



Little Angels and Snow- flakes

Harriet Rabey and Isabel Walter are surrounded by the falling snowflakes, singing "Snowflakes settling on the ground"; just one of the many lovely songs and magical moments from the Lower School Nativity-"The Little Angel"



School opens new IT suite

Although it will be officially opened in February, Westbrook Hay pupils have been thrilled with an impressive suite of two IT rooms each with 20 computers since the beginning of term in September. Having two rooms has allowed lessons other than ICT to be computer based, something our staff have welcomed. As well as the 42 top of the range computers, the rooms come supplied with very fast internet connection via a bigger broadband pipe, and many peripherals such as web-

cams, microphones and card readers that extend the use of ICT into many other fields. A flavour of what can be done within ICT in the 21st century will be provided by two special ICT days in February. Pupils and parents will have the opportunity to try many exciting ICT related activities in place of normal lessons. Parents concerned about e-safety will be interested in a special presentation by James Dent, e-safety adviser for Hertfordshire being given in the assembly hall on Thursday 11th February.

Colts Win Herts Cup

Full report on page 6

The Colts A squad: (left to right) Mr. Sutton, Edward Khan, Jeremy Spreyer, Ben Yeo, Jake Boydell, Jack Wadmore, Oreofe Akinseye, Seun Koya, and Adam Ripper





Charles Holden and Alexander Hall

RAF Museum Visit

On Monday 30th November Year 6 were taken by Mr Smith, Miss Sharp 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 took 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!) had to dive for cover under the desks, and the (thoroughly deserved) 'caning' of Jimmy Mitchell, 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, motor-bikes, jeeps, personnel and uniforms. And the 'Our Finest Hour' Sound and Light Show told the story of the Battle of Britain in graphic and moving detail, and put all their studies into perspective. The Aeronauts Interactive Centre offers more hands-on experience 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. And finally, no trip would end satisfactorily without some essential retail therapy, provided this time by the museum shop and its magical assortment of (rather expensive) RAF memorabilia. All-in-all, this was a soundly educational and thoroughly enjoyable trip. This was our seventh consecutive visit and we'll definitely be back again next autumn.

Toys from the past

A visit from St Albans Museum brought the Year 2 history topic on toys to life. The children had the opportunity to play with toys from the past and to dress as Victorian children thereby exploring the differences between their own lives and those of people in the past.



Water Day held during School Geography Week

As part of the School's Geography Week we held a Water Day. Ted Casey from Veolia Water came to talk to the children about water conservation, and set up fun activities with the Science Department at the school. Teresa Harris, Head of Science, organised the event and explained that, "The focus on water for the day has been a wonderful way of conveying the message to the children about how we can all conserve water." Mrs Harris invited local primary schools to attend the event and benefit from the activities provided by Mr Casey. However, Water Day was simply one day of a week's worth of activities. Each class at Westbrook Hay adopted a different country for the week. All the children were given passports and travelled around the school to find out as much as they could about those different countries and have their passports stamped. "Geography Week has been a tremendous success and great fun. The children have really enjoyed all the activities and hopefully have learnt plenty of facts along the way!".....Dave Hill, Head of Geography.

Below: Max Young, Lysbeth Davies and William Jones

Dressed as Romans



Year 3 visited the Verulamium Museum in St.Albans and they explored the many interactive exhibits enthusiastically. It was extremely satisfying to build a Roman arch that stayed in place! We finished with an artefact handling session and some pupils were able to dress up in Roman costumes. A very enjoyable morning.



Serious Science



Chiltern Open Air Museum

Early on in the term Year 5 visited Chiltern Open Air Museum as part of their studies on the Victorian era. During the first session pupils experienced a Victorian lesson taught by a lady in period costume. The children learnt how use pounds, shillings and pence, write in a 'copy book' using ink from an ink-well and use a slate board and pencil. All agreed that it was much stricter back in the 1800's! The session that all enjoyed most of all was playing with some Victorian toys: Jacob's ladder, cup and ball, hoop and stick, puzzles, to name but a few. Finally we all visited the farmyard to learn how farming techniques have changed over the years.



Charles Martindale watching anxiously as Fred Kelly plays with fire as Year 8 investigated 'cold flames' during their studies of hydrocarbon combustion. They were looking at the future of alternative fuels in Science.

Volcano Erupts on Science Field Trip



Year 7 in Welsh Mountains

Twenty four Year 7s departed for Wales in mid October for the Geography field trip. The weather was kind, in contrast to the forecast, and for the main part it stayed dry. Based in Barmouth we completed river studies, beach studies, investigated a variety of power stations, tracked and looked at the geographical features of a glacier and climbed Cadir Idris. However, the highlights (according to the children!!) were probably the sand dunes of Harlech, manhunt on the beach outside the hotel, and the mysteries of the blue lake!



