

What's New This Week?

Preparatory School



Weekly Newsletter

New Hall School, Chelmsford

Founded, 1642

Issue No 161

Friday 10 December 2010

Dear Parents



Christmas Productions

This week we have enjoyed superb performances from our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children. Thank you to all the staff for their hard work in putting these shows together, especially, Mrs Roe, Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs Molina. Both nativities reminded us of the real meaning of Christmas in such a delightful, and at times humorous(!), way.



with Christmas spirit! The pupils performed dances and sang songs from a medley of favourite Christmas songs. The evening concluded with mulled wine and mince pies. Thank you to Mrs Molina for organising the performance and to Mrs Fisher and Mrs Jackson for their help backstage.



Christmas Dance Show



On 29 November, the New Hall Dance Company and the children from the Saturday Dance and Musical Theatre classes performed a spectacular show which left us filled

Snow Report!

Last week heavy snow and ice hit Britain, closing New Hall for day students for part of the week. Well done to those pupils who managed to make the journey into school on Tuesday. Lots of fun was had in the snow!



Year 5 Trip to Braintree Museum

Back to school in 1899 for a not-so creative curriculum!

Despite the icy weather and freezing fog, Year 5 arrived in school on Monday dressed in Victorian costumes, ready to travel back in time to attend Manor Street School.



Since 1990, this Victorian School has been preserved as part of the Braintree Museum. Slightly apprehensive about meeting their new, strict teacher, wielding a frighteningly long, birch cane, boys in waistcoats and flat caps, and girls with aprons and crisply starched blouses, were on their best behaviour, knowing that impeccable manners and being 'seen and not heard' would be the order of the day! The Victorian teacher was really fierce; we had to sit with really straight backs, and stand to give an answer, ending with 'Ma'am'; if we yawned we were told off for being rude and disrespectful. Lessons were long and dull, as we were just told so many facts and had to chant our tables over and over again!



Meanwhile, in the museum's education centre, everyday objects from Victorian homes were studied, sketched and discussed in small groups. 'We had to guess how each object was used and from which materials it was made. My favourite was the mini roasting spit, which would be held over a fire to cook bacon!' The visit concluded with a fascinating hour in the museum, studying old photographs, model trains and a very large dolls' house; penny-farthing and delivery bicycles; the arrival of the railways in 1848; a family demonstrating the local craft of straw plaiting; and a cupboard full of Victorian toys and games, many of which we still play today. Year 5 returned with a souvenir slate

and pencil, enriched by this 'living history' experience and ready to complete their homework of writing 100 lines: 'I must not yawn in class!' A very special thank you to the parents, who gave their time to join us on this visit, and to all families for their help in putting together such authentic costumes!

Year 6 World War II Street Party



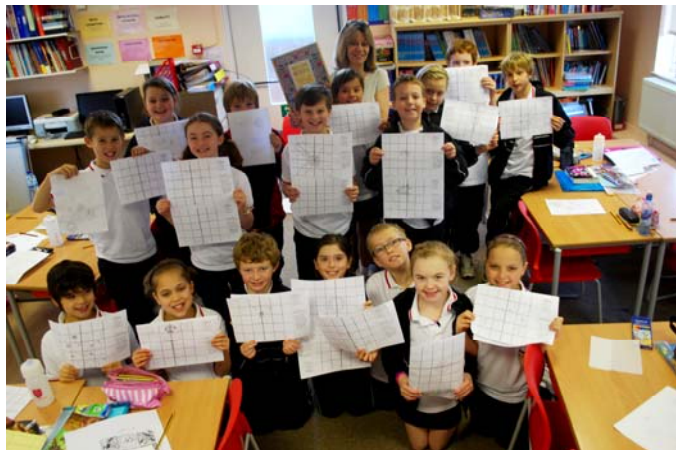
Year 6 pupils welcomed their parents and grandparents to school last Tuesday, to re-enact V.E Day with a mock 'End of WWII' Street Party. This was to celebrate the conclusion of their creative curriculum topic 'Is it right to fight?' The pupils sang some famous wartime songs including, 'It's a long way to Tipperary' and 'We'll meet again' by Vera Lynn. Split into groups of 4 or 5, the children also presented a topic they had learned about in class. The topics ranged from Shelters and Rationing to Evacuation and The Blitz. Newspaper articles written by some of the children were read out and 4 other children held a debate as to whether it was right to fight. The outcome was that a majority of adults voted against fighting! The event concluded with singing 'The White Cliffs of Dover' and enjoying the refreshments provided. Thank you to those who attended and to the pupils and Year 6 staff for their efforts in hosting such an enjoyable afternoon.



