

## DIAMOND JUBILEE TEA PARTY



Westbrook Hay Prep School celebrated the Queen's Golden Jubilee with a tea party to remember. All the children and parents gathered in the school garden to sing some traditional songs: Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia and God Save the Queen and were served delicious homemade cakes provided by our generous parents. We then enjoyed a music concert which was truly impressive with beautiful counterpoint singing from our choir and vocalists Victoria Kelly & Sam Yadav with an endearing rendition, 'Where is Love?' Max Young brought Scotland home to us with his choir-boy sound and the awesome voice of our resident chorister Xander Hall finished the afternoon soloists. Among the instrumentalists Caroline Kelly played a piece by Alan Bullard (our ABRSM examiner this term) on her sonorous saxophone, Rebecca Wagstaff played her 'Naughty but Nice' flute piece beautifully and Leon Sui played the piano so fast you couldn't see his fingers!



The 350 year old Cedar of Lebanon in the sunken garden rather dramatically collapsed towards the end of break time during the penultimate week of term. The totally unexpected event sounded similar to an avalanche and drew pupils and staff alike to the gar-

den to see what exactly had happened. Luckily the area is out of bounds to children so nobody was caught in the event. Tree surgeons advised that the remaining tree, despite the rot, would hold for a couple of years, however at 7.30 am on Monday morning the remaining tree completely collapsed!



## ANCIENT CEDAR COLLAPSES







A week in Normandy gave our Year 5 children a very good opportunity to improve their French as, at the Château de la Baudonniere, all the staff only spoke French. During the week the children also took part in many challenging and exciting activities from "fabrication du pain" to "parcours de

santé". For most of them it was the first time they had stayed abroad without their parents and it was good to see them trying their French and enjoying taking part in activities together. A very sunny week made all the outdoor activities especially enjoyable and what a bonus it was to go to the beach for an afternoon this year.

## AU CHATEAU DE LA BAUDONNIERE

# UPPER SCHOOL THEATRE TRIPS

Grateful of an afternoon away from the pouring rain, Wednesday 25th April saw the whole of the Upper School hit the West End! Year 5 were wowed by the RSC's Matilda at the Cambridge Theatre; a wonderful spin on Roald Dahl's fabulous 1988 novel. Pupils (and teachers!) were completely enthralled watching the brilliantly precocious Matilda, her dodgy-haired, car-dealer father, her strictly obsessed mother, and of course not forgetting the rants of Matilda's diabolical headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, to whom all children are 'maggots'. Your children, of course, lapped up the picture of adult insensitivity and injustice portrayed, whilst quickly latching on to the tongue-in-cheek message from Steve Furst (Mr. Wormwood); that reading is for dummies and they should put aside their books and embrace television wholeheartedly! Years 6 to 8 were taken on a journey to Oz, through an interesting 'slant' on the Wizard of Oz story in Wicked, at the Apollo. The premise of Wicked is that we have not been told the whole story about the land of Oz. It encourages the audience to look at things very differently by exploring the themes of friendship, trust and tolerance, the use of propaganda and the manipulation of public opinion. Was the Wicked Witch of the West really wicked? Was Glinda the Good really so good? Why was the Lion so cowardly? How did the Tin Man lose his heart and the Scarecrow his brain? And why did the Wicked Witch of the West want the jewelled shoes so much? Wicked sets out to explore all of this and more. I am sure the show really made its audience think about the importance of sometimes "looking at things another way..."



The competition was strong, with Marlborough the leaders after Round 1, followed by Wellington and Nelson. Round Two turned the competition on its head, with the quick-fire round leaving us with a nail-biting play-off situation between Marlborough and Wellington, who shared the same score. The final positions were the closest ever: 1st Nelson, 2nd Marlbor-

ough, 3rd Wellington, 4th Drake. Well done to all who braved the stage and took part, with a special mention to Joshua Tambwe (Marlborough) who really stood out considering he was one of our youngest players. The prize winning Individual House Spelling Champion will be announced on Speech Day! J.Thomson

## HOUSE SPELLING BEE





## YEAR 2 AT FROGMORE MILL

As part of their geography work on "looking after our environment" Year 2 visited Frogmore Mill to see how paper is made from recycled materials. The children had a tour of the mill and were able to see the machinery in action making "living" seed paper. They had the opportunity to make their own paper and included in it different materials such as shredded bank notes or glitter to enhance it. It was sad for those who had previously been to the mill to see that the presses used each week to print the posters for the House of Commons were idle. Apparently the MPs have been issued with ipads rather than rely on the printed versions to tell them the order of business in The House! Year 2 returned from a very enjoyable trip ready to reduce, re-use and recycle at school and at home.



