



Max Hammatt, Anton Sparby, Luke Woodmansee, James Young and William Alexander

In search of the perfect Christmas Tree

Middle School children were proud to present 'Captain Christmas' as their Christmas production this year. This was a musical tale of a band of friendly pirates sailing the seas of crystal blue in search of the perfect Christmas tree. Of course along the way they find treasure! The children have enjoyed their roles and have risen to the challenge of learning not only their lines but also dance routines and numerous songs. They showed great commitment throughout the whole preparation time. Well done to all involved.

A concert was held on the 5th December to showcase the work done by the various musical ensembles over the term, interspersed with solo items from our many talented musicians. A special mention must be made of Marcus Daghljan who has succeeded in playing three different instruments in one concert, closely followed by Lizzie Wood, and Alexandra and Charlotte Bugar on two. The Wind Ensemble started the concert with The Birdie Song and 12 Bar Blues. The whole of Year 5 gave a spirited rendition of Peanut Vendor following on from some work on Latin American rhythms. The Thursday Music Group gave us Staten Island and the Wind Quartet played Pop Goes the Woodwinds. The concert finished with the Orchestra who warmed us all up with some more Latin American rhythms and then cooled us down again with Jingle Bells, complete with audience participation and Year 2 jingling bells!

Christmas Concert



Marcus Daghljan, Natasha Martin, Gareth Caine, Mary White, Lizzie Wood, Alexandra Bugar, Alexandra Caine, Caroline Kelly and Teia Griffiths



Apprentice hired to open new building

Full report and more pictures on pages 4 and 5



A wet start for Year 7 on their field trip to Wales

In early October Year 7 left the sunny climes of Hertfordshire to brave the dismal forecast of Barmouth, mid Wales. As had been forecast the first drops of rain appeared as our destination came into sight but we were not to be deterred! Slate mines, river studies, beach studies and a climb to follow the route of a glacier were all completed within the next very wet 24 hours. However, we woke on Sunday morning to a new land and cloudless skies. We set off and climbed Cadir Idris, one of the highest peaks in Wales and conditions were fantastic. Even those who found the walk hard marvelled at the wonderful views. The last day was spent exploring different forms of power stations but most memorable were the sand dunes of Harlech! We returned with great memories having had a fantastic 5 days.

Autumn Term Events

Food Week

In support of British Food Fortnight, during the last week of September we had a wide range of special activities taking place across the curriculum, and Chef cooked a different traditional British dish every day.



Ethan Stockbridge 1B making bread

This year's lower school Harvest Service was a very happy event. The children in Robins, Swallows, Reception and Year 1 all spoke and sang beautifully about the meaning of Harvest. The produce collected was gratefully received by the Hemel Hempstead Salvation Army.

On Friday November 7th, Year 3 set out on a Roman adventure to Lullingstone Roman Villa in Kent. With true Roman determination, we didn't let the fact that the M25 was closed stand in our way. Nor were we fazed when we reached the A20 to find it was also closed, but simply found another route through the back lanes! On arrival at the villa, we were warmly greeted by our guide Towse who led the Lullingstone Life workshop. We discovered how people really lived almost two thousand years ago. The children handled objects from the kitchen and dining room before sampling Roman food. After eating lunch, we had a good look at the ruins of the old villa and learned how it had been extended and developed over time. The children investigated the heated bath suite that was part of the house and saw the room that had been used as a chapel. The painted symbols found there are among the earliest surviving evidence for Christianity in Britain. Our afternoon workshop was 'Magic and Medicine'. Pupils experi-



Roman Visit for Year 3

enced the gory reality of Roman surgery and found out how people at Lullingstone kept themselves healthy. The children also discovered the science and superstition of Roman healthcare. We thoroughly enjoyed our day at the villa and found it an excellent way to get a real taste of Roman life.