Jackie Kilpin Visit to Year 5

Some of Year 5 might have thought, as one boy announced, 'I can't draw!' but by the end of a morning's tuition from Mrs Jackie Kilpin, the art specialist who is working with staff and pupils throughout the year, it was quite a different story! Inspired by her enthusiasm for the Victorian artist, William Morris, pupils created symmetrical drawings from close observation of the flowers, birds and

other creatures, which are so characteristic of Morris' designs. "I learnt how to press on my pencil to get a better line and draw the pattern of a flower"; "I liked the way Mrs Kilpin told us how to draw flowers – 'just use your imagination and let your pencil do the work' and it really did!" After careful tracing, Year 5 transferred their designs to a tile, which will now be used to build repeated patterns in the traditional pastel colours of the Victorian era.



All of the guests took home a lovely food hamper that had been made up by the NHVS volunteers using all of the food that had been donated at the Harvest Festival and through the Christmas Appeal. Thank you to all of those who donated the food for the hampers. Thank you also to those that helped to organise the lunch which was enjoyed by everyone, but particularly the elderly guests, some of whom had been housebound for the last few weeks.

Music

ABRSM Examination Results

Congratulations to Imogen Coker (6S), who achieved a pass in her Grade 3 theory examination, and to Lucy Barrett (4D), who achieved a pass in her Grade 1 theory examination.

Somewhere to take the children during the holidays

The Dinosaur Exhibition at Braintree Museum ran from 23 October but is still there until 8 January 2011. This weekend's special Interactive Dinosaur event is taking place tomorrow, from 1.30-3.30pm. Children can make their own replica fossil, handle real dinosaur bones and meteorites and learn about dinosaurs from an expert! The exhibition is suitable for all ages and costs £4 per child. Please contact the Museum on 01376 325 266 for further information. The address is as follows: Braintree District Museum, Manor Street, Braintree CM7 3HW.

Lifeshouse Spa Offer

The Senior School Chamber Choir have been invited to sing at the opening of Lifeshouse, a contemporary residential and day spa in Thorpe-le-Soken next week. Lifeshouse are offering New Hall parents the following opening offers: 15% off gift vouchers, 50% off all day packages and the opportunity to bring a friend for free on all day packages and stay breaks. Offers must be booked and paid for by 31 January 2011. Please visit www.lifeshouse.co.uk, or contact 01255 860 050, or info@lifeshouse.co.uk and quote 'SBOO' when booking.

NHVS

Quiz

Thank you to all who came to the NHVS quiz night. We raised a fantastic £1,243.00.

Christmas Lunch for the elderly



On Wednesday the NHVS volunteers and Sixth Form leaders welcomed more than 50 elderly guests to a special Christmas lunch served in the North Room. After a special lunch with all the trimmings, the guests were treated to some entertainment provided by the Junior Choir and the Senior Recorder Ensemble group.



Charity

Fund Raising at Romford Golf Club

On Wednesday 24 November, James and I went to Romford Golf Club to celebrate our Nan taking on the role of Lady Captain. During the year that she is captain, she will arrange events to raise money for her chosen charity, *Children with Chronic Arthritis*. To help get her started with her fund raising, we dressed up and rode our bikes through the golf club and collected donations from the members. Thanks to the generosity of many of the members of the club we raised over £500.00 for the charity.