## YEAR 1 AT BOXMOOR

Earlier this term we went to the Old Barn to learn about 'materials'. The day started with a 'treasure hunt'. We collected as many materials as we could find and put them into plastic bags. Later, we sorted them in different ways according to their properties. Next we acted out the story of the Three Little Pigs and thought about the best materials for building a house. Finally, we went inside and used clay to make our own 'mini' brick. It was a really busy morning which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children.

## SWALLOWS AT TRING MUSEUM



Swallows had a wonderful time at Tring museum. The children had a super morning looking at all the animals and enjoyed looking at the sea creatures during our talk. The sun was shining and all had a fabulous day.

## CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM



At the end of March, the children in Year 1 visited the 'Chiltern Open Air Museum'. We were lucky to have a dry and sunny day making the trip all the more fun. First of all we were given a demonstration by the blacksmith who made a 'barley sugar twist' with the help of a few of the children. It was hard work keeping the fire going using the bellows. Later on we all went into the school room where we learnt how women used old bits of clothing to make rag rugs to put on the hard, stone floors.



## GOOD RECEPTION AT WHIPSNAD

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June Reception classes had a wonderful, if showery, day at Whipsnade Zoo. We saw bears, elephants and rhinos, giraffes, otters, penguins and many more animals. We even managed to see the two new twin moose. The children loved seeing the sea lions and Richard the naughty bird in the bird show. We loved playing in the playground and getting close to the animals in the discovery centre.





Year 4 enjoyed a tremendous day at Hampton Court Palace; even the weather was kind to us! The children were given the chance to explore the Palace, including Henry VIII's apartments, the chapel, the kitchens and The Great Hall. They even met Jane Seymour and saw Henry VIII himself walking through the main courtyard. The children learned a lot of new facts about Henry VIII and Tudor life. During the workshop, 'Marrying Henry', they particularly enjoyed dressing up in beautiful Tudor costumes and acting out famous historical events linked with Henry VIII's life. Of course, the children's favourite part of the day was trying to find their way out of the famous maze!

## LADIES AT COURT?



## ST. JOHN'S WELCOMES YEAR 3...

On Wednesday 9th May, Year 3 visited St. John's Church, Boxmoor. We met Reverend Reveley, who gave us a wonderful guided tour of the church and explained how the various fea-

tures in the church are used during a service. There was plenty of time for questions and the pupils were particularly fascinated by the stained glass windows, the altar and the font!



## ..AND YEAR 6

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May Year 6 were taken on an inspiring visit around the lovely Church of St Francis by the Vicar of St John's Parish, Boxmoor – Rev James Reveley. This church, dedicated to St Francis of Assisi, is not only beautiful inside, but most unusual in that it has icons, statutes and other religious symbols of three Christian denominations – Protestant C of E, Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox. The children were made to feel very welcome by Rev James, who explained the church's history and all the wonderful things that can be found in it, and what they mean and represent. The children enjoyed the cool, tranquil atmosphere, explored the various parts of the building and took notes to follow up with a mini-project on their return to school. Our thanks to Rev James for a lovely and absorbing morning, and for bringing this place of worship to life for the children.

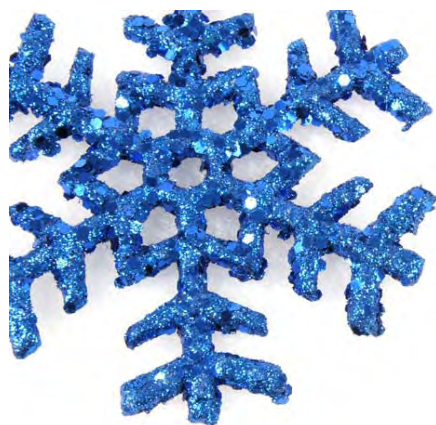




## BOARDING NOT BORING!

Ever popular go-karting and caving were enjoyed by the boys, with the girls adding a 'cook out' to their choice of activities. Cup cakes, cookies and pizza were on the menu with goody bags and chocolate strawberries com-

ing home on the Thursday. Autumn term dates have proved so popular that two additional weeks have been added for the boys, splitting them into Year 5/6 and Year 7/8.