House Music Competition

This was an amazing introduction to music at Westbrook Hay and was a very tightly fought competition. Earlier in the week the first round demonstrated the range of talent in the school and this made the decision of finalists very hard. At the request of the Headmaster extra instrumentalists were included as they were deserving of a place in the Final. The Final was eagerly awaited and thoroughly prepared for by all the pupils. 17 pupils performed solos, every one of them an enjoyable performance. Then came the House songs and the moment we had all been waiting for. Marlborough performed The Bare Necessities, making tough decisions about whether homework and football were a 'bare necessity' of life. Wellington kept us entertained with Any Dream Will Do, all snugly wrapped in multicoloured blankets or wearing straw boaters. Drake took the brave decision to perform unaccompanied and sang 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' with Taylor Bryant leading the harmony group with great aplomb. Finally Nelson gave us a very lively interpretation of Grease Lightning, complete with slicked back hair, leather jackets and the car! I did not envy the Headmaster having to make a decision after such good performances.

In the end the winners were:

Best Instrumentalist: David Cartwright

Best House Song: Nelson

Overall winner: Wellington



Year 2 children trying on masks kindly brought in by St Albans Toy Museum during their visit to the school.



Autumn Term Events



Natasha Martin, Isobel Southwood, Alice Woodmansee, Rosie Wallis, Chloe Hurd, Kiera Saunders, Phoebe Scott, Katharine Mayer, Samah Khan, Alex Bugar, Meghan Lane, India Bates, Charlotte Cook in the Dance Display

...the air-raid, when everyone, including the Staff, had to dive for cover under the desks..

Year 6 at the RAF Museum

On Monday 24th November Year 6 were taken by Mr Young, Mr Stedman, Miss Cummings, Mrs Malone and Mr Woodward to the RAF Museum in Hendon. This trip enabled the children to gain more experience of what life was like in wartime Britain, as part of their World War II history studies. When it comes to hands-on involvement, the Museum offers plenty of variety. The children began by taking part in the Evacuees Classroom Experience, based around a 1940s style lesson. This included the use of the nib and ink-well pens, learning about 'old' money, and having a maths lesson involving pounds, shillings and pence. The children enjoyed filling out authentic identity cards, and making the gas-mask boxes that would have been part of a child's everyday get-up during the War. Probably, the two highlights of the lesson (apart from the fearsome strictness of the teacher!) were the air-raid, when everyone (including the Staff!)

Dance 2008

This year's display started with a great opening ceremony to welcome the audience. Afterwards this was followed by the Westbrook Hay Ballet School dancing Prokofiev's 'The Winter Bonfire' which is about a journey through Russia. All the lower school enjoyed dancing to Disney songs and the grand finale was spectacular with all the performers on the stage dancing the musical 'Chorus Line'. The children enjoyed the dancing and they have worked very hard during the term. The show was a great success and I am delighted with the way the children performed. We also have had some excellent results in the jazz and ballet exams:

Dance Exam Results

Jazz Exams Gold Medal - Kara Malone – Highly Commended

Ballet Exams

Primary Charlotte Bugar, Ellie Hunt, Naomi Bassett, Sorcha Bates, Niamh Stears, Emilie Vassie, Caroline Kelly.

Grade 1 Alexandra Caine, Alexandra Bugar, Katie Downham, Alexandra Atkinson, Teia Griffiths, Chloe Hurd, Natasha Martin, Katharine Mayer, Nadine Acquaaah, Isobel Southwood, India Bates, Kara Malone.