By Daniel Holt (2P) and James Holt (4D)

Golden Book Awards

Congratulations to the following children who were entered into the Golden Book this week:

6A	Kieran Drew Abby Fowler Scott Taylor	6S	Samantha Moody Gregory Oxlade Harry Phelps
5F	Jessica Bates Joseph Beddoe Cameron Meechan Ellis Oxlade Sian Redmond	5T	Thomas Hughes Edward Lerwill Katriya Levine
4D	Jack Daly James Holt Aidan Sherlock Emma Shannon Aidan Turner- Wallace	4R	Matthew Cook Ella Phelps Aaron Stone Samantha Whetstone
3H	Liberty Bates Molly Brignell Kieran Scully	3M	Olivia Buckland Benjamin La Rocca Daisy Theakston Finley Westwood
2H	Eloise Barber Brenna Doyle Akshadha Nikam William Wakeman	2P	Georgina Gundle Daniel Holt Maria Lynch Annabel Napper
2R	Jake Adams James McBurney Adam Warne	1G	Joshua Gundle Felicity Jeffrey Francesca Minnis Arthur Owens
1M	Benjamin Buckland Harry Harle Oliver Haslam	RG	Oluwaferanmi Aremu Rebecca Bentinck Toby Brown Coco Wilkins
RU	Ralph Courtney-Cook Benjamin Okakah Oluwademilade Olanrewaju- Olawoyin Christopher Stewart	PR	Charlie Brooks Dara Gleeson Sophia Hoogakker Amelia Spurr

Sports Day 2011

Please note that Sports Day will be held on the penultimate Friday of the summer term, which for this academic year will be on Friday 1 July. This is a change to the previously printed date.

Sport

Gymnastics

Despite adverse weather conditions Layla Sammour (5F), travelled to the Ipswich Gymnastics Centre last Saturday to compete in the Regional Gymnastics Apparatus Finals. She competed against gymnasts from the whole Eastern Region; Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire on floor and beam. Her floor routine was the best she had ever performed it, scoring a fantastic 12.300, winning the gold medal and making her Regional Champion. She also performed extremely well on beam, scoring 11.850, finishing a creditable 6th place. Congratulations to Layla on her success.

Netball

Year 6 Netball Rally



The New Hall Year 6 Netball Rally took place last Friday. This is an established tradition at New Hall which has been going for over 40 years and I was delighted to welcome 12 local schools to this year's event. It was a most enjoyable afternoon with a high quality of play seen from all of the teams.

Results

v St Cedd's School	lost 0-6
v Alleyn Court School	won 3-2
v St Margaret's Preparatory School	drew 2-2
v St Anne's Preparatory School	won 9-3
v Maldon Court Preparatory School	won 7-0

Excellent shooting was seen from Tara Durkan and Holly May who produced 21 goals altogether, which enabled the team to reach 2nd place. The team then played against the Ursuline Preparatory School in the semi-finals for the shield, where unfortunately they were defeated. Well done to the girls for reaching the semi-finals, which is a fantastic achievement. Our congratulations go to the Ursuline Preparatory School who were the overall winners of the rally.

The girls will now focus their efforts on training for the prestigious IAPS Rally which is being held at New Hall in March 2011.

Riding

Own a Pony Day

This will be taking place at Runningwell Equestrian Centre on Thursday 16 December from 9.30am-3.30pm. The children will learn how to muck out, groom, and look after a pony for the day. Practical sessions will be held in the morning followed by lots of fun and games in the afternoon. The day is open to all riders with a particular emphasis on beginners. If you would like your child to participate please contact Runningwell on 01268 711 221.

Stable Management sessions

These are available at Runningwell Equestrian Centre for New Hall pupils. These will take place on a fortnightly basis from 1.30-3.00pm, commencing on Saturday 15 January 2011 and are priced at £15.00 per session. Please note that your child must be a pony club member to participate. If you would like to book a session for your child please contact Runningwell on 01268 711 221.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Gymnastics Club

Places are available for the following classes:

Monday, 8.00am 3 places Year 1

Monday, 12Noon 3 places Year 2

Monday, 12.30pm 1 place Year 2

Please contact the Preparatory School Office if your child would like to sign up to take part in a class.

