



WHAT A KNIGHT!

Middle School children had great fun preparing for their Christmas performance of What a Knight! A castle full of colourful characters joined in the fun, including precocious princesses, a talking dragon - and not forgetting Merlin and his magic mirror! When young squire Watt Cobblers was expelled from Knight School, he reluctantly became

Merlin's new apprentice. But trouble was never far away, and soon Camelot Castle collapsed into chaos. Merlin lost Excalibur, King Arthur's daughters were kidnapped and his brave knights were turned into chickens. Watt and his new found friends Dusty Dragon and wayward Princess Alice set off on the biggest quest of their lives. But could our

unlikely heroes rescue the princesses, save Excalibur and defeat the evil Black Knight? The answers were found in this magical production, where everyone was guaranteed to sing, dance and laugh... at Camelot! "A play to remember, and well done to all our pupils for such marvellous singing, acting and learning all those lines!" said Mrs Sharp.



On Wednesday 11th December, Lower School held their Christmas Assembly for parents. With a break from tradition this year, each year group of children performed individually. The show began with the Nursery children bravely and happily singing 'When Santa got Stuck up the Chimney' and 'We wish you a merry Christmas', looking very Christmassy in their party clothes! This

LOWER SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY

was followed by Reception, who delighted the audience with their singing and dancing, (and saxophone playing!) in their renditions of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town' and 'Rocking around the Christmas tree.' Finally,

in traditional costumes, Year 1 formed a 'tableau' of the Nativity scene and sang a selection of carols and songs to tell the story of Christmas. They had learnt a lot of words, some of them in French, and they sang very beautifully. The staff were extremely proud of them for the excellent performance they all gave. We hope the parents enjoyed this happy occasion.



BOARDING FUN

Another 'fun-tastic' term of boarding with our new Year 5s eager to find out what it's like 'living' at school for a couple of nights. Year 5 and 6 boys managed to squeeze in a trip to Aquasplash before it closed down. All groups visited Quasar and the X-C is proving to be a popular choice. The Year 5 and 6 girls delighted in caving and high ropes while the Year 7 and 8s also chose high ropes though climbing appealed more than wriggling through small spaces (much to our GAP students' relief!!). Burgers and chips and slush drinks were consumed by one and all and ice cream for those who had a little room left. Thankfully Tuesday night is a little healthier with baked potatoes and a variety of fillings, yoghurt and fruit for supper!



As part of their study of Energy Resources, in October Year 8 visited the RES (Renewable Energy Systems) Head Office at Beaufort Court, in Kings Langley. The low carbon headquarters is a unique site, centred on the old Ovaltine Egg Farm building originally constructed to maximise the benefit of the sun in 1929. At RES the boys learnt how offices, and maybe schools of the future, will be constructed to be Carbon Neutral.

INVESTIGATING RENEWABLES

They were able to see 'first hand' the 225 kW Vestas V29[3] wind turbine and on-site photovoltaic panels. And had a tour of the 170 m² of solar thermal panels and from biomass boiler as well as studying the Miscanthus (energy crop) grown on 5 hectares of the site. After this they were given a series of challenges to solve. Pictured here the boys are constructing a super solar cell.



On Thursday 21st November we set off to Aldwickbury School. The expectation was high as some of the class had participated in a similar challenge in Year 5 the previous February. Although we had had several practices of the afternoon's format in class, pupils found the 'Countdown' section difficult to calculate. We arrived in good time and were amazed at how many local schools, both independent and state were participating. There were 28 local schools in the one section and 27 in the other. We had four pupils working as pairs, two in each. The afternoon was exhausting with a round of fast and furious mental maths, followed by 30 minutes of Countdown challenges, just like the



YEAR 6 RISE TO MATHS CHALLENGE

TV game and finishing with a gruelling problem solving section. Westbrook Hay blue team finished second, just pipped to the post by Prae Wood School. The difference in scores was down to one problem solving question! Well done to Sasha and Alfred for a fantastic performance and Oliver and Molly for trying so hard in the red team too.



