



Newsletter Summer 2015



RED NOSE DAY

Red Nose Day at School saw pupils taking part in lots of fun activities, singing, dressing up, decorating biscuits and not forgetting pulling funny faces. We all had a great time and raised some money in the process. A big thank you to all of our parents/carers for your donation of cakes and biscuits. We raised over £400, an amazing effort for such a small school!



Acorn Class have been involved in Bird Watch week. They made bird cakes and hung them around school. The pupils have spent time watching to see how many birds were around the school

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

The final half term promises to be a very busy one. Year 11 are at present finishing off their examination course work. There will be a leavers assembly for them and the Year 14 6th formers and they leave school on 26th June. We wish them every success in their next placement. A group of pupils from Oak Class are going on a residential visit to Gelliwig in Wales. I hope I will see many of you at parents evening which is on 17th June and of course our annual summer fayre which is on

Thursday 9th July

Miss E. Stanley

Head Teacher

World Book Day 2015

On Tuesday 24th March all of the children celebrated World Book Day.

The pupils undertook a range of different book related activities, including sharing stories, drama and art based activities.

Pupils in upper school undertook the 'Big Book Off Challenge' which involved trying to complete 20 book related tasks throughout the day.

Pupils in lower school dressed up in some very impressive Pirate and Princess themed costumes.

We have been focusing lots of attention on reading this year and our World Book Day activities were a big celebration of this. Many congratulations to all of the staff and pupils for taking part.



Oak Class have worked with two Artists during the Spring Term. They did some work on their theme 'Under The Sea' with Ruth Spaak, and then with Anthony to create and make some sound sculptures for our outside area. They all worked really hard and helped each other to complete their tasks.



Lower School Visit to The Sea-Life Centre



This term Key Stage 1 & 2 have been working on the theme 'Under the Sea'. All the children had an enjoyable trip to the Sea Life Centre. They saw lots of different sea creatures such as penguins, jelly fish, sea horses and many beautiful types of fish.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

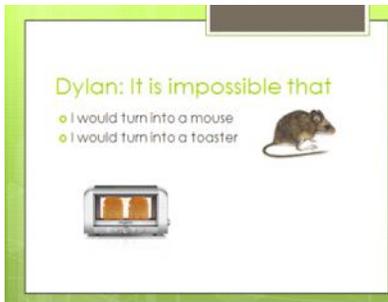
A number of parents/carers have been asking the school about free school meals.

You can get free school meals for your child if you or your partner gets either:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit only (with a family income of less than £16,190)
- National Asylum Seekers Support
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance - income related only

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals contact Miss Callaghan at school and we will help you to apply

In KS2 Numeracy group three pupils looked at how likely events were to happen. They thought about events which were impossible, nearly impossible, certain and nearly certain. The pupils demonstrated a great



deal of imagination in creating events. They produced a PowerPoint, an assembly and a display outside

Green 1 classroom. Here are two examples of the pupil's work. It was great fun!

Photography Work.

Working towards their qualification in Photography, Key stage 4 group 1 visited our local play area and had to take interesting photos of the play equipment. They produced some lovely photos and learned how to make everyday items look unusual.



Drama

Some ks3 students have had the opportunity to work with an outside theatre group. They have been exploring and investigating the Anglo Saxons.

Music.

During the spring term KS3 have visited the Symphony Hall in Birmingham on two occasions. One to attend the school 's concert which was a wonderful experience to listen to the orchestra and the second time to learn about the Science of Sound and the organ in the Symphony Hall.



Garden Centre Visit.

Key stage 4 group 1 enjoyed a visit to Doolittle's pet and garden centre as part of their gardening qualification. They had a great time learning about the different things they could buy for the garden. They loved these giant gorilla statues. What would Miss Stanley think about them though?.