had to dive for cover under the desks, and the (thoroughly deserved) 'caning' of Fraser Ellis-Jenkinson, for 'playing on a bomb-site the previous evening!' The museum itself offered the opportunity for the children to see close up a huge number of fantastic and resplendent aircraft, Air Force trucks, motorbikes, jeeps, personnel and uniforms. At lunchtime Mrs Malone and Kara were taken off to see a special and personally moving Museum display – a pictorial diary, postcards and other photos taken in and of the POW Camps in Germany where Kara's great, great, great uncle, Alex Hewson was interned in both World Wars! Then it was off to the Aeronauts Interactive Centre for some more

hands-on experience for everyone, of all sorts of flight gadgetry, from balloons to bombers, and parachutes to helicopters, and where the children could test their skills in simulated take-off and landing procedures, bombing raids etc. The 'Our Finest Hour' Sound and Light Show told the story of the Battle of Britain in graphic and moving detail. And finally, no trip would end satisfactorily without some essential retail therapy, provided this time by the Museum Shop and its magical assortment of RAF memorabilia. All-in-all, a soundly educational and thoroughly enjoyable trip. This was our sixth consecutive visit and we'll definitely be back again next autumn.

The New Lower School



Mrs Hall and her class singing for our guests in the entrance hall of the new building

You're Hired



We were delighted that Raef Bjayou, our ex head boy and star of the TV hit 'The Apprentice', was able to officially open the new facility in October. Raef spent time with all parts of the school and received an 'Apprentice' type grilling from the Year 7 and 8s; they asked Raef all about his time on the show, his time at Westbrook Hay and also what it is like to work in television. Raef took time to talk to many of our visitors including the Mayors of Dacorum and Berkhamsted, local heads from Abbot's Hill, Berkhamsted Collegiate, Haileybury, Governors and the people involved in the construction of the building. Raef commented that 'When I first visited Westbrook Hay my mother asked why do you like this school?', he replied 'it just feels right'. He commented that he could see that the children clearly enjoyed the balance of work and other activities simply from their smiling faces.



The New Lower School



Year 1 in the new Art Room

State of the Art

Not only have our Foundation children benefited from the new facility but Middle and Upper School children have a wonderful new Art Room. The new facility offers the children lots of space to work creatively, and also has a pottery kiln that will ensure that the already excellent Art curriculum is extended to provide more ceramics.



Isobel Walters and George Corfield

It was an exciting first day of school in September for our Lower School children as they returned to our wonderful new Lower School facility. All the staff gave up some time during the summer holidays to come in and prepare the classrooms for the beginning of term.



Unrivalled Facilities

The facility is the most up-to-date of all the local prep. schools. 'The environment for young children is so important. It is wonderful to be able to choose the most suitable equipment for all the classrooms and the children just love the interactive white boards – it gives them so much confidence to come up in front of the class,' commented Rebecca Summers our head of Lower School.



A big thank you as well to all the parents who have coped so well with the disruption of the construction of the building last year. I'm sure you will all agree that, with six new fully equipped classrooms, a new Art Room, a big multi-purpose entrance hall, a staff room and offices, the building makes a fabulous addition to the facilities at Westbrook Hay.

'If you have not had a chance to look around the building yet, please come and visit on one of our Open Mornings or contact us to arrange a tour.'

Kate Woodmansee

Autumn Term Sport

Netball has been thoroughly enjoyed by the girls this term. Each of the four age groups has experienced success by winning matches throughout the season and they have all fully endorsed the meaning of team spirit, being gracious in defeat but feeling proud and privileged at the opportunity to represent their school.



(standing) Mr Stedman, Dylan Tenty, Tom Hacking, Cameron Elliot, Ryan O'Sullivan, Peter Kearney, Charles Martindale, Joshua Awosika (front row) Matt Burr, Chris Bauldreay, Rhys Gordon, Henry Bexson, Adam Brown

1st XI Football

The 1st Team have enjoyed an exciting term where, in **losing only once** on the circuit, they have been involved in some tight matches and played some super football! The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the 7-0 win over Lockers Park, where in the second half (without wanting to embarrass the opposition) our players were both rested and then rotated positions. The quality of finishing that day was exceptional with Matt Burr (11 goals in 10 games to finish top goalscorer) and Chris Bauldreay hitting the pick of the bunch. The team was led by example by Henry Bexson whose work-rate, quality on the ball and tenacity in the tackle proved to be a key part of our game and a great asset in unlocking defenses. As a team we improved well, although individually some players moved on a mile! Josh Awosika's passing and positional play moved him from number 11 or 12 to 1 or 2 on the team sheet while Charlie Martindale began in the 2nd XI and finished as a key raider down the right wing. Dylan Tenty, also began in the 2nd XI, but his work-rate and keen eye for a pass helped him force his way in to the 1st team. Final mention goes to Cameron Elliott on a super term 'between the sticks'. He is the best goalkeeper I have seen in my time at Westbrook Hay. Well done to all the boys on a great term

