

# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

December 2007



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Science Day - 30<sup>th</sup> November

This was the first of the subject themed days to be held during the year. The whole school was involved in Science Activities:

KS2 – students have studied sound this term so the Junior School Challenge was to make a variety of musical instruments from everyday objects and materials. In the afternoon the classes came together to play the instruments they had made to their favourite song. It was clear that everyone had worked hard and put a great deal of thought into the sounds made by everyday objects. Class 1PF used their story as a starting point and decorated their instruments with different animals. **William** in Class 1HR really enjoyed joining in with the tune, while Class 2JD used cutlery to make a Glockenspiel as well as shakers and guitars.

**“Who stole Mrs Draper’s guitar?”** was the challenge set to the Senior School. They had four suspects – Mrs Brown, Mrs Hodgkison, Mr Humphries (Darren) and Mr Swaine. The students had to collect evidence and perform tests on ink and cleaning samples as well as comparing shoe prints and material. Altogether, each class had to perform 20 experiments to find the culprit. Every class did well and they all decided that Mrs Brown had been the culprit. We finished the session with a rousing chorus of ‘Jingle Bells’, played by Mrs Draper on her ‘now returned’ guitar.

As well as the hard work done that day there were some amusing incidents:

- like **Bryony Moores** who turned to her class staff and said “It wasn’t me!!”, when we were setting the scene for the day,
- both **Jamie Noden** and **Tommy Steele** had problems with their class staff when it came to investigating the colours in ink. They were very patient and tried their best to explain what to do.
- **Joshua Saint** decided that he needed a copy of the ‘signing in’ register to work out when people were in school.

Everyone said they had had a good time and all the students seemed to enjoy the day. There was a noticeable ‘buzz’ in the building. However, the day could not have been so successful without the help and support of all the staff, from Lynn Stubbs, who prepared the copious amount of labels I needed for the day, to classroom staff who thought about what they could gather together to make a nice sound or listened to the students and acted upon what they said.

## Congratulations

Well done to **Stephen Barker** who passed his Rock School level 2 in drumming. He achieved 92% and achieved distinction. This is an excellent achievement.

Another Steven, this **Steven Lloyd** who passed his driving theory test with a score of 43 out of 50.

## Christmas Tree

A big thank you go to Mrs Marshall and the staff at Bridgemere Garden World once again for their donation of a real Christmas tree. The tree has pride of place at the front of school.

## Festive Fayre

Many thanks to all who donated to, helped out at and attended our Festive Fayre this year. A good time was had by all and we raised the grand sum of £900 too!

We would like to try some small alterations to the Fayre for next year - if you have any feedback or ideas about what we could add or improve - for example a different day of the week, Saturday instead of an evening etc, or some craftspeople who you think might like a stall. Please let me know.

Many Thanks, Di Brown

## REMINDERS:

### School photograph

We were delighted with the results from Tempest photographer, we hope you were, if you wish to purchase your child's photograph, please send in the money before the end of term.

### Pupil Data Sheets

Please check the sheets and make any amendments as required and return to Jill Knox at school.

### PUPIL ILLNESS ☹

To help us ensure that we keep illness to a minimum, please follow our school guidelines:

- *If your child has an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting you must keep them home for 48 hours to help prevent further spread to other children and staff.*
- *Likewise if your child is unwell enough to be prescribed antibiotics they must be kept at home for 48 hours after starting the course.*

### Pennies that make a difference - Marvin reminder

We are still collecting and sending pennies to support our third world child.

The more pennies we receive the more we can help.

### School Governors

Our thanks and appreciation to all our governors for their support and giving of their time, it is much appreciated and their work benefits all our pupils.

The current members of the governing body are:

Mr David Griffith – Chairman	Mrs Pam Bulmer – Co-opted Governor
Mr Ray Woolgar – Vice Chair & Parent Governor	Mrs Karen Hole – Staff Governor
Mr Peter Jones – Parent Governor	Mrs Janet Turner – Teacher Governor
Mrs Barbara Gibbs – Parent Governor	Mr Maurice Mogg Community Governor
Mrs Rose Lynn - Parent Governor	Mrs G Coupland – Local Authority Governor
Mr Ray King - Parent Governor	Vacancy- Local Authority Governor
M/s Alison Bowler – Co-opted Governor	

## School website

We are increasingly using our website to communicate school information. Why not visit the site and make use of it? [www.springfield.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.springfield.cheshire.sch.uk)

## LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

Another busy half term for Lower School:

- The Music Workshop for parents was fun and we hope to hold more workshops in the New Year.
- As a school we have achieved the FLIGHT Kite mark (for Family Learning) and will continue with the good work already started.
- A Parent Support Group is in the very early stages of planning and there will be more news in the New Year.
- Comic Relief Day provided lots of fun for Lower School – thank you for all the money you sent in – it enabled us to send a substantial cheque (£445.09) to Children in Need.
- **Nigel** and **Phoebe** from 2JD have taken part in their first Student Council Meeting. They will be representing Lower School throughout the year, putting forward ideas for enhancing school life!
- Our two road safety officers from Upper School (**Carol Ann** and **Andrew**) spoke to all of Lower School in Assembly reminding them to be ‘CopyCats’:
  - ✓ *i.e. copy the good practise of their parents / guardians when walking or in the car, i.e. – only cross the road at a pedestrian crossing and only when the ‘green man’ is showing, never talk on the mobile phone when crossing the road or in the car, always wear a seat belt and look and listen before crossing the road – good advice!*
- The classrooms are buzzing with Christmas activities and all look very festive.

