



The Lower School children performed a wonderful traditional nativity this week. All the children featured in the event and learnt their lines so well. Ibrahim Busari, who was Joseph, sang a beautiful solo – 'Little children Wake and Listen.'

THE CHRISTMAS STORY



We are pleased and proud to announce, that following his partaking in national auditions, our Head Boy and Orchestra Leader, Marcus Daghljan has been awarded a place with the National Children's Chamber Orchestra for this year. Congratulations Marcus!

MARCUS SELECTED FOR



Photograph by Hamish Michie

CINDERELLA and ROCKERFELLA

Middle School children thoroughly enjoyed learning their lines and songs for our production of Cinderella this year. There were fantastic costumes and great make up to accompany the animated children. Several children sang solos beautifully. Middle School staff were delighted with all of the children's efforts.

The Town Crier, (William), Cinderella (Lara) and Rockerfella (Ewan) pictured on stage during the dress rehearsal

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer



Westbrook
Hay



School
Council



This term we set up a School Council to enable pupils in the school to address areas which are important to them. Each class elected a pupil to represent them on the School Council and a School election took place for the positions of Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Photographs of all members of the Council can be seen on the intranet and in the display cabinet in the Assembly-hall. Congratulations to Marcus Daghljan, Hugh Kelly and Peter Burnett for being elected.

The Year 7 Geography field trip was blessed by extraordinarily fine weather (the Welsh would probably have us believe that it is always beautifully sunny every day!). Although the Saturday trip up Cader Idris was tackled in very strong winds the views as ever, were stunning. There was an interesting development, however, for our beach study. The plan was to compare the beaches at Fairbourne and Tywyn to investigate why Tywyn Beach has groynes. All went well at Fairbourne as all the tests produced the expected results, but our efforts at Tywyn were thwarted as the beach was closed due to major developments. The groynes had been removed and rocks and boulders were being strategically placed on the beach to break up the movement of beach material. Nobody from the council had told Mr Hill! On the Sunday we retraced the course of a glacier and then moved on to our big project of the week to study the mountain stream. The river was in perfect shape for us to do a full study and some good results have been obtained for the Common Entrance projects. Monday again supplied perfect weather and a lasting memory of the trip will be the view up to the top of Snowdon on a sunny, cloudless day; oh and the ice cream van! Finally we ended up on Harlech Beach to be greeted by sunshine and still conditions – perfect for a short dip!

7M IN WALES



YEAR 3 SCIENTISTS

Zoe Jones, Olivia Boyle and Grace Hunt searching the soil for living things during Science work at the Boxmoor Trust this term



ALL THINGS ROMAN

Year 3 visited the Verulamium Museum in St.Albans and they explored the many interactive exhibits that dealt with the era of Roman Britain including Boudicca's battles, Roman religion and artefact handling where we not only handled items that were 2,000 years old but some pupils were able to dress up in Roman costumes. A very enjoyable day!



TOYS FROM THE PAST

As part of our history work about toys we had a visit from St Albans Museum. We were able to look at the differences between old and new toys. We also found out how the lives of children in the past were different from our own. In class we learnt about the history of the teddy bear, and Mrs Stockbridge came in to show us how traditional Teddy bears are made.



CHILTERN OPEN-AIR MUSEUM

As part of our studies on the Victorians, Year 5 made their annual visit to Chiltern Open Air Museum. In the morning pupils experienced what it was like to be taught in a Victorian School – discipline, cleanliness, repeating their tables, writing in copy books, adding up in pounds, shillings and pence and.....not least some of the punishments and gadgets used to keep children in order! The year group also



spent time in the Victorian farmyard where they were able to compare this with farming today, especially the buildings and machinery. Perhaps the highlight of the day was the session on Victorian toys where everyone got a chance to play with some of the toys of a bygone era. Undoubtedly the favourite was the hoop and stick!

Monday 4th October saw the start of English Week, with many exciting English themed lessons, National Poetry Day work, the book fair and much, much more. The Book Elves in Year 6 and 8 were very busy reading to younger children and helping collect the books so kindly donated by Westbrook Hay families towards the 'Book-ed In' scheme. Over 400 books were collected and have now been distributed to class libraries to boost the selection available. Thank you to everyone who donated books!