THE ART OF SPENCER

Year 8 visited the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham where they were introduced to the life and works of Spencer. Paul Gandridge, a retired headmaster gave an enthralling talk about Spencer and then looked closely at 2 of his paintings. The Year 8 boys were fascinated and asked searching questions about his work. Cookham was the place which inspired the majority of Spencer's works and the children visited the sites where his paintings took place. A fascinating, cross-curricular trip which captured the imagination of all of Year 8.



HINDU TEMPLE VISIT

Year Four enjoyed their annual visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor, the Hare Krishna Temple donated by George Harrison. The trip included a cart-ride pulled by oxen, a tour of the magnificent grounds, dressing up as warriors and gods and face-painting. The children also learned about the various forms of Hindu worship, their beliefs and practices, and daily life at the manor. As usual, the best part was lunch; a tasty paneer curry, which everybody loved!

On Tuesday 5th November Reception had a Festivals and Celebrations WOW Day. The children came to school very excited about the day ahead and couldn't wait to start our party. We started the morning discussing Bonfire Night and this went on to many conversations about fireworks and what noises they made. We also spoke about what the children do when it is a celebration. We all decided dancing, party games and eating cake were a must! The children danced and took part in musical statues, musical bumps and we had a dance competition. We then decorated fairy cakes and finished off our WOW day by making a Guy Fawkes with old clothes and newspaper.

We all had lots of fun and were exhausted after our busy celebration day!



RECEPTION CELEBRATE





WINDSWEPT IN WALES..

Barmouth was the venue for this year's Welsh trip. In early October Year 7 departed for the Welsh hills to measure the profile of rivers, track the route of a glacier, research different forms of power stations and climb Cadir Idris, one

of the tallest peaks in Snowdonia. Congratulations to all the year group for making it to the top in 50 mph gusts; our guide spoke very highly of their team spirit. I suspect the highlight for the pupils were the games of man-hunt on the beach!

..AND A SUNNY CORNBURY PARK

September rolled around again and it meant only one thing- a return to Oxfordshire and the delightful woods of Cornbury Park for a "Thinking Outside" trip! This has become a regular activity for the girls in Years 5 and 6 and is a much enjoyed adventure for both the children and the staff. The opportunity for the girls to bond with each other as they begin working in Upper School is wonderful, being in a different environment and, for many, out of their comfort zone means that they pull together to work as a team. This year the weather meant we had a trip of two halves. Glorious sunshine on the Thursday allowed us a lake swim, something not many of the girls had experienced, while the damper start to Friday gave us the perfect excuse to sit around the fire and try our hand at friendship bracelet making. The food as ever was delicious, the Pannassed Salmon was a particular highlight, and regular intervals of hot chocolate for the girls and tea for the staff kept morale up. We returned to Westbrook tired, happy and definitely in need of a bath!





YEAR 2 FIND OUT ABOUT TOYS FROM THE PAST..

Year 2 had a visit from the St Albans Toy Museum. The children had the opportunity to play with some very old toys. This helped them to understand the many differences between toys of today and toys from the past in relation to the materials they are made from and the mechanisms which make them work.



..WHILE YEAR 3 GO ROMAN

As part of their History topic on the Romans, Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Verulamium Museum in St Albans. The children listened to a talk on Mosaics, completed a quiz sheet whilst walking around the museum and enjoyed a workshop with Roman artefacts and dressing up in the afternoon. It was very interesting and added to their knowledge of the Romans.



