



Newsletter April 2017

Red Nose Day 2017



With the challenge to wear something red, Penn Fields School once again rose to the challenge of Red Nose Day. Having already sold well over 100 red noses, staff took on the challenge once again of the 'Bake-off.' With an extra challenge this year that all cakes had to include Maltesers. Results were extraordinary (and all edible!) From cheesecake to rocky road and elaborately decorated chocolate cakes, the judges spent time sampling everything – sometimes more than once!! This year's winner was Mrs McGregor! The Friday cake sale included these cakes which were quickly sold to staff and pupils. With plenty of other events taking place in lower and upper school, pupils had the chance to learn about the background to the Comic Relief charity which we support every year. I am delighted to report that nearly £400 has been sent to the Comic Relief charity on behalf of Penn Fields School an amazing amount once again for just over 160 pupils. Thank you yet again for your ongoing generosity.



Easter Celebrations

Easter celebrations at Penn Fields School culminated with a whole school Easter Assembly where three pupils from key stage 3 helped re-tell the Christian story of Easter. The school choir and lower school pupils provided us with some wonderful Easter songs and lower school showed us their Easter bonnets. On the last day of term, lower school pupils had a visit from the Easter bunny who had hidden Easter eggs for us to find.



Message From the Headteacher

The third and final term of the school year promises, as usual, to be a very busy one. We have two residential visits this term, a group of Key Stage 2 pupils have an overnight visit to Kingswood Centre and some of our Year 9 pupils are going on our annual visit to Gelliwig in Wales. Year 11 pupils are working very hard getting Entry Level course work together to be sent off to examiners and some pupils will be taking GCSE and Functional Skills examinations. Year 11 and year 14 college leavers will have a final assembly and leave school on Friday 30th June.

I hope to catch up with you at parents evening on Wednesday 21st June and we will soon be asking for your support once again for our main fund raising event 'Summer Fair' which this year is being held on Thursday 13th July.

Kind regards — Miss E. Stanley, Head Teacher.

The Moat Project – Key Stage 4 Groups 2 and 3 have been making weekly visits to the Moat Project in Albrighton to do gardening activities for their volunteering section. During their time volunteering, all participants have helped to maintain and develop some of the activity areas. Jobs undertaken have involved weeding flower beds, clearing away dead vegetation, planting bulbs, making compost, pruning shrubs, sawing logs, trimming hedges, burning waste, collecting leaves, sanding down a garden bench and wooden bridge ready to be painted, digging, making mud bricks and drilling logs to make bug habitats. Each volunteer has developed their knowledge, skills and understanding of



the tasks undertaken. They have worked individually, in pairs or small teams depending upon the task and have been trusted to work using various tools and pieces of equipment including – a bow saw, drill, garden fork, rake, axe, hedge trimmers and a shredding machine. They have learned these skills and performed them safely and to a good standard.

The staff at the Moat are fantastic and had said how they really enjoy working with our students. I would like to thank the Moat Staff for their enthusiasm and continued support.

School site – Group 1 D o E group have focused their efforts on improving the school grounds. They have been involved with activities such as bramble clearing, refilling bird feeders and



improving the 'bug hotel habitats'. They also spent a lot of time helping to keep school tidy and been picking up leaves and litter. Pupils have also chosen some new litter bin that are now positioned



along the school terrace. Well done Group 1

Mr Fletcher—Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Leader

Key Stage 3 Literacy

As part of their KS3 Literacy work, Miss Moran's Literacy group enjoyed learning about Ghost stories and produced a spooky assembly as part of their course work.



High school Musical

Well done to Sapphire and Keriann, two pupils from year 11. This year they joined with Highfields pupils to rehearse and then to perform in the production called 'High School Musical'.

The musical was performed to packed audiences over 3 evenings and was a great success.



KS2 Youth Club

Tuesday after school youth club is enjoyed by pupils and this term has been filled with different activities, With the nights getting cold and darker earlier we stayed in school but still having fun in the pool, sports hall for games and riding the school bikes on the playing field, visiting GO-KIDS-GO which everyone enjoys playing in the massive ball pit!



KS3 Youth Club

This term we have had another exciting term in KS3 Youth Club. Pupils had the chance to visit Wolf Mountain, where they experienced caving, climbing and archery. We also have had water games in the pool and when the weather permitted, pupils have been able to get out into the local community and use the bikes!



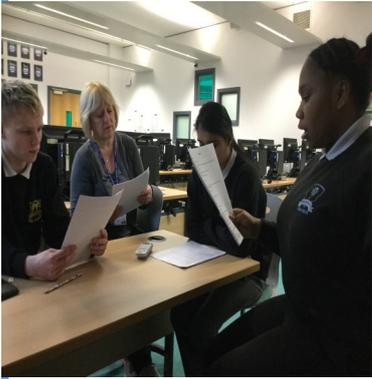
Sixth Form Youth Club

This term 6th form have been getting out into the local community with trips to Hollywood Bowl and McDonalds. A range of activities have also happened in school including ICT, and having a splashing time in the sensory pool.