Alex Martindale and Toby Ogelman at the Year 3 Science trip to the Boxmoor Trust





After another difficult first round where we were spoilt for choice, a decision was made and excellent performances given on the day. Marcus Daghlian won the individual prize on the violin. Marlborough won the house song singing "Day Dream Believer", and Drake won the overall prize. Well done to everyone who took part, for an entertaining afternoon.

Another excellent music concert was held at the end of term with several soloists beginning the concert; it was lovely to hear Owen Caine play his recorder in a piece called Caribbean – one of those pieces which stay with you long after the event. We then moved on the Year 7 singing Minka, the choir singing Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Ring Out the Bells. The audience joined the orchestra clapping at the appropriate place in the Mexican Clapping Song before we



Marlborough House Song a winner

finished with a rousing rendition of Jingle Bells.

Although the number of pupils entered by the school in music exams was

smaller this term, a considerable number of pupils were entered by their own teacher. I am pleased to say that all did well and a full list will appear next term.



It's close to midnight...

The Dance Display this year featured Giselle for the Ballet School and Michael Jackson music. The show was a great success starting with the Glow in the Dark dance to an old English lullaby and finishing with the very scary 'Thriller'. The children love performing in the show and the parents enjoy watching....."The best show in years" commented one of our parents.



Alexandra Bugar and Alexandra Atkinson



Middle School children thoroughly enjoyed practising and performing the play this year. It was a great success. The costumes and make up brought the whole thing to life. The main characters were amazing to remember all their lines and I'm certain one or two are destined for a life on stage. Roll on next Christmas for the next production. A very big thank you to Mrs Wood who directed the performance.



Charlotte Bugar, Billie Busari and George Stockbridge

Middle School presents Hansel and Gretel

Colts Win Herts Cup



A proud Jeremy Spreyer holding the cup

The morning began with the Westbrook Hay boys full of excitement and weighing up the opposition. The first fixture of the day saw us play St. Josephs, and win. After a rest between fixtures we took on the very impressive looking William Ransom School. We again went into an early lead with a fantastic passage of team play resulting in a composed finish from Seun Koya. Eventually the pressure paid off for William Ransom and they equalised late in the second half forcing the game to be drawn. Going into our third match the boys were already trying to do the maths on what was needed to qualify from the group stage. Our next opponents, Greenway, made the most of their minimal opportunities and scored the game's only goal to win 1-0. The mood in the Westbrook camp hit a low point as the boys realised they would have to win their final

game in the group to stand a chance of qualifying for the semi-finals. The final game started with our opponents taking an early lead, but after some confident pieces of play, we had a new lease of life and took control of the game with goals from Koya (2) and Edward Khan. The victory meant that we were into the semi-finals. Full of confidence we hardly broke stride as we confidently took a first half lead in the semi final with goals coming from the ever impressive Koya (2) and Jack Wadmore. Despite conceding in the second half the win confirmed our place in the final. In the final, the whole team put on a magnificent show for the supporters of both sides and dominated the game throughout. A touch of class had developed in our play through the day and some fine finishing made us convincing 3-0 winners.

FOOTBALL

2nd Team Report

Winning five of their seven matches represents a good return for the season for the 2nd team. At times we played some very attractive football and scoring goals was rarely a problem as we averaged 4 a game. We used 18 players as several of our number were promoted to the 1st team. There have also been some very sizeable crowds as mums, dads and grandparents have flocked to watch the matches, their support is very much appreciated.

Under 9 report

The Under 9s have played some truly exceptional football this term. Playing some great passing football from defence through to attack, the A team has **gone through the term unbeaten** – a superb achievement for a young side! Tom Holes and Luca Cecere have often been instigators of play from the back while Alex Wilkinson, who has captained the side well, has played the central midfield role superbly. Joe Rabey and Dom Young have run the flanks and often combined with Billie Busari, who was top scorer for the term. Highlights of the term were the two festival victories at Heath Mount and Lockers Park. A great term and there's more to come from this set of sportsmen. The other Under 9 teams have also enjoyed the winning habit with our B, C, D and E teams all notching up some great victories. Impressive performances in particular from Harvey Graham, Josh Yeo, Fola Omotose, Jack Dugard and Billy Boot. Well done.



The 1st Football Team: back row: Charles Martindale, Lee Tyrell, Seun Koya, Mr Stedman front row: Lanre Ladipo, Alistair Walters, Rhys Gordon (capt), Chris Bauldreay, and Kevin Kirwan

The 1st team has enjoyed a very successful term. A great achievement in itself; the squad has lost only once on the circuit this term and played some exciting attacking football. The foundations of the team's success have been built on solid defence where Alistair Walters and Rhys Gordon have formed a great partnership backed up by the excellent goalkeeping of Lee Tyrell. The highlights of the term have come in the shorter version of the game when the squad competed in the IAPS 6-a-side competition. By reaching the semi-final, the boys qualified for the national finals at Shrewsbury School. Here the top 12 independent schools in the country battled it out. Playing Millfield (the 2008 champions) in the first game, the boys enjoyed great possession and came off disappointed with a 2-2 draw. The rest of the day saw some super football played with our side missing out on qualification for the semi-finals. A consolation – Parkside, the national champions, beat us 1-0. Well done to the whole squad.