ENGLISH WEEK

The Book Fair held during English Week was fantastically supported and raised £1200 in commission which has been used to purchase books for the school library and classrooms, thank you very much to everyone who came along.



STANLEY SPENCER OF COOKHAM



Year 8 had the wonderful opportunity to explore the art and life of Sir Stanley Spencer and the lovely village of Cookham. Spencer was born in Cookham in 1891, and lived most of his life considering it 'a village in Heaven' he loved it that much. From a very young age Spencer showed incredible artistic talent and he went on to become a member of The Royal Academy, which today remains the highest accolade an artist can have. The Year 8 boys listened to a very interesting talk on Stanley Spencer given in the gallery itself, looked round the various paintings, drawings, exhibitions and sculptures also within, then explored the village, looking at significant buildings and discussing related artwork and story ideas. The day ended with a visit to Sir Stanley Spencer's grave, the lovely Holy Trinity Church, and a walk up the River Thames before heading back to school.
Julie Leach



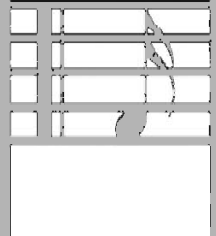
Photograph by Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson

DANCE DISPLAY 2010

Yet again we've had a year of great success with the Westbrook Hay Dance Display. The opening ceremony was a fashion show, giving the children great confidence along the catwalk. This year the theme for the ballet was Coppelia, a doll, which was represented by Alexandra Caine. She danced her solo beautifully, and Mr Wagstaff, our Director of Music also performed his role as Dr Coppelius with great skill. All the toys from Dr Coppelius' workshop were also danced with great confidence. These were performed by children from Swallows, Reception and Year 1 Ballet School, with especially good numbers of boys who have joined the ballet school. The Waltz was danced as a solo by Alexandra Caine, involving difficult steps which she performed with grace and accuracy. This year I was very lucky to have a very special and confident boy, Jonah Levy. Jonah showed good signs of elevation as he performed the Mazurka with Years 3 and 4 ballet group. There are also some rising ballet stars in Year 2. The rest of the show demonstrated good variation too. Robins and Swallows dance classes were very entertaining. A new group of boys performed a 'boys only' dance from Year 3, showing their great abilities. The group of Years 5 and 6 performing a 'boys only' dance worked extremely well as a group, too. The remainder of the show was danced to music from Abba. Children from Reception up to Year 6 were dancing to all of Abba's greatest hits, with the great finale being Year 6's dance to 'Waterloo'. Every child enjoyed the rehearsals and the opportunity to dance on the stage in front of the school and the parents. Well done to all of you. Watch this space for next year. Mrs Henderson



Music



This term, at the music department, has been a busy one. The musical enthusiasm in Year 8 has spread with the emergence of a new Year 8 musical group with lead vocalist, Peter Burnett, William Winter-Brown on bass guitar, Hugh Kelly on the keyboard and James Roberts on the drums. We also have an enthusiastic 'hand bells' group

kindly run by Mrs Bassett. The orchestra performed at the music concert and the choir are working hard for the Carol Concert with some very special solos from children in years 2-8. The music department has seen a significant increase in the number of children having peripatetic lessons this term, which is wonderful. Learning a

musical instrument is both a joy and a discipline which develops character as well as musical appreciation. ABRSM grades can also help with Scholarships to your child's next school as well earn UCAS points for University entrance. I would encourage every child to discover music for themselves and for their future.



AUTUMN TERM BOARDING

Boarding trips this term have proved to be as popular as ever. The girls opted for Aquasplash for their first trip – enjoying an hour in the pool sliding down flumes and bobbing along in big rubber rings; joined by Jane, our GAP student while Miss Whitehead enjoyed a poolside 'sauna!' The boys enjoyed a competitive 'round' at the driving range at Top Golf in Watford followed by football on the wide screen TV and a party food supper. A favourite with all is go-karting. Two intense 15 minute sessions take place at Rogue Racing in Aylesbury as the children hone their driving skills, competing for the fastest lap of the evening - mostly won by Jane much to Aden's (and the boys') despair!