## SKIING IN LES ORRES

This Easter's ski trip saw 20 Upper School children visit the southern French alps of Les Orres. An excellent journey with both plane and bus meant all the children were in good spirits as we approached the resort which greeted us with clear blue skies. The day continued with ski and equipment collection, a tour of the resort and a hearty dinner in the hotel, where we enjoyed all our meals. The children also had time to check into their living quarters which gave us great views of the mountains. The food was excellent throughout the week – very child oriented. Our daily breakfast consisted of pain au chocolat, cereals, fruit, hot chocolate and croissants while lunch was again a buffet choice which the children could select from. Evening meals ranged from spaghetti bolognese to chicken and chips. Our first venture on to the slopes saw us split up into three groups with each led by an English speaking instructor, most of whom we know from previous years which is great in terms of continuity. One had just finished a season with the Under 21 French National Ski Team so the children were

in good hands. The standard was high from the off. Charlie and Zac made great progress all week in group 1. During the week we were lucky enough to get a light dusting of snow overnight which meant the mountains were even better to ski. Regis, our instructor, told us that after the snow of one night these were the best conditions they had seen all season at Les Orres. Within our lesson time, the coaches ran some assessments and gave us some valuable tips. On the short, sharp turns exercise James Holden proved to be the most capable while Caroline Kelly was looking good through the powder. Another plus was that everyone was able to go to the top of the mountain and experience the great skiing there as well as the fantastic views. Each evening we undertook a different activity ranging from sledging (where distances travelled ranged from 5 - 185 meters) and bowling (which Henry won) to our DVD night. Another après-ski highlight was the daily visit to the creperie where the children enjoyed a variety of delicious pancakes – chocolate, ice cream, syrup, lemon and sugar

proving to be popular choices. Mr. Makower was the bank manager for the week as he looked after all the childrens' disposable income giving them a daily allowance. We finished the week with presentations. First, the ski school held theirs. James Holden and Jamie Rowley achieved the highest accolades while Caroline Kelly collected the Gold Crystal award. All skiers received a badge linked to their level and a booklet explaining the progressions and the levels that can be reached. In the evening, we held our own awards ceremony – with a twist! Our categories ranged from 'most fashionable skier' to 'biggest wipeout' with each child having their own signature song playing as they walked up to collect their 'award'. Caroline Kelly (best female skier) arrived to the sound of 'Sweet Caroline' by Neil Diamond, George Stockbridge to '(Stock)Bridge over troubled water' and Ali Bond to the James Bond theme tune. All in all this was a great trip! The children were superb and a pleasure to spend a week away with. I'm already planning and looking forward to next year's!



## BIRDS AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW

This trip has become an annual favourite amongst those who enjoy natural history and photography. On a somewhat gloomy May evening we walked along the Grand Union Canal from the reservoirs at Tring towards the Aylesbury Arm leading off from the main canal. During the course of the evening we spotted over twelve different types of bird and the resident heron, as ever, didn't disappoint and appeared on cue!





Thankfully our prayers for sunshine were answered and Tuesday 19th June was a glorious summer's day and warm evening... perfect for slathering faces with camouflage paint, commando crawling through thick mud and taking on the local flora and fauna as concealment in games of 'Predator'! Forty children signed up for the activity and had a brilliant time as these pictures will hopefully show. Mr Lloyd and I didn't enjoy ourselves at all...honest! Julie Thompson



On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June, six Year 3 children – Charlie Woodmansee, Toby Dewick, Sophie Smith, Ethan Ivory, Kieran Lendon and Rebecca Pratt went to Haresfoot School to take part in an Olympic Quest. Eleven schools were each allocated a country for the day and ours was 'South Africa'. There were five challenges that the teams took part in design, target, team, science and the last challenge was an all

groups survival where they had to make a shelter from six canes, some string and a large sheet of polythene. The shelter had to be watertight with room for all six children inside. It was an excellent day of events testing the skill, aptitude and teamwork of Year 3 pupils.

## OLYMPIC QUEST







LAMDA results for May 2012 were even better than last year. This year, 73 children were entered for Verse and Prose, and Acting exams up to Grade 4.