Back row: Katie Downham, Hannah Alexander, Alexandra Burgar, Teia Griffiths, Paige Symns, Elise Filippidis, Isobel Bryant.
 Front row: Ffyona Spreyer, Isobel Kirwan, Alexandra Atkinson, Natasha Tenty, Samah Khan, Meghan Lane, Miranda Tubb



Netball

The netball season started well with a successful early tournament at Chesham Prep School where the U11A team won their section and the U11B team took 3rd place in their section. There have been some close matches during the season and progress has been good throughout all the teams. In the junior sides the U9s have gained experience by moving up to 7-a-side matches, whilst the U8s have played both 5 and 7-a-side achieving wins in both. A good mixture of players achieved their 'Player of the Match' awards and they were: Year 6 - Hannah Alexander, Paige Symns, Samah Khan, Teia Griffiths and Alexandra Burgar. Year 5 - Natasha Tenty, Ffyona Spreyer and Bolade Ladipo. Year 4 - Charlotte Burgar, Hannah Gunn, Mary Enweremadu and Ellie Hunt. Year 3 - Alice Ripper, Paige Atkinson and Angela Enweremadu. This was an early tournament at the start of term and 21 teams were divided into 3 sections with each being run as a separate tournament. The U11A team didn't lose any of their matches and so won their individual tournament with Hannah Alexander winning the shield for being named as 'Player of the Tournament'. The U11B team finished 3rd in their section and Natasha Tenty picked up the shield for being nominated 'Player of the Tournament' in her group.

U11A team – Teia Griffiths, Paige Symns, Elise Filippidis, Isobel Bryant, Hannah Alexander, Alexandra Burgar and Katie Downham.



The U8A's celebrating their victory over Edge Grove captained by Molly Custance, who unfortunately is not in the photo. Lauren Bennett, Georgia Hurley, Lysbeth Davis, Lara Mills, Angela Enweremadu and Alice Ripper played 3 matches this season and proved to be a really strong team.

U11B team – Samah Khan, Isobel Kirwan, Miranda Tubb, Alexandra Atkinson, Meghan Lane, Natasha Tenty and Ffyona Spreyer.

Special Visitor at the Christmas Fayre



Samah Khan, one of Santa's Elves

This term the Westbrook Hay Association has run three well supported events. The first was our family bonfire and fireworks evening; the earlier start time, new roomier layout and dry weather all made for a most enjoyable time. A huge thank you to David Handcombe and Richard Sayers who again put on the spectacular firework display. The Christmas Fayre was again a real treat for the children at the end of a hard exam week. There were lots of games to take part in with a variety of prizes including the popular school perks. The children had fun things to make, homemade cakes, toys and stocking fillers to buy. Father Christmas also visited us with a sack full of presents and he was delighted to have

Ugandan Children at Westbrook Hay



www.justgiving.com/kabubbu

Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to:
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E-mail: kate_woodmansee@westbrookhay.co.uk



We held another wonderful fun-filled event for our Robins and Swallows children this September. Yet again we were so lucky to have a lovely, fine day for our children, mums and dads, grandparents and friends to enjoy our beautiful grounds. Thank you also to Mrs Pearce for organising some lovely teddy bears for all the children to take home as a memento of their day.

Callum Pillay and Tobi Bajamo having a great time at the Teddy Bears' Picnic



A dry night for the Bonfire

given them all away. All in all a fantastic afternoon for the children. A new event for this term was our Christmas Market combined with a coffee morning. Here we had invited a range of outside stallholders who came with an assortment of Christmas gifts and goodies. Those who attended were refreshed with tea, coffee

and cakes and all left with some lovely gifts to give out this Christmas. Thank you to all parents for supporting the events that the Westbrook Hay Association runs. The money raised from these events has enabled us to fund the new computer software for the library, which we are sure will be of huge benefit to all children at Westbrook Hay.

The Kabbubu Children's Choir from Uganda came to visit us in October. They gave an exhilarating singing, dance and drumming performance in morning assembly, bringing their own unique style of joy, enthusiasm and fun to the school followed by a 'camp' experience in the woods where they cooked over an open fire and the children got to know each other and learnt about each others' lives. The children were coming to the end of their two week tour of the south of England where they had been performing in many schools and concerts. These children had never left Uganda before and in most cases had never left their village. The 10 – 15 year olds are orphans and live a very different life from our children at Westbrook Hay. Parents at the school, Caroline and Simon Smith-Wright organised the visit and have very kindly made a beautiful DVD of the day which features excerpts of the morning assembly and the children enjoying the camp experience. They have given a copy to all the children in Year 5 and 6 who attended the camp experience which is a wonderful record of a fun day in your child's life at Westbrook Hay. There are still more copies available if you would like one and if you are able, you can give online at :