DRAMA WORKSHOP

On Friday 18th October Lower School participated in fun imaginative learning sessions with drama workshop company 'Perform'. The children were taken on an adventure to a magical kingdom where they lost themselves in an imaginary world of fairies and knights. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

My first term at Westbrook Hay has been so exciting! I've been made to feel very welcome by staff, children and parents alike and have settled in really quickly. The term started off with a bang as the library held a book fair. This was so wonderfully supported and £1166 was raised in commission for the Library! This has been used to purchase teachers' re-

sources, class readers, dictionaries for Spanish and English, latest releases for the library and books to add to classroom story collections. Money from the WHA was used to buy a set of colourful cushions which have proved very popular in the library! The children enjoy using the library and break times see between

30 and 40 children all using the space for various book related activities. It is an exciting place to be at break times! Library lessons have been very popular too! The children have enjoyed coming to the library on a regular basis to take out books. I encourage them to take one fiction and one nonfiction book each week and the children have steadily become better at remembering to return them! This week the trainee librarians were given their badges and they all have turned up on their allotted days to do their duties. I'm very pleased to have such dedicated helpers! The library isn't just for the children, for the grown ups, there is a book club, which meets every first Wednesday of the month after the coffee morning. We would love some more members! For details, please see the school intranet pages. Indeed, the intranet pages for the library are regularly updated with news and events that are taking place such as the book club chosen book, competitions, how to order books, photos and quotes by the children etc. Please take a look!

Thank you all for your wonderful support this term. Happy reading!

LIBRARIAN MARKS HER PLACE



INTER-HOUSE SPELLING

Once the mid-term break was over the search for the best spellers in each house and year group in Upper School was on to find an overall winning house. The following represented their house in the spelling bee:

	Drake	Marlborough
Year 5	James Woolf	Jaiden Brathwaite
Year 6	Alfred Woolf	Molly Scotchbrook
Year 7	Teddy Grigg	Joshua Tambwe
Year 8	Joshua Kerr	George Stockbridge
	Nelson	Wellington
Year 5	David Kukoyi	Finn Graham
Year 6	Oliver Strowger	Manas Balla
Year 7	Scott Rolfe	Max Robertson
Year 8	Tom Holes	Joe Rabey

After some fierce competition throughout each year group Joe Rabey held his nerve in the tie break to take Wellington House into first place.

1st Wellington

2nd Drake

2nd Marlborough

4th Nelson

BOOK FAIR A GREAT SUCCESS





What does a threshing machine look like? Did the poor Victorians really live in such cramped conditions? What does a tin bath look like? These and many other questions were answered during our annual trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum as part of our studies on Victorian Britain. Pupils had the opportunity to look at a Victorian farm and observe how the farmers of yesteryear operated using such basic but effective machines, tools and buildings. The visit to the High Wycombe Toll House and Leagrave Cottages allowed all to wander through well-preserved buildings and imagine how large families could live in such small confines and cook, share one bedroom, keep warm to mention but a few of the hardships that had to be endured by the poor in the Victorian era.



HOW WE USED TO LIVE



YEAR 6 AT RAF MUSEUM

On Tuesday 26th November Year 6 were taken by Mr Young 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. The museum itself offered the opportunity for the children to

see close up a huge number of and resplendent Aircraft, Air Force trucks, motorbikes, jeeps, personnel and uniforms. They visited 'Bomber Hall' and among many others were able to see and write about a Lancaster Bomber. 'Battle of Britain Hall' gave them the opportunity to see life-sized 'speaking' wax-work models of Winston Churchill and Neville Chamberlain, along with air-raid shelters and bomb sites, V1 and V2 German missiles and the famous Sunderland Flying Boat, and in 'Historic Hangars' the children saw real examples of the earliest planes and other forms of flight. 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. 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 thoroughly enjoyable, educational trip. We've been many times before with our Year 6s and we'll definitely be back again next autumn.

RECEPTION TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

On Monday 23rd September Reception were very lucky to go on a Teddy Bears' Picnic to Ashridge woods. We all invited our favourite teddy bears to spend the day with us. Reception made their own picnic and packed their lunchbox themselves. Once we were at Ashridge we made a bear den, went on a bear walk and then sat down and ate our delicious picnic. The bears all had lots of fun and were VERY sleepy when we got back to school!