All passed, with 41 gaining Distinction and 29 gaining Merit. Year 1 children were entered for Introductory Verse and Prose and all the children passed, many

## ACTING UP?



with Distinction. This is a brilliant result at the age of 5+! Praise for tremendous perseverance must go to the children who were entered for the Combined Acting Solo/Duo in Upper School. Many of these children have consistently done well in exams, as their dedication and enthusiasm have paid off over the years they have been attending LAMDA lessons. A special 'very well done' from me to Charlie Parslow for achieving a Distinction in his final year at WBH! Congratulations to all the children; their hard work and commitment have reaped their just rewards! Nicky Woodward



This trip has become one of the highlights of the school year for the Year 5 pupils and this year did not disappoint. During the day pupils undertook a series of team building challenges: spider's web, swamp and nightline. In the first activity pupils had to negotiate a

web, working out the best order for all to go through without disturbing the 'spider'; once one opening had been used, it couldn't be used again. Swamp has always been the most challenging task and this year proved to be no different. The children had to cross from one side of the 'swamp' to the other using just three planks of wood without becoming fodder for the resident 'crocodile'. As ever, 'nightline' was the most popular and exciting event of the land based activities. All were blind-

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE FOR YEAR 5

folded and each child took turns to lead their group around a mini assault course that included a couple of tunnels, a bridge and a slide. And as expected, most felt that the raft building and race was the best activity of the day. All the craft withstood the rigours of the race and no one capsized! The day ended with a chance for all to have a go on the 'swing rope' – swinging out into the lake and letting go into the water!

What an amazing privilege Westbrook Hay children had to be performing at the Armourers' Hall in London which only just escaped the Great Fire of 1666. After the School Orchestra led the audience in singing 'God Save The Queen', we were treated to our WBH singing tutor, Miss McPhee's amazingly powerful voice resonating through the four hundred year old armour in a French aria from 'Romeo et Juliette'. After Olga Nemtseva had performed her piano solo, we heard Victoria Kelly and Sam Yadav's lovely voices representing Year 2.

## WESTBROOK HAY AT THE ARMOURERS' HALL

Not long after, Tegan Howard's haunting Grade 3 piece 'Dalmatian Cradle Song' represented Year 3 and later Zoe Jones & Alex Harwood's lovely voices represented Year 4. Caroline Kelly's soulful Saxophone sounded the well-known 'Rhapsody in Blue'. Owen Caine had made 'Bill' the Double Bass sing, the Senior Choir sang in counterpoint, the appropriately chosen 'Weapons of our Warfare'. Leon Sui 'wowed' us with his fast piano-fingers, playing his grade five piece and many will remember with a tear, Charlie Burgar and Alexandra Caine singing and playing 'Skinny Love' on the piano.







## PIZZA CHEFS

On Thursday evening the kitchen was a hive of activity with pupils making and eating their own pizzas. Each pupil had to make their own base and then choose from a large range of delicious toppings. Ethan was in the kitchen too, helping Mrs Sharp. When the pizzas were in the oven cooking, the endless washing up commenced with everyone helping. At 6.00pm the smell of pizza wafted through the dining room and we all sat down to eat our supper. There was nothing left.

On Tuesday 19th June Year 3 set off by coach to The Living Rainforest in Newbury. When we arrived we were amazed at how hot and humid it was and how it smelt of plants and animals. After a snack and short play in the amazing play area we split into three groups to tour the rainforest. We saw a huge range of animals and plants that grow on the forest floor and under-story. We met an angry African dwarf crocodile who won't even let her keeper into her pen. We also saw a carpet python, toucans, agoutis plus lots of different types of monkeys. The plants were incredible. Some of the leaves were as big as the children. We learnt about why rainforest plants have drip tips to stop them from drowning. We also saw banana, cocoa and coffee plants. After our tour we had a super packed lunch and more time to play in the play area. Of course we were allowed to go to shop and buy reminders of our fabulous day before we climbed back on the coach for our return journey.

## RAINFOREST SPECTACLE



## YEAR 4 NATURE RAMBLE

Years 3 and 4 met on the hard court for another fun filled Nature Ramble. Although the weather was looking rather iffy, we ventured out into the grounds with wellies and coats in hand! We began with a tree shake which revealed many different insects to capture and

observe. We then ventured into the dark woods to play games and search for creepy crawlies, followed by a scavenger hunt around the grounds. Fortunately, the sun shone throughout the evening and we all had a lovely time.