Emerge Shakespeare Festival

Pupils from Penn Fields and Highfields school have been working together to create a festival based on the works of William Shakespeare. The pupils have created art work, short films, live plays and radio shows which was performed at the Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton on Sunday the 23rd April from 12pm-5pm. A number of staff and pupils from both schools attended what proved to be a valuable and worthwhile experience for all involved.

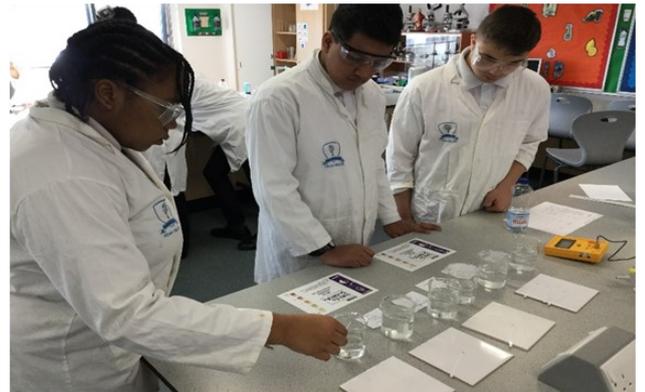


Scientific Exploration

This term has seen some investigative tasks being undertaken by pupils in upper school.

Key stage 4 students have been studying a unit on making chemical compounds and have prepared a chemical moss remover, learnt how chemistry knowledge is useful to us in everyday lives including brushing our teeth, what to take for an upset tummy and what to do if a bee or wasp stings us!

Some pupils carried out investigations to find out hardness of water samples and what are the best soil conditions for growing particular crops. They found out that local tap water is **hardwater**.



Year 9 -How rocks are formed



Key stage 3 pupils have enjoyed performing experiments:



Year 7 -Making chemical indicators

Acorn Newsletter

This term in KS 1 & 2 we have celebrated World Book Day. We all dressed as our favourite book characters, such as Mr Willy Wonka, Harry Potter and Winnie The Witch. Each class participated in class reading activities throughout the day, which included making book marks, book reviews and buddy reading.

On World Book Day Acorn Class enjoyed a trip to the Local Library to listen to a story from the librarian and then select books to bring back to school. Further visits are planned for the Summer Term.



At the start of term Acorn Class participated in a Key Stage 1 Sports Festival alongside other primary and special schools. The sports included target games, fencing, obstacle activities and scooter board games.

Key Stage 1 & 2 Very Important Pupil Reward

Key Stage 1&2 Autumn Term VIP pupils enjoyed their special reward with a trip to the Pantomime to see Aladdin. All the pupils loved the theatre experience and found the pantomime great fun! Well done to the VIP winners. A trip for the Spring VIP winners is planned for the Summer Term.

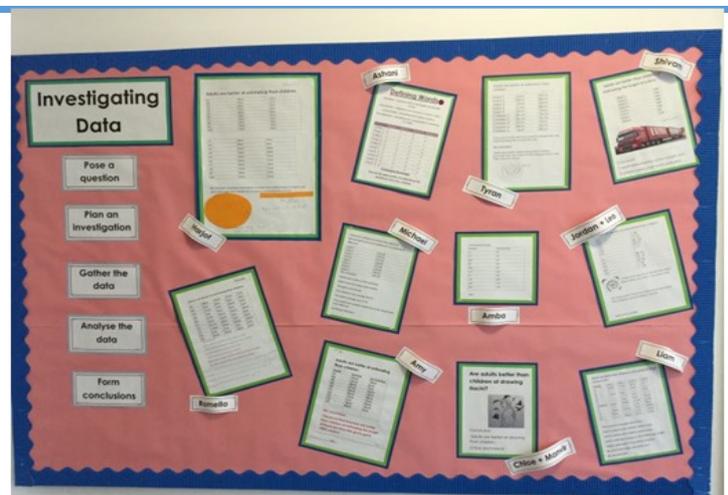


Penn Fields School allotment

Spring is here! So the 6th form have been busy sowing seeds, digging over the soil and removing the weeds at the school allotments, getting it ready for planting. Everyone has worked really hard getting the soil ready and the weather has been kind to us. We are all looking forward to a bumper crop of fruit and vegetables this year!