CHOIR SINGS AT ALBERT HALL

25 children from WBH Chamber Choir sang Handel's Messiah in the Royal Albert Hall on 1st December. The English Festival Orchestra & 1000 young singers were conducted by Susie Digby OBE in the first ever Scratch Youth Messiah. Children gave up a full Sunday to rehearse for nearly 2 hours, have lunch next to Prince Albert's Memorial and then perform a 2.15pm concert. Some parents said it was the best performance of Messiah they'd ever been to. Thank you to Mrs Brown, Mrs Harris and Ally, who also gave up their Sunday to help out. WaterAid organised 1000 singers from age 6 to 18 to share the hall singing with professional soloists. There are a few extra programmes with singers' names in, in case you hadn't bought one for your child. It was great day for our year 4 to 7s.



CHILDREN SING FOR THE ELDERLY

A big thank you to the Chamber Choir, staff and parents who visited the elderly people at Robin Hood House in Little Gaddesden. The children sang their Christmas carols beautifully to the elderly in the lounge but it was also lovely that those who were bed-bound could hear the children's voices too.

The House Music Finale was a red hot competition, featuring some of the best musicians and singers from each house, namely:

Nelson: William Jones; Eve Wise; a duo Benjamin Wagstaff & Finn Bullen **Marlborough:** Tegan Howard; Angus Coles; Dominic Pratt **Wellington:** A Year 5 'pop' band including Max Bustamante-Macaire, Rebecca Pratt, Harriet Rabey & Max Delyfer; Zoe Jones; Dominic Hampstead **Drake:** Rory Hall; William Upson; Anna Powell

It was difficult for Mr Young to decide as the competition was just so good, but the chorister sounds from Rory singing Goodall's 'The Lord's My Shepherd' were so much like the real Cathedral he had to be chosen as a winner. But then William's incredibly fast fingers running over Mozart's 1st movement of 'Sonata in C' were also too impressive to ignore. Also Dominic

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION



Hampstead's brassy tones on the trumpet moving us with 'Skyfall' we're too powerful to ignore, so in the end they all jointly won the Senior House Cup, and very deservedly so! Anna Powell was a clear winner from among the Juniors moving many to tears with her evocative 'I Dreamed a Dream' from Les Miserables and taking the Junior House Cup.

A combination of Ballet, Jazz, Modern and Street Dance was performed by the 170 boys and girls that took part in the annual Dance Display. The Ballet School danced beautifully and with such grace to the Russian composer, Prokofiev's 'The Winter Bonfire'. The classes from Nursery to Year 2 performed their enchanting dances to the music of 'The

Lion King', bringing to life the character of the animals. The older children 'rocked the hall' with their modern moves to the music from the rock band Queen, with songs such as 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and 'Bicycle'. For the Finale the parents gave a standing ovation to 'We will Rock You' and 'We are the Champions'. Many commented that this

was the best Dance Display they'd seen at the school and a teacher from the Arts School in Tring said it was "all quite brilliant". Mrs Henderson commented, "I am so proud of the children and of how hard they have worked in the preceding weeks to put on such a fabulous display." Well done to everyone involved

WINTER BONFIRE BROUGHT TO LIFE



All the children in the school entered a competition run by Proffitt and Holt Estate Agents in Berkhamsted to draw or paint a picture of a building in Berkhamsted. The winning pictures have been used to produce calendars with proceeds from the sale of these being donated to the Hospice of St Francis. The calendars are being sold in Berkhamsted at Scoops, No 20 in Lower Kings Road and Mr Simms the sweet shop. There are three calen-

dars for three different age groups. We are delighted that some of our childrens' work has been chosen to appear in the calendars. The pictures are wonderful.

