappers, dancing eggs and a French camel, a couple arrive at the door about to have a baby.

The play gave every child in Year 3 and 4 the chance to shine on stage. This encapsulates the spirit and ethos of St. Andrew's, where every child is given the chance to be noticed and valued.

Nick Hearn – Head of Junior School

## Angel Squadron



On Monday 7 December all of Year 7 took part in a performance of Angel Squadron, a modern musical version of the nativity.

A squadron of angels are selected for a special mission on earth, helping the 'supreme commander' with the Christmas story. Having questioned why the events of Jesus' birth happen as they do, at the end of the play two of the angels come to understand the reasons why Jesus was born in a stable.

All of the girls in Year 7 had a part in the play and all performed very well. Learning the lines, the songs and the choreography was a big challenge which all of the girls met successfully. It was a lively and entertaining show, appreciated by an audience of parents and friends.

At the end of the evening the girls gave their own vote of thanks to the teachers who had helped them; Mrs Williams, the director, Miss Halsey, the Musical Director, Madame Tribe, the choreographer, Mr Thompson and Mrs Waller, who organised the costumes.



## Junior and Senior School Carol Services



The St Andrew's Junior and Senior School Carol services took place in the last week of term. These are both

special occasions, anticipated and valued by pupils and parents.

The Junior School service featured traditional and children's carols. All of the children in Junior School sang. The lessons told the Christmas story and were read by children from Years 2 to 6. Of particular note was Hannah Bailey's wonderful solo of Silent Night.



In the Senior School service the traditional lessons were read alongside poems and reflections on Christmas. The music included the clarinet group, the orchestra, the choir, a violin duet and the Year 10 GCSE music group.

After the service, mince pies and mulled wine complemented the festive mood!



Our thanks to Revd Canon Dr Christopher Dent and Rev Monica Robinson for leading our services.

## Nursery Christmas Songs

On Wednesday 9 December the girls and boys in the Pre-School class of Nursery sang a selection of Christmas songs for their parents and grandparents.



The children had worked hard to learn the words, tunes and actions to the songs. Helped by Mrs Dempsey and Mrs Truncheon they gave a lively and fun performance which was enjoyed by all and certainly put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

## Celebrating St Andrew's Day

Our annual celebration of St Andrew's Day took place on 27 November.

Following a service at St Andrew's Church, when the whole school from Reception to Year 11 came together our traditional simple lunch was held in the New Hall.



The children made a donation to our school charities and shared a simple lunch of bread and cheese.

£332.60 was raised for the Joshua Orphans' Fund in Malawi and the Thembacare Athlone Centre for children suffering with AIDS.



## Prize Giving Celebrates St Andrew's Success

The St Andrew's annual Prize Giving took place on Wednesday 24 November.



In the presence of parents, governors, staff and guests, prizes were presented to pupils in Years 3 to 10. We were delighted to be joined by our 2009 leavers who were presented with their GCSE certificates. A number of other awards, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award and Sports awards were also presented.

Our guest speaker, Kate Bellingham, presented the prizes and gave an inspirational speech about the achievements of which we should be proud. She also encouraged her audience to focus on what they can do and use that to drive them forward in life, rather than focusing on what they cannot do and letting that hold them back.

Kate Bellingham is a former presenter of the BBC TV programme Tomorrow's World. She is currently the DCSF's Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Careers Champion, and is Education Ambassador for the Bloodhound Engineering Adventure, which plans to break the world land speed record.

### Sports Results

Year 7 Netball V St Gregory's - won 9-7.  
Player of the match Imogen Hill

U15 Netball League V Biddenham Upper—  
won 9-1. Player of the match Frankie White

## Junior School Christmas Lunch



The generous donation from the Parents' Association which helped us to re-equip the Walmsley House Kitchen, allowed us to hold a special Christmas lunch for all of the Junior School Children.

Hand carved turkey and all the usual trimmings were on offer. The children, who had made their own party hats, pulled their crackers while singing along to Christmas favourites.

### Notices

#### Lost Property—naming uniform and kit

At the end of each term a lot of lost property remains unclaimed.

Returning lost items is made harder when they are not named. Please could we ask parents to ensure that all uniform and PE kit is named.

#### School Closure over the Christmas Break

Please note that the school will be closed from Monday 21 December. The office will re-open on Monday 4 January.

The Spring Term starts on  
Wednesday 6 January 2010