# LATIN GROUP FEAST THE ROMAN WAY

The four Latin boys enjoyed a day in Verulamium on June 28th. We visited the theatre, the remains of the hypocaust with a magnificent mosaic and a short stretch of the wall before enjoying a Roman picnic of chicken in spices, venison, salami, olives, figs, dates, grapes, pomegranate, spelt loaves, spelt flatbread, honey cakes and sweet pastries – congratulations to Adam for knowing that tomatoes could not have been eaten by Ancient Romans. After a visit to the museum, the boys enjoyed the challenge of a game of Ten. My thanks go to Dinah Ripper who provided the excellent sweet pastries and wonderful spelt mini loaves – delicious! W. Hauser



The Jazz dancing exams went very well: Our dancers achieved some excellent results in the Jazz exams this year including the newcomers to Jazz. It was wonderful to see their hard work and practice pay off. Well done to all of you. Next week is the ballet exams, so watch this space! Teresa Henderson.

## JAZZ DANCE EXAMS

Results: In the bronze medal category, Tegan Howard, Molly Scotchbrook and Charlotte Boot were awarded a distinction, while Charlotte Payne, Leah Yiannopoulos, Sophie Smith and Rebecca Pratt gained honours. In the silver medal category, Molly Custance, Ellie Beesley, Tegan Howard, Molly Scotchbrook and Charlotte Boot were awarded honours. In the gold medal category, Paige Atkinson and Charlotte Bugar won distinctions, and in the bronze star category, Lara Mills and Charlotte Bugar were awarded distinctions with Paige Atkinson gaining honours. In the silver star category: Lara Mills won a distinction in the 1st shield, with Alexandra Caine awarded a distinction in the 2nd shield. I am really pleased with the Years 3 and 4, as it's the first jazz exam for them.

## YEAR 2 AND THE BFG

Year 2 visited the Roald Dahl Gallery at Aylesbury Museum on Friday June 24th. Amongst a host of other activities the children found out about the author, travelled in the great glass elevator, received dreams from one of the BFG's bottles, explored the home of Fantastic Mr. Fox, magnified bugs in James' Giant Peach and entered Matilda's library.





## YEAR 8 AT PGL



Shrewsbury was the destination of this year's PGL trip. With flood warnings reverberating around the internet, camping did not appear to have been a good choice but other than a couple of hours of torrential rain we actually had reasonable weather. Highlights included being ambushed on our canoe trip, our raft 'Unsinkable 2' not making it 20 yards out of port, Tom's penguin suit, the escape cord not working on the giant swing, copious amounts of football to go with the never ending supply of chips. We had a great time and it was a wonderful last trip for the year 8s.

Ellie Mitchell came to Westbrook Hay as part of her work experience and thrilled pupils with her excellent careers assembly on forensic science. Afterwards Ellie said "I really enjoyed giving the assembly! And thoroughly enjoyed my three weeks so thank you very much."



## PUPILS INVESTIGATE FORENSIC SCIENCE

Mrs. Randall keeps bees on the Boxmoor Estate and many of us have seen her on the drive tending her hives. Diane has kindly shared her love of bees with the children and brought a display hive into school for the children to safely take a closer look.

## BEE FRIENDS



This term Reception worked together on a science topic about wildlife. On their "WOW" day they dressed as minibests. Here is a group of "bees" ready for their assembly to parents.

## STOP PRESS

## WESTBROOK HAY COLTS WIN COUNTY CUP

Through driving rain our Colts won the inaugural U11 schools county cup. Scoring an impressive 302 in their twelve overs of pairs cricket then bowling Lockinver House out for 218. Well done to all the boys!





After the successes of 2011 we again entered the East of England Area Prep Schools championships in June at Bedford. This year we increased the number of entrants to 10 across all the age groups entering Bolade Ladipo our first girl ever to represent the School at such a level. Tom Wright was the first athlete to compete in the Under 12 high jump. This proved to be a very exciting event because the officials could not separate Tom and another competitor on count back to establish 2nd place. A jump off was arranged late in the day and Tom won, thus qualifying to represent the East of England in the National Finals. In the jump off he cleared 1.33m beating the winning height set earlier in the day! Joe Ra-

bey ran an excellent 1500m in the Under 12 age group and was beaten by a lad who beat the championship record! Billy Boot (U12 Shot) and Billie Busari (U12 100m and 200m) were a bit below their best and just failed to make the top 6 in their events. Alex Wilkinson, Bolade and Kolade Ladipo, Ed Khan, Seun Koya all ran creditable times in their events and Tom Holes was close to his best in the U12 Long Jump. It was a long day but several of the 10 are looking forward to having another go next year!