3 – 5 year olds

Annabel Charman
Henry Kirkbride
Freddie Bell

6 – 9 year olds

Thomas Kendall
Hugo McLennan
Satvik Sinha

YOUNG ARTISTS WORK CHOSEN FOR CALENDAR

JANUARY'S PICTURE IS BY GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE



10 – 13 year olds

George Stockbridge
Freddie Stoner-Redfern
Ethan Ivory
Edward Bryant
Billy Boot
Billie Busari
Alfred Woolf
Toby Russell
Scott Rolfe
Rory Hall
Max Dewick
Jerry St Hilaire



On Saturday 9th November, the U10 squad of Emily Green, Sophie Smith, Harriet Rabey, Leah Yiannopoulos, Tegan Howard, Rebecca Pratt, Elizabeth Laphorne and Lois Robinson played extremely well in the Heath Mount Netball Tournament. Out of

four matches played in their section, they won 2 and drew 2, only conceding 1 goal throughout. They finished in 2nd place to receive their runners up medals. Leah Yiannopoulos was nominated as 'Player of the Tournament'.



All the girls have enjoyed their netball this term and every girl has played in a team to represent the school.

The U9A & B and U8 netball teams have had some exciting and close matches. The Year 3 girls have made great progress to develop their skills and are learning the positions of the 7-a-side game. Four Year 3 girls - Isabella Hemmingway, Charlotte Green, Julia Mason and

Maya Delyfer have also played up to support the U9B team.

The U9A team have gone from strength to strength. Grace Botha moves to find space to receive the ball in the shooting circle and along with Pippi Stangoe, their shooting averages are getting higher; Victoria



NETBALL

The U11 and U10 teams have also had wins during this term with some closely fought matches that could have gone either way. Charlotte Payne has captained the U11A team and motivated them during this season. All girls have again played in school matches and the U10 girls have at times shown their strength by playing and winning against an U11 team.

Elizabeth Laphorne (Year 5) has played a lot of the season up in the U11A team and made a huge difference in strengthening their defence. Well done also to Elizabeth, who attended trials and has made it into the Dacorum Year 5 Youth Netball team.

We also say a fond farewell to Harriet Rabey who leaves us at the end of term. Harriet has enjoyed this term of netball and we wish her every success for the future.



Kelly is a strong linking player in the centre court and she chases down every ball to gain possession and Imogen Cochran who joined the team this term, has such enthusiasm and drive which has made a huge difference in attack. The three defensive players Evie Lyons, Eve Wise and Ally Mecklenburgh have also tightened up on their marking. Working hard and putting all the skills and techniques into practice throughout matches has helped the team to gel. Well done girls.

Pat Brown



Fantastic news reached David Burnell and BJ Busari as they were successful in gaining selection to the ISFA Herts and Essex U13 Representative team. Following two rounds of trials in November, the boys were selected to the

squad. The Representative team will attend the ISFA U13 national festival between 5th-7th April 2014 at Shrewsbury School, which we wish the boys the best in. Congratulations on what is a superb achievement!

INTER-SCHOOL 6 A-SIDE CHAMPIONS

Our U13s were victorious in the inter-school 6-a-side festival we hosted shortly before the regional event. With each school fielding both A and B sides it meant a show of solidarity was important and our boys played some excellent football along the way to win it.



BURNELL AND BUSARI RECEIVE REP SQUAD CALL-UP

The 1st team have enjoyed an excellent term as they progressed through to secure an **unbeaten season**. The football that has been played has been the best I have seen from a WBH team in my time with some fantastic, quick and incisive passing and moving. We

really hit the heights in our final three games, scoring 11 goals in wins over Lochinver, Beechwood and Lockers. BJ Busari hit double figures for goals in a season, a rare feat for any 1st team player. Along with Captain Alex Wilkinson, they were the driving forces