Last term Year 9 pupils worked on a topic of "Chemical Reactions" in their science lessons. They did lots of experiments to find out about how different types of chemical reactions happen and how they can be helpful to us and also sometimes be a nuisance. They tested different types of metals for their different properties. They found that lead and steel have a high density compared to other metals.



Some pupils tested different household chemicals to see if they were acid or an alkali.



Pupils also found out that some materials like copper are good conductors of heat and that is the reason why they are used as pipes.

Pupils produced an assembly titled "Material World" which was enjoyed by the rest of the school



Mr Wolf's Pancakes

Ash class have had a very busy term and have been working really hard. We have particularly enjoyed one of our literacy books called 'Mr. Wolf's pancakes'. We did lots of work on the story including organising our very own 'Pancake party'. We made invitations, designed our topping with some of our guests and then made our pancakes at our party. It was great fun and the pancakes were very yummy!



A small group of year 9 students have had the opportunity to work with an outside artist called Geoff Broadway. Using the ipads, children have created a stop motion animation and are working towards a big animation project...watch this space





Most of Class 11 have almost completed their Bronze Award. They will be the first ever pupils from Penn

Fields School to make this fantastic achievement. This term they have been finishing off their Skill section by doing conservation work on the school site which has involved building bug hotels, clearing brambles and making bird feeders. Next term they will be making preparations for their final expedition.

Class 10 have been making weekly visits to the Moat Project in Albrighton to do gardening activities for their Volunteering section. They have been using leaf blowing machines, repairing fences, chopping hedges, digging flower beds, sawing wood and burning garden waste.

The Moat staff have been fantastic and made us feel very welcome. All the pupils have had an amazing time and enjoyed it thoroughly.

Key Stage 4 Group 1 have also been working hard towards their award this term. They have been making weekly visits to Baggeridge Country Park as their Volunteering section. Next term they will be learning new skills to get ready for their first camping expedition.



PE at Penn Fields

Classes have been taking part in gymnastics, boxing, fitness and hockey this term. While doing gymnastics pupils worked on balancing, body control and vaulting. Boxing has involved many different levels of work with a number of pupils working on 'high' level combinations. Whilst working on fitness pupils have looked at heart rates and different ways of training such as 'Tabata' training where pupils have small amounts of rest, circuit training and 'Hurricane' training where pupils don't rest between exercises. The level of fitness and effort has been really impressive. During Hockey the pupils have worked hard on 2 specific rules – no feet, and use of the flat side of the stick only. These were difficult at first for some pupils but with hard work and effort all of the pupils at least understood the rules. Oak class have been involved in the 'Cool Kids' programme which is a scheme to improve their co-ordination, mobility and reaction skill levels.

Well done to all pupils this term. You should be very proud of your learning and keep up the hard work.

Lunch Time Sports Clubs

Year Group	Day	Activity
Key Stage 3 & 4 boys	Monday	Football
Key Stage 3 & 4	Tuesday	Dodgeball
All year groups	Wednesday	Badminton
All year groups	Thursday	Basketball
All year groups	Friday	Boxing

Sports Clubs have been very successful with excellent numbers turning out each week. We have around 50 different pupils attending each week. This is an amazing achievement. Well done to all those that give up their lunchtimes.

Penn Fields Sports Teams The Sports Leaders (Reggie, Chad, Simaren and Mackenzie) organised and ran a Multi Sports Day at Westcroft Sports College during January. This was a wonderful day with pupils from 6 different schools taking part. All the leaders excelled in their roles. Key Stage 4 Group 1 who took part in the activities were amazing all day. Well done to all involved.

Basketball Two teams went over to Lichfield to play in the West Midlands Special Schools competition. The Key Stage 3 & 4 Team both came a respectable 4th out of 8. Player of the tournament has to go to Mackenzie Carpenter who was outstanding in all the games played.

Rugby At the TAG Rugby competition we came a very deserved joint 3rd out of 7 teams which is very pleasing indeed. There was some excellent running and some excellent defence work by all of those that took part. All pupils were superb on the day and Reggie Hickman Year 10, played superbly well, organising the defence and generally helping people to play well.