## ATHLETICS



## SPORTS DAY

The rain didn't completely hold off for Sports Day this year, but the intermittent showers did not in any way spoil the event. As always it was a very closely fought contest with Nelson being victorious in the end. The Lower School children also had a very enjoyable morning of races, including the hilarious three legged event.



This year's inter-school's meeting was earlier in the term than usual and due to the weather the selection of the teams was a bit hit and miss, but we were on the day with 30 athletes ready to go! Our senior team was always going to struggle and indeed came 3rd overall with several 2nd places being registered. Congratulations to our winner, Jamie Turner in the shot. The Under 11 team had a super afternoon and there were individual winners in 21 events and a win in the relay with the team successfully going on to win the trophy.







Despite the rains at the start, good fun packed, exciting rounders fixtures have filled the girls' calendar of school matches this term and progression and improvement has been noticeable from start to finish. For the younger Under 8 girls this was a new sport for which they had to learn the skills and techniques to play. The Under 9 girls had an opportunity to play several matches in one day when they took part in a mini rounders tournament at Edge Grove and some also had an opportunity to play up into the Under 10 fixtures to fill two teams and gained experience from doing so.

## ROUNDERS

The Under 11 girls have perfected their skills to outwit the opposition and have won matches during the term. It has been a great opportunity for all the girls to take part in school matches and whether winning or losing they have all enjoyed the sport of rounders.







## INTER-SCHOOL SWIMMING

This year's gala, held at WBH, was the closest we have had in many years. After thirty one events only a handful of points separated the two teams at the end. There were many notable performances and the team spirit showed by all was fantastic and encompassed the afternoon's success. The following pupils did particularly well:

### Juniors (Years 3 & 4):

Molly Scotchbrook 1<sup>st</sup> – back crawl      Oliver Turner 1<sup>st</sup> – breast stroke  
Harvey Stangoe – 1<sup>st</sup> front crawl      Max Dewick, Callum Angel, Charlie Woodmansee, Harvey Stangoe – 1<sup>st</sup> medley relay  
Max Dewick, Harvey Stangoe, Callum Angel, Charlie Woomansee – 1<sup>st</sup> 4 x 4 freestyle relay

### Intermediates (Years 5 & 6):

Tom Wright 1<sup>st</sup> back crawl      Jamie Irwin – 1<sup>st</sup> butterfly  
Hannah Gunn – 1<sup>st</sup> breast stroke      Dominic Hampstead – 1<sup>st</sup> breast stroke  
Tom Wright, Dominic Hampstead, Jamie Irwin, Tom Lane – 1<sup>st</sup> medley relay      Joshua Yeo, Tom Lane, Tom Wright, Jamie Irwin – 1<sup>st</sup> 4 x 4 freestyle relay



This event was held at Haileybury School and thankfully with a break in the wet weather conditions it made the day more favourable to both competitors and spectators alike as the sun shone after a blowy start to the morning. A relatively new event in this year of the Olympics, this was an unknown quantity in as much as being able to gauge the levels of other competitors. Five of our pupils were selected to take part – Charlie Woodmansee, Toby Dewick, Alice Ripper, Joshua Yeo and Tom Wright. Each competitor

## AQUATHLON

would be required to swim, and then move to a transition area where they would put on previously placed running clothes to then complete the required number of laps around a course. Each swim and run increased in distance for each older age group. Timings were calculated from the start of the swim to the end of the run and included the transition area of moving from the pool, to finding their clothes and putting them on quickly. Valuable time could be lost in this phase when bodies were wet from the swim. Once all races were completed we were back into the sports hall to await the results of the individual and team placing for girls and boys in each age group. Wow! What a great start when we heard Charlie's name called out to go up and receive his 3rd place individual medal. With 20 or so boys entered this was a brilliant result. Then the team positions – "3rd", no not us; but wait "2nd place from combined scores goes to Westbrook Hay's Charlie and Toby", and more medals to collect. Everyone who took part found this event to be exciting, different, a little nerve racking and definitely challenging but pleasing to be a part of. Poor Toby got a dust particle in his eye but bravely carried on until an optician could remove it!