behind the team but to produce the football we have done, we required the whole team and all of the boys have contributed. Tom Holes has notably improved and been a rock at the back. David Burnell hasn't been too busy in goal but, when called upon, has been up to the task and his distribution has been a huge weapon for us. Scott Rolfe has been another to flourish in midfield but contributions from Ben Fuller, Joe Rabey, Joshua Tambwe and Freddie Redfern have not gone unnoticed. Harvey Graham, James Holden and Josh Yeo have also made great strides. We moved to a new venue for the IAPS U13 regional event, where we have had notable success over recent times. We probably didn't reach the heights we know we could and just fell short of reaching the final, losing only to the two finalists Hall Grove and Millfield, both by a single goal. This was disappointing at the time but at the recent National Finals, Millfield were victorious with Hall Grove losing out in the semi-finals so this puts our efforts in to a better perspective. All in all, a terrific term from the boys. Well done! Stuart Stedman

FIRSTS UNBEATEN THIS SEASON





The Colts A have had a very impressive term of football, with a very comfortable win on the opening day against Aldwickbury the boys continued to improve and develop into an exciting team, playing entertaining football and becoming a difficult side to beat. Finn Graham was excellent in goal, a fantastic shot stopper and brilliant with his distribution of the ball. Our captain Harry McHugh and Max Dewick both worked tirelessly in defence, forming an excellent partnership. Harry led the team magnificently, with his knowledge and experience showing throughout the term. Max Bustamante, James Mason and Toby Dewick caused teams many problems from the wings, with all three of them creating and scoring a number of important goals for the team. Max Dellyer showed his class and composure in the centre of midfield with a number



of fantastic performances, also providing the team with many goals and assists. Freddie Moriarty, playing as a lone striker, worked extremely hard for the team, holding up the ball well and creating chances for others whilst

scoring some excellent goals himself. Josh Rambalski was another excellent addition to the squad, joining us half way through the term. Josh played in a number of positions and became another key member of the team. We had one heavy defeat against Heath Mount when the boys started slowly and their heads dropped after a couple of early goals. However, in true Colts A fashion the boys picked themselves up, worked hard and finished the term well. The boys also won the Independent Schools Football Association regional tournament to become Herts & Essex champions, a fantastic achievement. They will now play in the National Finals in April, which we are all very excited about. Well done boys, you should be really proud of what you have achieved this term!

COLTS FOOTBALL



A sporadic term for the Colts Bs. While we played solidly as a unit the results never really seemed to come our way. The stats are; played 10, won 3, drawn 1, lost 6. Although these results don't flatter us they also don't tell the whole story. A number of our losses were close games and had lady luck been on our side the number of defeats would have certainly been less. The boys worked hard and with a

number of the boys being Year 5 I look forward to next season when they will form a strong back bone to the team. Playing regularly for the Bs were - Jonah Levy, Alfred Woolf (GK), Charlie Woodmansee, Harrison Hobbs, Ben Oldham, Henry Sheasby, David Kukoyi. The following represented the Colts C team: Jaiden Brathwaite, Dillon Hobbs, Ethan Ivory, Freddie Lane, Henry Spicers, Harvey Stangoe, Sasha

Stojilkovic, Oliver Strowger, Jackson Stuart, Lomax Tannett, Ben Templeton and Oliver Turner. This was a season of mixed fortunes for the C team. At times we played with fluency and style as was the case in the triangular tournament at Manor Lodge and against Lockers Park. On the other side of the coin there were times when we were not quite the cohesive unit we wanted to be. All in all there were plenty of



great individual and team performances to provide some memorable moments. The great thing about this year was half of the D's got the chance to play for the C's at some stage this term and a couple from the E's had an opportunity to move up for an afternoon too. As always the team played

with great enthusiasm and showed wonderful sportsmanship after both losing and winning. The following played for the Colts D: Callum Angel, Jaiden Brathwaite, Ethan Ivory, Freddie Lane, Kieran London, Harry Oldham, Henry Spiers, Jackson Stuart, Laurie Stredwick, Ben Templeton, Oli-

ver Turner, James Wise and James Woolf. The Colts E and F teams were delighted to have a full fixture list and they played in a number of exciting games. Most important of all they all enjoyed themselves. We finished on a winning note beating our arch rivals Lockers Park. Well done to everyone who participated.