Netball

The **U11s** have shown determination when behind in matches to pull through and win – there have also been losses but the girls have improved over the term; they now have a better understanding of all of the positions and have played with great enthusiasm to become accomplished netballers.

The **U10s** have fought tirelessly: Mary White and Hannah Alexander the two shooters in the team, have worked hard perfecting their shooting action and Teia Griffiths has been a strong link in centre court.

The **U9s** have been boosted since Natasha Tenty joined the school and are settling into working together well. Natasha has also played up in the U10 side.

With Caroline Kelly in the centre position, Emilie Vassie and Sorcha Bates working hard scoring goals, Alexandra Caine feeding lovely balls into them and Charlie Burgar strong in defence the **U8 teams** have also tasted success. Their skills have greatly improved even though I rotate them through the normal 7 a-side game onto playing 5 a-side against some schools. They have taken these changes in their

stride and performed wholeheartedly throughout. I can see a lot of promise in this age group and look forward to their netball again next year. This is the first time for a few years that I have had the numbers to run A & B teams in three age groups and I look forward to continuing this trend in the future. Come January, in the hockey term we shall look towards pursuing increased knowledge but will still continue to play some netball in readiness for a few tournaments that are to come.



Miranda Tubb looks on anxiously as Isobel O'Sullivan takes aim

UNBEATEN 2ND XI

The 2nd XI football team have had a wonderful season winning 7 out of their 8 matches and drawing the other. It was not until the very last game that Taylor Bryant in goal was beaten to concede for the only time in the campaign! Needless to say there has been some super football played especially when going forward but obviously the defence governed by Jacob Le-warne has been remarkably secure. Leading the goal scoring was centre forward George Bonner who scored in all but one of the matches he played but Will Feron, George White and Lee Tyrrell also contributed goals in numbers. We have used twenty two players were demonstrating the strength in depth of the squad. It really was a most enjoyable season because they were such a good bunch of lads to be with and they were skilfully led by Oliver Hurd both on and off the pitch.

Under 9 Football

I was very excited about the U9s at the beginning of term – as the squads (on paper) looked very impressive! Both the U9's and U8's have played in a variety of matches and festivals and equipped themselves very well. Highlights of the A's term include a 5-0 opening match win v Lockers and the 9-3 victory in the return fixture over Radlett where, against a very strong side that had only lost once, we played some super, quick counter-attacking football. Towards the end of term the midfield trio of Edward Khan, Jack Wadmore and Will Alexander were in terrific form. They are probably the best U9 side I have seen at Westbrook Hay! The B's highlight was winning the recent festival at Edge Grove where James Young was awarded 'Player of the Tournament' while the U8's enjoyed big success at Francis House in securing an aggregate 8-5 win with Edward Bryant and Freddie Wilson starring in the matches. Well done to all on a terrific term!

Autumn Term Events

Shri's Kumon award



The Kumon representative from Hemel Hempstead has told us that Shri has been a model Kumon student from the very beginning. In just two years Shri has rocketed through the levels to reach GCSE equivalent levels in both Maths and English. This is not only a remarkable achievement by Kumon standards but made all the greater by virtue of his young age. All his hard work has culminated in the ultimate accolade of being the highest ranked Year 4 student in the United Kingdom! This means that out of all Year 4 students studying Kumon in the UK (10,000), Shri is the most advanced.

'A truly gifted young man.'