It just remains for me to thank all the staff for their hard work, especially in preparing the children for their Christmas Assembly and to wish you and your families a *Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

## CLASS NEWS

### Foundation Class

Where do we begin to tell you what has been going on in Foundation Class this half term? Well, outside we have been enjoying playing in our new play ground, developing our climbing and sliding skills on the big climbing frame and honing our driving ability on the new car track. A little frost doesn’t put us off !!

Indoors we have been having fun trying on lots of different hats and having our pictures taken. We have also listened to the story about ‘Mrs Honey’s Hat’ with all the strange things on it. Of course we spent a lot of time learning and singing the great songs which we hope you enjoyed on Friday, we hope you liked the photos too.

*From a sea of glue, paint and glitter we would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !!*

### **Class 1PF** *(please see photos)*

What an exciting half-term we've had! Our story, 'Doing the Animal Bop!', has been great fun. We pretended to be the animals, played with the soft toys and made our own animal instruments for a Science Challenge Day.

We've travelled to many hot countries – Africa, India and China and experienced their clothes, smells and music. We even had our passports stamped as we visited each country. We've enjoyed making lots of Christmas crafts and singing our songs for the Christmas Assembly. *Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

### **Class 1HR** *(please see photos)*

We have had a lovely term! The children have worked hard and made new friends. We are looking forward to Christmas at home but have had a great time in school. We really enjoyed putting together our Christmas assembly and are still singing the songs in class. We hope you enjoyed it too!! Our tree is up at last (Santa delivered it to school especially for us after a telephone call to the North Pole! It looks very pretty.

We also are keen to read in Class 1HR, with some children reading books and everyone reading symbols. We have enjoyed all our books this term and we hope to read them all in our last week in school and choose our favourite. So at the end of this school year we wish you all a *Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

### **Class 2AB**

This half term seems to have gone by very quickly. We have looked at different ways of sending messages – taking turns to be the Postman, talking and looking at stamps and learning our addresses. We have written letters to Father Christmas – I hope they all arrived home safely!! We linked The Jolly Postman story to this.

The children have “visited” Africa and China and India with Mrs Bowden as part of PSHE. They enjoyed tasting different foods from each country, dressing up and listening to music. In Numeracy we have been looking at patterns and using bricks, beads, shapes and colours to copy and make repeating patterns. We have looked at different patterns on pieces of material – stripes, spots, checks etc.

We have been very busy with our Christmas Assembly and with Christmas Art and Craft – we hope you enjoy the results.

*We all wish you a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year, Anthea B, Di, Tracey, Margaret and Kayleigh*

### **Class 2LM**

This term seems to have flown by quicker than ever! We can't believe that Christmas is almost upon us already. We have been very busy making lots of decorations for our classroom. We have also made some surprises, but you'll have to wait and see what they are!! We are reading Jack and the Beanstalk in Literacy and the children are enjoying taking turns to be the Giant and shouting 'FE, FI, FO, FUM!!!'

We would like to wish Jessica Witter a Happy Birthday for 12<sup>th</sup> December. Jessica continues to make good progress, which is great news. We also hope that Jason Astley is doing well after an operation at Alder Hey Hospital. We send him lots of hugs.

Mrs Ling left us last week to spend some time in Australia. We will all miss Mrs Ling. We had a fabulous time working with her, she made the class such a jolly place. We also want to say a huge thank you to Anna Sandbach for all her hard work. She too has been a huge asset to the class and will be leaving us next week, though Anna remains in school as she also teaches in Class 4CT.

Lucy McKie joins us as our new class teacher in January. She has visited us and met all the children on a number of occasions and she is very much looking forward to joining us. We look forward to welcoming her in the New Year.

*We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year – from all the staff in 2LM*



*Merry Christmas*

## **Class 2JD**

*Please see separate news sheet*

## **Class 3RP**

*Please see separate news sheets*

## **Class 3GD**

A super half term here in 3GD. We have enjoyed some super sensory stories through the half term including “Webster Witch” and our favourite Christmas ones – “Norbert the Green nosed Reindeer” and “Scrooge”. We perform these stories with lots of sensory artefacts and everyone has lots of fun. We have really enjoyed the Christmas season here in class with lots of carol singing with the guitar around the Christmas tree.