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

National Poetry Day on Thursday 7th October, saw many excellent poems written. The favourite entry came from Shri Lekkala in Year 6, who wrote the following 'Home' themed poem:

Home is where you feel your best,
Home is where you can have a rest.
Home is where you can amaze,
Home is where your heart stays.

Home is the place your memories are,
Home just makes you feel like a star.
Home is where you can drift into a dream,
Home is where you can just scream!

Home is not just for a day,
Home is where you feel okay.
Home is a wonderful treat,
Home makes you as a person, complete.

Home is where you can settle your nerves,
Home is a place everyone deserves.
Home is where you can get some peace,
Home is where you can see your niece.

Home is a mighty long tale,
Home is where you can just exhale.
Home is where one and another can meet,
Home is where you can put up your feet.



At the first Golden Assembly of the year, over 30 children came up to receive their certificates for taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge held in public libraries over the summer, a big leap in numbers from the previous year and a sign that parents are taking on board the message that it is important to keep your children reading during the long summer break to maintain their reading development.



THIS YEAR'S CHARITY

This year's chosen charity is the PACE Centre in Aylesbury. We have already raised about £270 through our stall at the Christmas Fayre and collections after our Harvest Festival, music concert and Middle School production of Cinderella. Thank you so much to all those who have supported us and to my fabulous committee who worked so hard preparing the Christmas Fayre activities.



HINDU TEMPLE VISIT

Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor, a Hindu temple. They spent the day dressing in saris, learning about various Hindu beliefs and practices and enjoyed a fantastic curry lunch.



FIRST X1 FOOTBALL

The 1st team has enjoyed a fantastic term. Led superbly by the ever-encouraging Jasper Exley, the side has gone through the term unbeaten which is a rare feat for a prep school side. The driving force of the side was undoubtedly the centre of midfield where Jasper and Lanre Ladipo were too strong for any team that we came up against. George Lewarne controlled the defence with great communication and alongside Reece Pitaman-Wilcock they set the example to others by hitting tackles, winning headers and making blocks. On the goals front, after a steady start, Scott Wilson flourished as the centre forward linking up the play excellently but it was Lanre who took centre stage here with a couple of cracking 25 yarders! Seun Koya also got in on the act with some great finishes and assists with beautiful touches in and around the area. While we were unlucky at the Regional



Sixes (topped our group and looked like favourites to win, we then had a 1hr 45min break which meant come the knock-out games we had 'lost our legs!') but in the 11-a-side version of the game have had some great wins

- 8-2 at Beechwood, 7-2 v Edge Grove and winning at Lockers after playing with 10-men for most of the second half - due to an injury and not a red card - was special! Well done to the whole squad!



COLTS A FOOTBALL

The Colts A have had a fantastic season winning all but one of their games mostly by a significant margin. The one loss was a magnificent game ending 4-3 to Edge Grove, with us hitting the post twice! The team was led by Jack Wadmore who was our midfield general. His reading and

passing was exceptional. Up front William Alexander scored 19 goals including numerous hat tricks. In midfield Ed Khan scored a number goals while Billy Busari's exceptional skills were often the topic of conversation from opposition coaches and parents. In defence Oreofe Akinseye

and Alex Wilkinson proved to be tough opponents to break down. Few teams created many scoring opportunities and when they did, Ben Yeo was there to pull off acrobatic saves. The team has qualified for the county finals which will be played in January.

The matches on the U9 A and B team circuit have all been extremely close affairs and consequently great games in which to be involved. This is not demonstrated more by both the A and B sides winning their respective festivals in the first half of term and then drawing most of their matches second time around! The A side, captained by Josh Yeo, have played some impressive passing football with Harvey Graham and Freddie Redfern being the engine room in midfield. Luca Murphy, the only Year 3 in the team, dazzled us from time to time with some great runs down the left flank – he'll be a real asset next year while Jacob Winter-Brown improved game by game as our keeper! Josh though was the man we looked to for goals and he was consistent at hitting the net although



UNDER 9 FOOTBALL

one of the best goals came from Stuart Finn to clinch a last minute draw v Edge Grove! Joshua Tambwe captained the Bs and he was the driving force behind this team and could count himself unlucky not to have featured for the A side. Daniel Morrissey, our 'Player of the Tournament' at Heath Mount and general workhorse, was also a vital player. The boys had a good term here too – with the obvious highlight coming in the festival. The C, D and E teams have also involved themselves in a number of matches. Tight games against Aldwickbury, Lockers and others have seen OJ Strowger, William Jones, Max Terzza and Toby Daghlian flourish. Well done to everyone who played!