Key Stage 3 Numeracy

Key stage 3 Numeracy group five have had a very successful term. They have studied times tables, ordering and money. They particularly enjoyed the Handling data module where they investigated different hypotheses. Examples of their work were displayed outside the classroom. Statements they investigated were as follows; Adults are better than children at drawing, Adults are better at estimating length than children, children are better at estimating the price of Xbox 1 games and adults are better than children at defining words. All their hypotheses were found to be correct. Well done, Mrs Callister's Numeracy group.



Computing: E-Safety.

In Computing KS3 pupils have been working on improving their e-Safety skills. We have done this through the medium of music. Mr Morgan re-wrote the lyrics of "**Human**" by Rag and Bone Man and Ms Callaghan made a great backing track for the pupils to sing along to. Pupils have had a great time learning important E-Safety lessons in a fun and unusual way. Their version of the song will be uploaded to the school website soon.



Recycling.

In DT class 8 have been studying the important topic of Recycling. They have learnt why we recycle and what items we can recycle at school and at home. As part of this project, we investigated what is recycled at school. Class 8 organised a whole school assembly to better inform pupils and staff what they could recycle and the amount and quality of recycling we produce has been increased significantly. Well done Class 8!



A Special Day— Making SENSE of it All!

On Friday the 31st March the whole school participated in a special focus day called 'Making SENSE of it All'. The purpose of this day was:

For pupils to be aware that our body has different senses, which give us different information about the world around us.

To explore a range of activities and tasks using our different senses.

To respect and accept that different people have different sensory preferences and reactions.

A fantastic range of sensory activities took place across the Key Stages. This included a whole day of focus activities in Lower School. The pupils had great fun participating in tasks, such as food tasting, sensory circuits, messy play, sensory stories and listening games. Key Stage 3 all came together for a feast of sensory experiences, which included games and practical activities linked to each of the senses. Some classes also participated in some art experiences linked to senses, including making tactile art representations in the style of Jason Mecier, using different dried foods. Key Stage 4 participated in food tasting tasks and some pupils were also involved in sensory exploration as part of their volunteering activity at the Moat Project. It was a great day had by all and the pupils seemed to really enjoy it! Hopefully it will allow us all to consider and support the differences and similarities in our sensory needs and responses. Thanks to everyone for their hard work to make the day a success!



Ash Class – Spring Term 2017

Another fun and busy term in Ash Class!

This term we have been doing lots of work on our theme 'Animals'. In the first half of the term we focused on zoo animals and the children thoroughly enjoyed our work on 'Dear Zoo'. We also had a visit from the 'animal lady'. The children in Ash class were so interested in all of the animals and were extremely brave holding different types of animals including: snakes, spiders, geckos and a honey-bear!



Wolves in the Community

This term, we have been lucky enough to have the Wolves training staff in to work with us on a range of sporting skills and activities. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this and have showed increased ball skill and control.



In art we have done a lot of work on animal patterns using different art techniques including printing, painting, collage and water resist wax painting. Some of the art work the pupils have produced has been amazing!



Speech and Language Support

It is surprising how time moves on and hard to believe that we are approaching the summer term already. Our previous newsletter article closed with greetings for Christmas and this article will close with greetings for Easter!!

We hope you have all enjoyed a pleasant spring term and are now looking forward to some lovely sunshine. Now that the weather is improving we are aiming to include a variety of local community communication assignments with our senior Sulp (social use of language) groups. These visits will enable them to further practise their communication skills in real life situations outside of school, encouraging confidence and independence with speaking and listening. Those involved have already developed an understanding of the principles of social interactive communication through role play and discussion, and will be well equipped to rise to the challenge. On completion of each assignment individuals will be invited to assess their own achievements using a score chart. This process allows for self-critique, promoting an awareness of what to do in situations where communication might breakdown. We hope they enjoy their assignments and aim to take lots of photos of their achievements to share with you in our next newsletter article.

Oak Class Theme work

As part of their theme work Oak Class enjoyed learning about different animals. With the 'Animal Man' visiting school pupils had the opportunity to see, touch and hold a wide



range of animals ... and insects ! To support their Theme of 'under the Sea', Oak and Elm class visited the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham to discover a range of sea creatures.



Rock School Project with Highfields School

Year 9 have been working on a joint project with Highfields pupils and an external music work shop professional group called Rock School. Pupils had the opportunity to learn how to play guitar,

drums ,keyboard and

practice their vocal

skills. All of their hard work came together in an

evening concert in Penn Fields hall on the 4th of April.

This was very well supported by parents and visitors

from both schools . A brilliant concert—well done to

everyone involved — staff and pupils from both

schools!



Music

It has been a busy term for the music department. Year 7 enjoyed a visit to the Symphony Hall in Birmingham in January to listen to the world famous City of Birmingham Orchestra playing music from around the world.