## COLTS A TEAM

The Colts A had a tremendous season and at the time of writing are waiting to play in the county final for Under 11. The highlight was without doubt a superb hundred from David Burnell, who hit the ball with extraordinary power for someone so young. The team has been well led

by Dominic Young not just as captain but also through some outstanding batting, bowling and fielding. Joe Rabey won catch of the season for a one handed special off his own bowling and Thomas Wright managed to gain four wickets in five balls! With four of the team back next year the future looks good!



## 1ST TEAM

The 1st X1 have had a difficult season but they have maintained their enthusiasm and commitment right up to the last. Luke Armstrong marshalled the troops well, bowling with great control and while he did not score the weight of runs he hoped, he remains a sound orthodox batsman. Leon Sui was the strike bowler with support from Zachary Mills bowling leg spin. Adam Ripper has worked hard on his bowling along with Reuben Stoner-Redfern but as a unit we lacked consistency and penetration. Reuben Stoner-Redfern and Zac Mills opened the batting and never let us down but we were never able to score enough runs to be competitive. The fielding at times was excellent with Luke Armstrong, Oreofe Akinseye and Jamie Turner setting a high standard. Although it has not been the most successful season there have been plenty of smiles along the way and significant individual improvements have been made.



# CRICKET

## UNDER 9 AND UNDER 8 TEAMS

The Under 9s have enjoyed a super term of cricket. While the early part of the term was a bit wet, we plied away with some skills work before getting out on to the wickets. Three wins against Haresfoot were followed up by two victories over Berkhamsted for the Under 8s and then a victory over Edge Grove and Aldwickbury for the U9s. I've been really impressed with the

hard work the boys have put in. Alfred Woolf has been the stand-out player with his consistent bowling and steady batting but special mention should go to Adam Summers, Ben Templeton, Charlie Woodmansee and Finn Graham – all Year 3s who played in the Under 9 A side.





## SAFETY FIRST IN SCHOOL COLLABORATION

The Year 3 children at Westbrook Hay have been learning about email and IT safety in their ICT lessons. Since February 2012, the children have had an email buddy from a neighbouring school, Two Waters in Apsley. Each child was allocated a buddy who they could email during their ICT lessons at school. The children have been able to find out lots about their new friends - their hobbies, their pets and what they like about school. The project culminated when the children from Two Waters came to meet their email buddies at Westbrook Hay and enjoyed lunch at the school and an outdoor activity based around the Olympics. "This has been a wonderful project for the children as they have made new friends, understood the safety aspects of email and also had a very exciting day of activities in the school grounds. This is a project we would definitely like to repeat!" Commented Andy Lloyd, Head of ICT.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL UNVEILS NEW DRINKING FOUNTAIN

Recently the School Council have installed a new water fountain, due to the distance from the playing fields to the drying room where the other fountain is located. We had a stall at the Christmas Fayre in order to raise enough money to pay for the fountain. The School Council had to work hard to have time to ask the bursar if we could go ahead with the idea and to tell the plumber where we wanted to have the fountain. After a month or so, we finally have a result and we now have two water fountains. Children do not now have to walk for ages to get water but with a hop-skip and a jump, they are there. Alexandra Caine, Year 6.



Thank you so much to all those parents, pupils and staff who brought in their second hand clothes, bedding, bags and belts for our Bag2School collection this term. We collected an incredible 985kg, which gave us an additional £492.50 towards our chosen charity of this year, The Rotary

Club of Hemel Hempstead Paralympic Project. Due to the success of the collection, we have booked for Bag2School to return in the autumn after half term. Please remember to save any more items you may have to recycle for Monday 12th November! Your support is, as always, very much appreciated.

## SCHOOL CHARITY 2012







## WESTBROOK HAY FORMER PUPILS

On Sunday 20th May we held our annual former pupils' day. It is always a fun day and this year was no exception. Over 80 former pupils returned ranging in ages for 12 to 60 years. Plenty of stories of misspent youth were told amongst much laughter and smiles. For all involved it is wonderful to see

and hear how favourably our former pupils regard the school. It is also pleasing to see a growing list of former pupils sending their children to the school. Many thanks to Graeme, our chef, for giving up his Sunday to cater for all.