The Colts B had a fantastic first term, developing into a well organised and entertaining football team. Matthew Smith, a fantastic shot stopper, who always commanded his box and kept the defenders on their toes had a great term in goal. Some great saves from Matthew kept us in a couple of games that we then went on to win. In James Holden, Jamie Turner and James Young we had three tenacious

COLTS B and C and 2nd X1FOOTBALL

As the results indicate this has been one of the most successful Colts C teams in recent years with our only loss being against a very skilful and quick Heath Mount side. That aside, the team have improved in all areas playing some excellent passing football. Luca, playing at left midfield, always worried the opposition with his crosses and his goal against Francis House turned the match in our favour. William, our centre forward, became

September seems a long time ago now and the worry after our first match was that the 2nd XI were going to struggle this year. Indeed were we even going to score a goal! It is now December and winter has set in and the team can look back on a season of steady improvement, becoming a much more competitive unit. Our best performance was in the first half against a very good Beechwood Park team. We had scored the best goal of the season and were holding them to 1-1 and to have imagined this performance back at the beginning of

defenders who made sure every game was difficult for the opposing strikers. The midfield included Dominic Young, Rueben Redfern and the free scoring Luke Woodmansee who battled hard with striker Joseph Rabey for the golden boot. Joseph scored a number of great goals from positions you wouldn't think it was possible to score from. It was his hard work as a lone striker and the creativity of the midfield trio that enabled us to score so many well worked goals. The 4-1 win against Aldwickbury in our first

more and more of a threat and was one of our leading scorers. In defence Thomas proved to be absolutely solid with his hard, well-timed tackles and clearance kicks. In midfield Hamish always troubled the opposition with his competitiveness and desire to have the ball. Our goal keeper Joshua was brave and dominant in his area; his fearless save in the return match against Lockers Park ensured that we went onto to win comfortably. Key to the team's performances was Freddie's presence in the centre of midfield. Justin's dependability on the right of mid-

term would have been folly. We also performed our own version of the "Great Escape" at Kingshott. Picture the scene, we were 1 down after 10 seconds and 3-0 down with 10 minutes to go and yet somehow we managed to battle back for a draw with William Wallis scoring in the last minute to level the scores following goals from Adam Ripper and Ewan Phillips. Our first win was a comfortable 2-0 at Heath Mount and this was the day we began to believe we could compete. But to return to the wonder goal! It was finished by a simple tap in by Yusuf Hasnain, but it all began defending a corner.

game of the term and the 3-2 win over Lockers Park later in the term were memorable. We had a couple of games that didn't go our way and one or two where we didn't perform to our full potential but the players would always turn up for training the next week willing to knuckle down and work hard to improve on their game, both as individuals and as a team. Fantastic term boys, you should all be extremely proud of your performances!

field always gave the team the required balance in both defence and attack. Also in defence was Tom whose engine never faded; his ability to throw the ball an incredible distance always put the opposition under pressure. Very well done to one and all and thank you to the parents for their wonderful support in all matches! Played 6 Won 5 Lost 1 The following represented the team: Luca Cecere, William Copas Budd, Thomas Holes, Joshua Kerr, Hamish Michie, Freddie Smith-Wright, Justin Upson and Tom Wright.