Stable Relations

This term 6th form was able to have a 6 week course in Telford at Stable Relations. Here our students took part in horse based and creative activities to learn about relationships, managing emotions etc. Students had the opportunity to experience horse care, grooming and also horse riding. The pupils loved these experiences and on the last day, we took carrots for them to thank them for all their hard work.



Upper School PE at Penn Fields

Pupils in Oak Class and Kay Stage 3 have been looking at different Team Based games (hockey, handball and Tchoukball), Fitness (using ladders and agility equipment), striking and fielding (cricket, non stop rounders, kick ball, Danish long ball), Quad Athletics (run, jump, throw and relays). The level of fitness, skills and effort has been really impressive and improved to very satisfying level. Key Stage 4 have been able to take part in Striking and Fielding (kick ball rounders, Danish Long Ball, cricket, non-stop rounders and baseball) and Quad Athletics (run, jump, throw and relays) and a New Sport to Penn Fields Parkour.



Key Stage 5 have been looking at Fitness such as boxing, Team based games such as hockey, handball, Tchoukball and Net Games such as Badminton and Tennis.



We have around **50 different pupils** attending 'Sports' clubs each week. This is an amazing achievement. Well done to all those that spend their lunchtimes participating in sporting activities.

Penn Fields Sports Terms

Basketball

A key stage 3 team and key stage 4 team travelled to Lichfield to compete in the Annual Basketball Tournament. Both teams played well with Key Stage 3 finishing 5th but Key Stage 4 finished a wonderful 2nd but only for a couple of points. Amazing day was had by all with some brilliant performances from Ryan, Patrick, Tyriq, Nathan Foster, Tobias who were all noted as excellent players by other staff.

TAG Rugby Tournament

Penn Fields travelled to the tournament with a depleted team for various reasons but Ryan Deakin was exceptional in his skill levels and both Key Stage 3 and 4 finished a credible 3rd place. Well done.

Indoor Cricket

During early April our Cricket Team travelled to Aldersley Stadium to take part in the Annual Cricket Tournament. We won the first 4 games and then lost by 2 runs in the final game to Westcroft. A wonderful display by all the pupils who played exceptionally well. Ryan Deakin got man of the Tournament (with Patrick and Jordan McQueen a close second) and Nikita Leadbeatter received most improved player (with Jonathan Spilsbury a close second)

Key Stage 4 Group 1

The pupils in this group organised, set and ran a Multi Sports Event at Westcroft in January where around 60 pupils were taught the 4 sports of Seated Volleyball, Handball, Dodgeball and Basketball during the morning and then ran a competition during the afternoon. A very successful day which really brought out the Leadership Skills of all of the group. Amazing effort. Once again, well done to the whole of Key Stage 2, 3, 4 & 5 you are a credit to the school and we can only hope for even further success in the future. The numbers at the clubs and the improving sports results show that hard work, dedication and patience will help us go from strength to strength. Well done everybody.

ASSEMBLY ROTA SUMMER TERM 2017

| DATE | CLASS/STAFF |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Tuesday 25 th April | Miss Stanley |
| Wednesday 26 th April | No assembly |
| Monday 1 st May | School Closed |
| Wednesday 3 rd May | Mrs Morris |
| Monday 8 th May | Reverend Ben – St Bart's |
| Wednesday 10 th May | Ash Class |
| Monday 15 th May | Mr Fletcher |
| Wednesday 17 th May | Mrs Morgan |
| Monday 22 nd May | Mrs Blower |
| Wednesday 24 th May | Mrs Stirling-Edge |
| HALF TERM | |
| Wednesday 7 th June | Mrs Callister |
| Monday 12 th June | Mrs Timbrell's literacy group |
| Wednesday 14 th June | Elm Class |
| Monday 19 th June | Mrs McGregor |
| Wednesday June 21 st | Acorn Class |
| Monday June 26 th | Mrs Griffiths |
| Wednesday 28 th June | Miss Moran's Literacy |
| FRIDAY 30 th June 2.pm | Year 11 & 14 Moving on Assembly |
| Monday 3 rd July | Reverend Ben - St Barts Church |
| Wednesday 5 th July | Mr Yates |
| Monday 10 th July | Mr Hussain |
| Wednesday 12 th July | Mr Craddock |
| Monday 17 th July | Mr Jones |
| Wednesday 19 th July | Year 6 Moving on & up Assembly |
| Friday 21 st July | Final Assembly - 2pm |

Assemblies start at 9.50 a.m.

Summer Term Dates 2017

Staff Training Day Monday 24th April 2017—School Closed to pupils

Term Starts Tuesday 25th April 2017

Bank Holiday Monday 1st May 2017

Half-term Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

2017 Staff Training Day Monday 5th June—school closed to pupils

Wednesday June 21st —Parents evening 6 pm

2017 Term Ends Friday 21st July 2017