Key Stage 3 Peer Supporters Programme

As part of the Local Authority Headstart programme, Penn Fields School was able to give a small group of pupils the opportunity to participate in a 2 day training course. All pupils were successful in gaining this award, pupils received a certificate and have been given the responsibility of working with other pupils in the school, older and younger, to support social and well being skills.



Congratulations to the following pupils :
Chloe Marlow, Liam Davies, Amba Rogers,
Ethan Tunstall, Leo Wainwright, Claudia Bourke, Tobias Lee, Shivam Klair

Speech and Language Therapy

We included an introduction to the principles of lego therapy in last term's Newsletter and are pleased to announce that we have now successfully involved a small group of middle school pupils, who create models through a process of giving and receiving instructions. The group have been very motivated by lego as a tool and we have observed progress in individuals' speaking and listening skills. The group have also increased their social communication skills, developing an awareness of turn taking, waiting appropriately, encouraging and supporting each other when faced with challenges. We are now fully resourced with duplo and lego materials and wish to continue our involvement with lego therapy for communication throughout the summer term and during the next academic year.



We are also pleased to confirm that we now have a range of useful ipad apps specifically designed for speech and language therapy. The apps are useful visual tools that engage our pupils attention allowing for both speech and language practise. Some of our pupils have been busy creating individual ibooks and imovies that focus on their speech sound targets, and social interaction skills. These are very useful tools for sound recording and feedback, and have been very popular with our individual and group participants. A number of pupils have now received an ipad as a communication aid. They are learning how to navigate the software and use the aid in functional situations. Vocabulary is added when necessary and for specific tasks. We are finding that the ipads are very suitable and easy to use. If your child has an ipad for this purpose, we would like to take this opportunity to request any relevant vocabulary you may feel would be beneficial for home use.

The 14-19 Curriculum—Key Stage 4 & 6th Form

We've been looking ahead and planning the transition to the next step of life after Penn Fields School. Years 11 & 14 have been on a couple of visits to college to meet the teachers and spend some time with pupils from Penn Fields who have already moved on.

All pupils said they felt a lot happier about going to college now that they had visited.

Pupils also enjoyed a morning at Dunstall Racecourse at the Skills Experience Show, run by Wolverhampton College and designed to give pupils some ideas of what the college and other careers can offer. Pupils particularly enjoyed having a go at bricklaying, hairdressing, sports, and tasting the food by the catering course.





Assembly Rota Summer 2015

DATE	CLASS/STAFF
Monday 1st June	Mrs Plant – St Barts Church
Wednesday 3rd June	Mrs Griffiths' Literacy Group
Monday 8 th June	Mrs Timbrell's literacy group
Wednesday 10 th June	Elm Class
Monday 15 th June	Mr Fletcher
Wednesday 17 th June	Mrs Morgan
Monday June 22 nd	Mrs McGregor
Wednesday June 24 th	Acorn Class
FRIDAY 26th June 2.pm	Year 11 &14 Moving on Assembly
Monday 29 th June	Reverend Ben's Assembly
Wednesday 1 st July	Mentoring Groups
Monday 6 th July	Mrs Callister
Wednesday 8 th July	Ash Class
Monday July 13 th	Miss Moran's Literacy group
Wednesday 15 th July	No Assembly
Friday July 17 th	Final Assembly - 2pm

Important Dates

4th & 5th June - Duke of Edinburgh expedition Year 11

10th June—25 pupils to Drayton Manor Park— back at school at 4.45 pm

15th June— Year 11 Work Experience

Wednesday 17th June—Parents Evening 6-8 pm

19th June Year 11 & 6th Form Prom 7 pm

26th June Leavers Assembly Yr 11 & Yr14, 2 pm

9th July Summer Fayre 6– 8.30 pm

17th July End of Term