The move involved several passes with the opposition unable to get anywhere near the ball and Storm Fachaux-Davies supplying the final pass. It was like watching Brazil! The boys deserve much credit for their efforts. The Team: Leon Sui, Elliot Coulling (1 Goal), Oliver Floyd (Captain), Kim Moessi, Matt Tse, Ewan Phillips (2 Goals), Yusuf Hasnain (1 Goal), Sam Phillips, Zac Mills (1 Goal), William Wallis (2 Goals), Adam Ripper (1 Goal), Marcus Daghlian, Tom Stewart, Storm Fachaux-Davies. Played 7 Won 1 Drew 2 Lost 4



The school netball season started well – to some degree it has necessitated a mix of age groups within teams.

Molly Scotchbrook, Grace Hunt and Olivia Boyle all Year 3 girls have broadened their knowledge by playing up in the U9B team; Alice Ripper, Molly Custance and Georgia Hurley in Year 4 have complimented the U10 teams and Kathryn James and Naomi Bassett have taken turns at filling positions for the U11 side. The U11 girls although few in number have learnt to rotate positions depending on their opposition and have now a greater understanding of the demands needed within the team to function at a consistent level. Natasha Tenty has been captain of the team throughout the season and always gives 100% effort when she plays.



NETBALL

The U10s have had excellent results against strong opposition and two matches from the latter stages of their fixtures stood out. The first was

against Beechwood Park when the U10A team won 7-5 with strong defending from Mary Enweremadu and consistent shooting from Ellie Hunt;

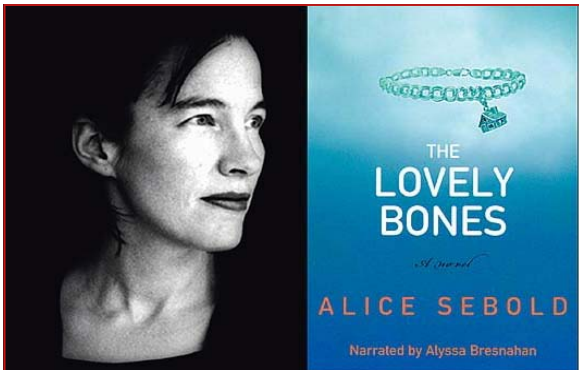
the second was against Swanbourne House where the A team had a thrilling game resulting in a win 9-3 and again an excellent display of how to mark your player from Mary Enweremadu. There was superb movement in the goal third and accurate shooting from Alex Caine who also received 'Player of the Match' for her efforts; the B team similarly achieved a win 11-0 with the whole team playing really well together. They have certainly all raised their game and with team positions better suited, their confidence and team spirit has been high. The Year 4 girls (U9s) had some super games at the very start of term when they played in the Chesham Prep tournament, the A team just missing out on 3rd place by a point to finish 4th but the B team finished 2nd and were presented with certificates. Well done to Alice Ripper who has been a valued member of the U10 squad when not playing U9 matches. All the Year 3 girls (U8s) have enjoyed the opportunity to play in school matches – they had an exciting game against Francis House which finished in a goalless draw but the girls all enjoyed the occasion. Pat Brown





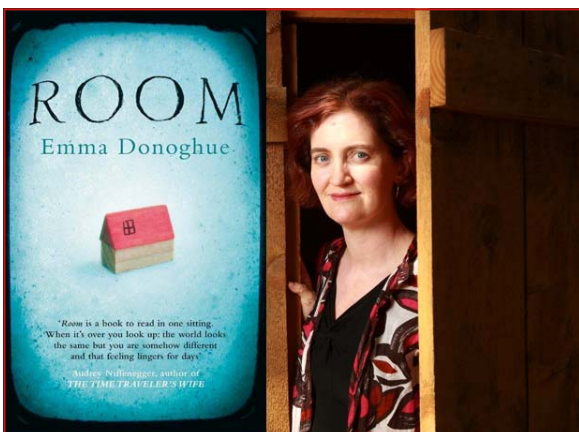
Mrs. Keer explains to parents how to help with reading

We held a short informative session which included video clips, activities, ideas and discussion about how to make reading a positive and enjoyable experience for children and parents. The aims of the evening were: To make reading an enjoyable experience for both children and parents, to provide an understanding of the complex nature of reading and the difficulties which children may face and to provide ideas about how children can be supported in learning to read.