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas from 3GD*



**Class 3GD**

## **Class 4CT**

Class has worked well to try to finish off AQA Units and one section of their Asdan Challenge work before Christmas.

A big “Thank You” to Mrs MacLellan for her kind donation of balloons for our ‘Children in Need’ Competition.

Members of the choir and readers have worked hard for the Carol Service.

The trip to the Lyceum Theatre was a great success, we should be keeping Dentists in work with the amount of sweets, drinks and ice cream we went through (it is only once a year!!)

We are looking forward to going out for our Christmas meal at The Manor next week – followed by a Disco back at school – and they call this work ☺

*I hope you all have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year*

## **Class 4JT**

The class have been busy this half term completing the next unit of their Transition Challenge – Positive Self Image.

We have learnt how to make paper – a really messy job with a large tray of water and paper pulp. However, we weren’t happy to leave the paper plain but to decorate it with pressed flowers and leaves. These have made lovely individual pictures.

We have spent a considerable amount of time talking about friendships and how to be good friends.

Most of the class are really supportive of each other, particularly if someone is ill or upset. I think a real favourite with many of them has been the personal hygiene activities. The foot spa and hand massage being particularly popular. The students have worked hard in Science in looking at rocks and different ores we get from the ground. We have made different samples of concrete. Presently, these are drying out and after Christmas we shall test them to destruction to see which mixture makes the strongest concrete.

## Lower Sixth Form

Hello Everyone!

This term has really passed quickly and we have been very pleased with the progress of the students. Everyone has been working hard and they are maturing into young people of which we all can be proud.

GCSE work undertaken off site is of a very high standard and both Entry Level and Gateway groups have extended their portfolios studying 'Independent Travel' and the Gateway group has produced small scale room interiors with me.

The PSHCE sessions have been a great success as this has been an opportunity for students to reflect and consider themselves more in terms of social interaction, self-expression, emotional and spiritual influences and assertiveness. I will send home a scheme of what we have discussed so far. Thank you for the homework- you've all worked very hard!



The role play sessions are much appreciated and enjoyed by all.

The 'Picasso Pudseys' are soon to be judged and sealed bids are invited for the abstract 'Spot' art canvases. This can soon be seen by logging onto the school web site.

This week was special as we went to St. Andrew's church for the Carol concert and we were all moved by the performances of the children as well, of course, as the Christmas message.

Afterwards we had a lovely meal in Wetherspoons where the management should be applauded for the effort, time and trouble they took to accommodate us.

Next week there is the Christmas lunch on Tuesday and some of the sixth form are serving! There's the disco on Wednesday and then we break up on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> and we're back on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. You can contact me on [lowersixthform@googlemail.com](mailto:lowersixthform@googlemail.com)

*Best Wishes and Christmas Blessings to you all, Chris Burkinshaw*

## Sixth Form

### Duke of Edinburgh / Gateway Award: Service Unit

Students have continued working very hard at Crewe Alex as part of their service to the community. On their final week before Christmas students were given a tour of the Crewe Alex Stadium where they went into the changing rooms, the referees' room, the players lounge and walked down the tunnel!

### Reaseheath College

Students have just finished their horticulture unit at Reaseheath in which they worked very hard and produced some lovely items including bird feeders, insect houses and Christmas

table decorations! After Christmas students will begin studying large animal care, so they will still need their wellingtons, a warm coat and maybe hat and gloves!

### **Enterprise**

In Enterprise students have been working on identifying money and looking at the cost of items. Students have also been making Christmas candle decorations to sell.

### **P.E.**

- 3RP have just completed their hockey unit in which they all worked extremely well. Next term they will begin their dance unit.
- 4CT/AS have also just completed their hockey unit in which they too worked very hard and worked really well as a team! Next term they will begin gymnastics.
- Many students in 4JT have worked exceptionally hard and achieved their AQA Football Unit. We have just begun a gymnastics unit which they will continue next term.
- The next football tournament is Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at Crewe Alex and there is a swimming gala on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at Widnes swimming pool.

*Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and a fantastic New Year!*

### **NURSES CORNER ☺**

A reminder of contact details should you require them:

1. If you wish to contact Sue or any of our Nursing Team, our e-mail address is: [spring@cecpct.nhs.uk](mailto:spring@cecpct.nhs.uk)
2. The phone number for activating delivery of continence products is (01270) 415411.
3. All other enquiries through Sue please – Tel: 01270 275648.
4. Unfortunately, it appears to be meningitis season once more – there is a web site if you would like to gain more information: <http://www.meningitis-trust.org.uk/>

*Sue, Sharon and Simone would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year*

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2007	School closes for Christmas Usual transport times
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2008	School re-opens for the Spring Term
Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2008	ICT Subject Challenge Day
Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2008	Governors Sub Committee meeting 4:30pm Finance & premises 6:00pm Personnel & Curriculum
Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2008	Work Related Learning Challenge



**See you all in 2008**