



St Andrew's School Bedford

e-newsletter December 2010

The Real Meaning of Christmas

Discussing the meaning of Christmas recently with some Year 10 pupils, they made the point that, whether you are a Christian or not, one of the most important aspects of the Christmas season is the encouragement it gives to think about others and to make a contribution to charity.

This term has seen a fantastic charity fund raising effort by girls and boys across the Junior and Senior Schools. In total over £1400 has been raised for Macmillan Cancer Care, Jeans for Genes, Children in Need, Breakthrough Breast Cancer, Shelter and Help the Hospices.

Pupils and parents also showed their concern for others by donating seventy-seven shoe boxes, filled with toys and wrapped in Christmas paper, to the charity Operation Christmas Child. These boxes will be given to children in need in Eastern Europe and Africa. It is wonderful to think that in countries across Europe and Africa, many children's Christmas will be a little more joyful through the generosity of the St Andrew's community.

May I wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Sean Skehan
Headmaster



Nursery Nativity

The Nursery Nativity took place on Tuesday 7 December. The children all looked wonderful in their costumes. Along with Mary and Joseph, there

were angels, shepherds, kings and carol singers with their lanterns.

They sang with gusto a selection of Christmas songs, which they had worked hard to learn. Everyone particularly enjoyed the Kings travelling on their camels to Bethlehem. The performance was enjoyed by a very large audience of proud parents.

Our thanks to Ms Dempsey, Mrs Satchwill and Miss Holmes for preparing the children so well.



Particular thanks to Mrs Trunchion, our Music teacher, for rehearsing and leading the children in their singing.

Junior School Open

Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's Church



Years 4, 5 and 6 were very proud to open the Bedford Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's Church. They sang a selection of Christmas music beautifully and met the Deputy Mayor of Bedford, the Rev. Charles Royden.

Junior School Carol Service



The Junior School Carol Service at St Andrew's Church was a wonderful occasion.

The readers all read beautifully, including some last minute replacements, due to the illness of some pupils.

The singing of the carols and other musical items was excellent. Special mention must go to Ayisha Carroll's solo in 'Once in Royal David's City' and Sarita Whitehead's clarinet performance of the Coventry Carol.



Our thanks to Mrs Trunchion and Mrs Backhurst for their work in preparing the music.

Festive Lunches



Food has always been an important part of Christmas celebrations and now that

we are able to provide a hot lunch in both the Junior and Senior Schools, St Andrew's is no exception.

We enjoyed tasty turkey with all the trimmings, thanks to our dedicated catering team. So thank you to Mrs Probyn and her team in the Walmsley kitchen and to Mrs Morrow and her team in the Senior School kitchen, not only for Christmas lunch, but for keeping us fed throughout the school year.



Topsy Turvey Christmas



Year 3 and Year 4 presented a fantastic performance of Topsy Turvey Christmas, a show which presents the first Christmas as seen by two angels who are skiving choir practice to look at what is happening on earth.

The show began with an impressive dance and gym number. The children then sang thirteen varied songs with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. The actors performed with humour and confidence.

The audience were very impressed with the girls' talents and showed their appreciation with loud applause.

The show was prepared by Mrs Herbert, Mrs Frame and Mrs Barrett, directed by Mrs Joiner and Mrs Trunchion led the music. Thank you to them all for inspiring the girls to perform so well.

The Story of Christmas



In the last week of term the children in Reception and Years One and

Two gave a wonderful performance of a traditional nativity play called The Story of Christmas.

The audience of family and friends enjoyed the excellent acting, singing and dancing. The speaking parts were taken by the children in Years One and Two and the Reception class provided a wonderful troupe of dancing angels. All the children worked hard to make their production a success and everyone was impressed with how well the children had learnt the words and music.

Senior School Carol Service



The Senior School Carol Service took place on Wednesday 8 December at St Andrew's Church. The combination of readings and music reminded all present of the magic of the Christmas story and the festive season.



The Senior Choir sang beautifully and the orchestra entertained the congregation as they arrived and left with a lively selection of seasonal tunes.

There were two outstanding solos, by Kemi Onabule in Wood's 'Away in a Manger' and by Ellie-Rose Fletcher in 'Once in Royal David's City'.

The readers represented the whole school community from pupils of all ages to the Parents' Association, Governors and former pupils.

Our thanks to Mrs Backhurst for preparing the music and to Mrs Williams for preparing the readings and the readers.



Year 6 Chocolate Challenge



Following History work on the Incas, who discovered chocolate, and Science work on planning experiments, the Year 6 Chocolate Challenge afternoon was a combined History and Science investigation to create the tastiest and frothiest hot chocolate drink.

It was a great afternoon, in which the girls enjoyed not only experimenting with various blends of chocolate powder, but the sampling of all the concoctions afterwards.

Pirate Studies



This year, in Junior School Activities, one of the activities was Pirate Studies. At the beginning we made up Pirate names and the Year 4 teacher, Mrs Joiner, was Captain Sapphire. We all learnt about famous pirates and their language.

It was also really very fun! Through the weeks we made our own pirate book all about the pirates' jobs and their lives on ship. We learnt a great deal of History.

In some of our lessons we made flags and paper sloops. We also made our own pirate board games, based on Snakes and Ladders and Treasure Island. We made our own island maps.

At the end to top it all off, we had a pirate banquet. It was great fun. We all dressed up as a pirate and had some delicious food. Sophia's grandmother made a gorgeous pirate cake. Not only did we enjoy it, the staff did too.

Pirate Studies was a great experience and we all really enjoyed it, so thank you!

Sylvie Dulson and Vita Shepherd.

Year 6 Visit to St Alban's Cathedral



St Alban's Cathedral is a very special place for lots of people. They go there to pray, attend weddings and other ceremonies. Year 6

went to St Albans to visit the cathedral on Monday 22 November.

We had a very nice lady who gave us a tour of the cathedral. She told us the story of St Alban and Amelia Murray got the chance to dress up as a Bishop.

We also talked about Christenings and other reasons why people visit churches such as to hear stories about Jesus. We actually got to taste some bread, just like when Jesus gave out bread and wine.

In the afternoon, we looked at different tiles on the floor and then got the chance to make our own clay tiles. I made a beautiful shield. When we got back to school we were able to paint them.



Amelia Alston

Year 11 Trip to the Natural History Museum



On Friday 3 December, following a week of Mock examinations, Year 11 girls and science staff set off for London to visit the Natural History Museum. The ice rink outside the magnificent building gave a festive feel and all were impressed by the enormous dinosaur skeleton which greeted us.

Quotations from the day;

"It was like going back in time."

"A great way of learning, especially for the visual learners!"

"One minute I was monitoring an epidemic of the plague, the next I was travelling through the centre of the earth...."

"The skeleton of the great whale suspended from the ceiling was amazing"

"The Darwin exhibition was especially interesting for me.."

"Felt like a day out with friends, rather than teachers and classmates"

Everyone took away something different from the day and left with the desire to go back.

Puffin Book Club

I would like to say a HUGE Thank You to you all for ordering from the Puffin Book Club.

This has meant we have been able to order over £170 worth of books for the school library, which is absolutely fantastic.

I hope you have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Mrs C Grimes
Librarian



Date for Your Diary

Development Fund

Murder Mystery Evening

Friday 11 February 2011 - details to follow early next term

Parents' Association News

The Parents' Association would like to thank all of you who supported Ladies' Night.

There was a great range of stalls and treatments on offer.

In total £1,278 was raised