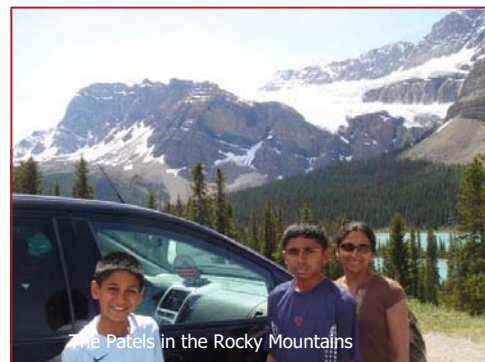
Mary White, Paige Symns, Samah Khan and Meghan Lane learning to write on slates.

A classroom from the past at the Chiltern Open Air Museum

Early on in the term, as part of their syllabus on the Victorians, Year 5 visited Chiltern Open Air Museum. All the children enjoyed going back in time and experiencing 'Victorian School Life'. Much to their amazement the pupils learnt that teachers were, indeed, much stricter in the 1800's and.....much to their relief the punishments today are rather less severe! Pupils were made to sit in the 'learning position' followed by a hand inspection before the session could be started! All enjoyed playing with the simple toys ranging from the cup and ball to Jacob's ladder. Having races with the hoop proved the most successful. In the farmyard children were able to see how basic many of the farm tools were. They discovered the uses of the different buildings ranging from the cattle byre to the grain store. As ever the day proved to be a great success with so much to learn beyond the classroom.

Car Sticker Competition Winners

Congratulations to our car sticker competition winners. Thank you so much for displaying the Westbrook Hay car stickers in your windcreens: it is a wonderful way of promoting our school. Thank you as well to those of you that sent in photographs of your cars in various locations. The winning photos are here and the rest can be viewed on the website. The winners received a family ticket to Vue cinemas. If you have not received a car sticker for your windscreen please contact the office and we will send you one.



The Patels in the Rocky Mountains



The Hurleys at the foot of Mont Blanc



The Daghlia's car in Iceland

Our Westbrook Hay Community

Bonfire Night

600 tickets were sold and an expectant crowd waiting for the usual wonderful fireworks display from Messrs Sayer and Handscombe. Alas, the weather was more akin to a swimming gala or at least filling the pool prior to one and not only did the bonfire show an unusual reluctance to ignite, but some of the set piece displays were a little soggy at the edges.



Picture painted on the computer by Georgia Hurley 25

Damp squibs aside, chef's warming repast and liberal amounts of soup and restorative mulled wine ensured that spirits remained high, with children and parents alike demonstrating that it takes more than driving rain for Westbrook Hay to stop having a party !



Children enjoying Chef's picnic, Callum Lendon and Holly Jamieson (right)

Great Fun at the Teddy Bears' Picnic

We had a wonderful time at our Teddy Bears' Picnic in September. We were so lucky with the weather again and it was a delight to welcome our new and returning families to the new Lower School building. Many parents enjoyed a tour whilst Mr. Marvel kept the children entertained. Then we all walked around the grounds to hunt out the teddy bears. Chef provided a lovely picnic for everyone and Mr. Marvel ended the picnic with a disco and then the children were ready go home with their Westbrook Hay teddy.



Barn Dance

This was a new family event this year and the Barn Dance was led by 'Wild Willy Barrett'. The event was sold out and thoroughly enjoyed by all ages, proving that our family events are always the most popular.

Forthcoming Events

Burns Night - Friday 23rd January

Gentleman's Curry Night- Wednesday 11th February

Ladies' Night - Thursday 12th February

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was early this year but was well timed for the children to coincide with the end of the exams. A huge thank you to all the parents that helped and gave so generously and thank you of course to all the teachers who worked so hard on the day. The sports hall was a real hit with the children as Mrs Brown ran two new games which were suitable for all ages: the agility course and the target throw. Santa remained a firm favourite of the day. We made over £2000 this year which will go toward equipment throughout the school.



Ben and Alex Harwood with Santa at the Christmas Fayre

Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to:

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