## SWARM ARRIVES AT WESTBROOK HAY

On Tuesday 22 May an estimated 15,000 unexpected visitors arrived at Westbrook Hay for a temporary stopover on their travels. This was the first hot day of the recent change in weather which is thought to be the reason that a swarm of bees arrived in the school first alighting on the back of Westbrook Cottage and later in a bust in the Lower School car park. The Lower School car park was closed that day as a precaution. Fortunately we were able to call on the services of local beekeeper, Diane Randall who came swiftly to our rescue and encouraged the bees into boxes so that they could be re-sited elsewhere. This process took a number of visits to the school from lunchtime onwards and eventually succeeded around midnight on Tuesday. As you can see from the photo the bees made a fascinating sight. However, it was a welcome relief to know that they had been relocated safely elsewhere. Many thanks to Diane for her fantastic help.



Ben Fuller, Year 5, entered and won first prize for a competition in First News to become a sports reporter. The prize was to visit the Arsenal training centre, interview their manager, Arsene Wenger and then have VIP seats at the Norwich v Arsenal game. Well done Ben.

## BEN'S SHOOT AT HIGHBURY







The Westbrook Hay Olympic Games offered stiff competition for the event in Stratford this summer. All the children from Year 3 upwards were allocated a country's team and wore coloured t-shirts to represent their country. Our opening ceremony was quite a spectacle with all the national anthems playing to introduce each team and the arrival of the THE OLYMPIC TORCH generated much excitement. Mrs Michie, one of our parents, had secured the torch for the day before it had to be returned to the Olympic committee. Each team rotated around 12 sporting activities in the grounds of the school including rowing, cycling, boxing, show jumping and even canoeing in the school pool. It was wonderful to see so many parents spectating and enjoying the lovely day for a picnic in the grounds. The competition between the countries was fierce, but medals were awarded to individuals and teams to recognize their achievements on the day.

## WESTBROOK HAY OLYMPIC DAY



Robins, Swallows and Reception celebrated their own Olympics. Starting off with a parade from each class, Robins and Swallows carried their Olympic torches, followed by Reception who carried national flags, from a range of countries. Years 1 and 2 also took part in the Olympics, beginning with a relay and carrying a real Olympic torch. Parents had an opportunity to take part in the events following the children's races.







## FAMILY FUNDAY

Family Funday was a wonderful event this year and we were extremely lucky with the glorious weather, which wasn't forecast! The bouncy castles, face painting, china smash, quad bikes, coconut shy, shooting alley and Sonny and Rainbow kept the children entertained all afternoon. The snowboard simulator was extremely popular as the children tried to stay upright on the snowboard as long as possible.

Tom Lane was the eventual winner of a year's free family membership for the Hemel Hempstead snow centre.

Thank you to the WHA for all their hard work in making the event so successful and enjoyable and thank you also to the parents for their generosity and support.

## BETA STORY LAB

The Summer Reading Challenge 2012



"Storylab" ([www.story-lab.org.uk](http://www.story-lab.org.uk)) is the national Summer Reading Challenge for 2012, coordinated by the Reading Agency and aimed at children aged 4-11 years. Through events, activities and incentives in local libraries and an entertaining highly interactive website this scheme encourages children to keep on reading over the long summer break. As you know, we are always looking for innovative ways of encouraging the children to read. This scheme has the added advantage that it should enable the children to maintain their reading levels over the summer and return to school in September with stories to tell about their summer reading, ready to start work again. We will ask the children who complete the challenge to bring their certificates into school at the start of next term so we can celebrate their success with them. To take part in the challenge register at your local public library and receive your free Story Lab model. Don't forget to ask if there are special events or activities over the summer holidays that are relevant to your child's age group.



If you go down to the woods today,  
you're in for a big surprise...

## Teddy Bears' Picnic

Saturday September 15th 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Bear Hunt

Children's Entertainer

Picnic Tea

For children under 5

Telephone or visit our  
website for your ticket  
to reserve your place



Tel. 01442 256143 [www.westbrookhay.co.uk/teddybear](http://www.westbrookhay.co.uk/teddybear)



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

# *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball*

6TH JULY 2013



**Westbrook Hay**  
Prep School

Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to:

**Kate Woodmansee, Westbrook Hay Prep School**

**E-mail: [kate\\_woodmansee@westbrookhay.co.uk](mailto:kate_woodmansee@westbrookhay.co.uk)**