WESTBROOK HAY BOOK CLUB

The Westbrook Hay Book Club continues to meet on a regular basis during term time and despite a few changes with some stalwarts moving on and new members joining, discussions are still always lively. Last month we discussed "The Lovely Bones " by Alice Sebold, and "Room" by Emma Donoghue. The next meeting will be in the library on Wednesday 2nd February at 9.30am when we will be discussing "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett, "Engleby" by Sebastian Faulks and "My Swordhand is Singing" by Marcus Sedgwick.



The annual Teddy Bears' Picnic was a huge success in September. We were joined by many families soon to join Westbrook Hay and also many of our Robins' and Swallows' families. It was also lovely to meet so many grandparents and godparents as well. As always children, parents and staff enjoyed the Mr Marvel magic show and the beautiful weather ensured that the bear hunt in the grounds was a real adventure for the children. Thank you to the kitchen team for providing a lovely picnic tea which we all enjoyed sat in the grounds of the school. We still had energy left to dance to the Mr Marvel disco. It was a wonderful opportunity to welcome all the families that are new, and not so new to Westbrook Hay.

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC



ETHAN WITH HIS TEDDY



Our bonfire night this year was a huge success with clear dry weather for the event. The earlier start time and the choice of tickets with and without food gave families time to enjoy the build up, with soup and hot dogs, mulled wine and of course the tuck shop for the children. The spectacular firework display is never disappointing and brought gasps from the crowd. Thank you for supporting the event and helping to raise a magnificent £1,741 and also thank you to Mrs Caine our WHA committee member and of course Mr Handscombe and Mr Sayers for the display.



CAR STICKERS ON SCARFELL PIKE

Thank you all so much for your entries into the car sticker competition. We are delighted to see so many cars displaying the car stickers around the school and the local area. Please let me know if you need me to send a sticker out to you. This summer I saw a car sticker in the queue for the channel tunnel and a passerby commented on my car sticker in the Isle of Wight having recognised the Westbrook Hay Griffin. Thank you so much, they do get noticed and help communicate the Westbrook Hay brand. The winning photo was for Olga and Eva Nemtseva, and Maxim Nemtsev climbing Scarfell Pike.....Well done! I hope that they enjoyed their family trip to the cinema. Kate Woodmansee

A WINTRY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Santa made it through the snow in his wonderful new sleigh to our Christmas Fayre. With so many fabulous stalls, children and parents enjoyed some shopping, played some fun games, and for many a trip to the beauty salon was a must! Children left the Fayre loaded with toys, cakes and sweets whilst their parent's purses were considerably lighter! The event made more than £2,700 and if success is measured by the smiles on our children's faces, then the event can be considered a great success! Thank you for all your help, support on the day and of course generosity.



HARVEST FESTIVALS

The Lower School (Reception pictured above) enjoyed performing to their parents with a lovely selection of Harvest songs and poems. Thank you once again to our parents for providing us with such a generous amount of produce and enabling us to create a wonderful display. The Hemel Hempstead branch of the Salvation Army, to whom this produce goes, were as grateful as ever.

FAREWELL, THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK

Thank you and farewell to Aden and Jane our Gap Students for this year. They have thrown themselves into life at Westbrook Hay, not only helping the sports staff but giving valuable support to lower school, on the boarding and school trips, breakfast clubs and after school. Jane's support with the girls' sport has been absolutely invaluable. As a sports' woman, Jane instinctively knows how to teach the girls netball, she is independent and full of enthusiasm, and I know the girls will miss her. We wish Jane lots of luck with her studies at university next year. Aden is a passionate rugby player and sportsman who has ably supported all our games' staff this year. Aden is kind and sensitive and has a lovely way with the children who will miss him greatly. Not only will he be missed by Westbrook Hay, but also Reading Rugby Club who have benefited from his undoubted talents! Hopefully he will go onto bigger and better things in rugby!



Graham Hampstead our Bursar is also leaving us this Christmas. Although Graham will only have been at Westbrook Hay for three years, he has achieved so much. Graham oversaw the completion of the Lower School building and the new IT suite, both completed on time and on budget! Graham will be enjoying his retirement in Dorset with his wife Jeanette, their cats and chickens. Keith Young



Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to:

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