2ND, 3RD AND 4TH TEAM FOOTBALL



The 2nd team have had a most successful season winning 6 out of 8 matches and only losing 1. At times the team played some excellent football culminating in some most memorable goals. Joshua Kerr returned in goal for a second season and captained the side and it was so rewarding for him and the other Year 8 players who had suffered some fairly hefty defeats last season. For much of the

season we had Billy Boot and Will Upton (better known amongst the team as the "Twin Towers") as the backs but Alex Martindale and Ed Bryant joined the team late in the season. As ever it was the mid field that created many of our goal scoring chances and Harvey Graham (before he was "sold" to the 1st XI!), Toby Russell, Daniel Morrissey, Max Robertson and Jacob



Winter-Brown were our ball players and up front we had the duo of Jerry St Hilaire and Stuart Finn who scored 17 of our 27 goals between them. Tom Wright also played a pivotal role wide on the right hand side for most of the games and super sub Jamie Rowley moving from goalkeeper for the 3rd team to centre forward for the 2nds scored 1 goal in his two appearances. It was a thoroughly enjoyable season and we had a super home and away following from our loyal band of Mums. Congratulations to all the boys and especially to the skipper, Jerry St Hilaire our top scorer and Max Robertson the player of the season. We were very lucky in having a large number of fixtures for both the 3rd and 4th V11's this term. It gave every boy the chance to represent the school, most playing in the 3rd team at some point. I have to report, though, that we did find it challenging and were often playing against boys considerably better than ourselves. However, we stuck at it and towards the end of the season there was evidence that all aspects of our game was improving, especially passing and positional play. We finished the season with two narrow 2-1 defeats which was very encouraging.





UNDER 9 FOOTBALL

It's certainly been a good term for football at Westbrook this year and the Under 9 As have proved to be equally impressive as the Colts A and 1st team, playing some fantastic football this term. The As won both their festivals here and at Heath Mount and lost only one game out of the twelve in which they played. The side showed no real weakness and was led excellently from the back by captain, Elliot Scott who formed a solid partnership with Joshua Odegbami. Ibrahim Busari was our conductor in midfield and he was ably assisted out wide by Will Smooker and Henry Stoner-Redfern. Edward Desert



scored a number of goals, including a hat-trick against Manor Lodge in our 7-0 win. Although, Alec Jones wasn't too busy in goal, he still pulled off a number of impressive saves. We've fielded six sides in this age group, in which all

of the boys have played. Other highlights were the B team's festival win here along with their 7-0 win over Aldwickbury. Harry Tannett, Finnlee Ferguson, Henry Maidoh and Joss Howard starring for them in a team which contained four Year 3 boys. The Under 9 C, D, E and F teams have shown great progress over the term. All of the boys have had a chance to play in matches against other schools over the term and we have certainly won more games than we have lost. We have worked a lot on our passing and moving this term, looking to keep possession of the ball and play as a team. We have also looked at the different positions within a team and the roles and responsibilities of each position. The boys have worked very hard and have grasped the game very well. All of the boys have behaved well and played some excellent football, setting a great example for Westbrook Hay.

BASKETBALL

The basketball squad have had two matches this season so far and we have really stepped up a gear. Almost all of last year's players are still available and have benefited considerably from all the practice they got last year. Our first match was away at Orley Farm, unbeaten for 26 matches and a team who thrashed us last year. We took the game to them and triumphed 17 - 12. We then went over to Lockers Park, not such a professional team but sound by any standards, and beat them 26 - 18. So, unbeaten so far this season and more matches to come. It is sad to say goodbye to Joe Rabey as he has been a key member of the team.





WELSH RUGBY GIANT VISITS SCHOOL

Our First XV squad for 2013-14 trained together for the first time this week and were amazed to find a Welsh rugby legend there to take the session. Michael Owen a former captain of Wales and British and Irish Lion, helped the boys with their running and movement with and without the ball. He then went over to the Colts session to help with their training.



TABLE TENNIS CLUB



As ever the Table Tennis Club met on a Thursday evening and it was noticeable to see how the standard of play has improved during the term. Mr Finn was able to come in and pass on valuable tips to the boys on a few occasions which was very much appreciated. We played two matches against Edge Grove who have an army of excellent players so it can be difficult to pitch two even teams but in the second match at the beginning of December we returned late into the night with 4 trophies! Joshua Kerr, who has been a regular in the team for a number of years, was a group winner as were Stuart Finn, Henry Johnston and Jackson Stuart. Henry has had his trophy pretty close to him ever since!

SWIMMING SUCCESS GROWING

We won the A team gala against Aldwickbury earlier in the term due to some very impressive performances. We had a healthy lead after the opening relays and then Charlie Woodman-see and Rebecca Pratt kicked off the individual races by finishing 1st and 2nd in the backstroke. There were further wins for Harvey Stangoe, William Jones and Tom Wright among others in what proved to be a super afternoon of swimming. Well done to the squad. The B team also faced Aldwickbury and although we narrowly lost, we enjoyed a number of victories in both individual and relay events. Jaiden Brathwaite and Scott Rolfe showed



great pace in their races while Anna Powell and Lomax Tannett won their breaststroke races, Ella McLoughlin and Charlotte Payne won their free-style events with James Woolf victorious in backstroke. There were a num-

ber of relay wins with a huge victory coming in the final race, the squadron relay. A number of pupils were swimming in their first galas and did both themselves and the school proud.

The Charities Committee has had a busy term of events, raising money for this year's chosen charity "Children in Need". We started with a Bag2school collection with very generous donations of second hand clothes and toys which raised almost £500. Next it was "Pudsey Day", with the Lower School hosting our Pudsey Bear coin collection and a cake sale. Many thanks to Donna Milnes for the wonderful giant Pudsey Bears! This raised a further £495. Finally the

CHARITY EVENTS

members of the Committee organised a fabulous range of activities in the DT lab during the Christmas Fayre, all costing 50p. Our takings for the afternoon were £112. This means we are already over half way to our target of £2,000! Thank you so much to all your very generous support!



The children, parents and staff enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Fair this year raising around £3,000 for the WHA. Thank you to the parents for their incredible generosity with some exceptional donations and also helping on the day. The Headmaster's hampers were spectacular with some wonderful gifts for family and friends, the cake stall was overflowing with homemade delicacies

CHRISTMAS FAIR ATTRACTS BIG CROWDS

and the bottle tombola sold out before the end of the day. The children's DT stall which was selling their creative masterpieces was also sold out! The Association has raised almost £5,000 this term with your help and we are able to announce that this has been donated towards a new school minibus which should be in use very soon. Happy Christmas to you all.

Year 7 worked in teams to batch produce products for the Christmas fayre and made £195 in total. Projects ranged from mug mats and candle holders to tree decorations. (right)



FIREWORK SPECTACULAR

We had another great evening at our Firework Spectacular on Saturday 9th November. The dry weather brought out the crowds and we estimated 637 attendees close to our best ever of 650, thank you for your continued support of this event. Chef Graeme used a new food supplier this year and everyone agreed that the sausages and rolls were amazing. We changed the mulled wine recipe and ran out; we will definitely have more next year and will be trying out some mulled cider too. Richard Sayers and David Handscombe who have now run this event for 22 years put on another great show. It takes them all day on Saturday to set up but their hard work is definitely worthwhile as the display, as ever, was great. The WHA would like to thank all of the WBH staff who came in and helped with the food, refreshments and marshalling, Chef Graeme for preparing the food, and Eamon and the maintenance team for getting everything ready and clearing up afterwards.

Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to:

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