Tennis

The last tennis lessons of the term will take place on Saturday 11 December. All lessons will resume on Monday the 10 January.

Menu

Please note that next week we will be operating 'Menu 4'.

Lost Property

The following pupils have lost various named pieces of property:

- Annabelle Harle (4D) - named hockey top
- Laura Hedges (5T) - named Recorder
- Oliver Robins (5T) - initialled (OJR) boot bag containing boots, gloves and gum shield.

Could all parents please check names on uniform items. If any of these items are found, please hand in to the School Office.

Generals Lane

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Generals Lane (the road you exit on when leaving the New Hall site), is a two-way road. There are a number of residents down the lane who need access to their homes and, when there is a constant stream of traffic from New Hall, it is difficult for the cars to pass. We would be grateful if parents, staff and visitors could ensure that cars coming in the other direction can get past. We have

received a complaint from a resident who has unfortunately experienced abusive behaviour from people exiting the site and driving too fast down the lane. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Conrad

Mrs S H Conrad

HEADTEACHER

What's New This Week? Is issued every Friday during the school term. If you have any news which you would like published in an edition of *What's New This Week?*, please email c.taylor@newhallschool.co.uk.

BRAIN CHALLENGE

Brain Challenge Number 10 Solution



Lily pads double in area every day. If it takes 30 days for the lily pads to cover an entire pond, on which day was the pond only half covered? *29 days because the next day it will have doubled in area and covered the entire pond!*

Congratulations to James McBurney (2R), Rebecca Jeffrey (4R) and Emily Brignell (6A).

And the next challenge:

5 athletes returned from a cross-country race. Athlete C came third, athlete E came second. From the following information, can you tell how athletes A, B and D were placed in the race? Athlete A was not last. Athlete A came in after E. Athlete D was not first.



Answers on a piece of paper (with your name and class teacher) to Mr Shah in the Science Lab. Parents please refrain from participating! First pupil to submit the correct answer wins a prize.

Have a good Christmas everyone and keep those brain cells entertained!

Prayer Corner

Christmas Coming

This Christmas, Lord,
take a corner of my life
and steal in...
invade the busyness of my doing
with the quiet of your coming.

This Christmas, Lord,
take a corner of my mind
and steal in...
illuminate the darkness of my thinking
with the brightness of your seeing.

This Christmas, Lord,
take a corner of my heart
and steal in...
infuse the coldness of my loving
with the warmth of your Being.

This Christmas, Lord,
as at Bethlehem's stable,
come and steal in...
take the unprepared place of my life
and make them fit for your dwelling.



New Hall Parents' Association

working together for our children

Christmas Ball 2010

Mrs Conrad would like to thank the NHPA for all their hard work in organising the Christmas Ball last Friday. It was a fantastic event which was enjoyed by all!

The NHPA wish to thank everyone for braving the cold, snowy weather and attending the Christmas Ball last week. It was a wonderful evening which raised approximately £10,000 for our children.

Christmas Fayre - Helpers

Due to a number of helpers dropping out, the NHPA require help for setting up, running stalls and clearing up at the forthcoming Christmas Fayre. If you are able to help, please contact Annette Cotton on 07766 696929.

Christmas Fayre - Cake donations

"Calling all you bakers" - cake donations would be gratefully received for the Parents' Cake Stall. Please drop off your wears at the Preparatory School Office on either Monday or Tuesday morning.

Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Event
Mon 13 Dec	7.00-8.00pm	Key Stage 2 Christmas Production at Brentwood Cathedral
Tue 14 Dec	9.00-10.00am 2.00-6.00pm	Final Assembly NHPA Christmas Fayre
	4.30pm	Term ends
Mon 10 Jan		Term begins
Tue 11 Jan	4.30-5.30pm	U11A/U11B Boys Hockey v Bancroft's Preparatory School
Wed 12 Jan	9.00-10.00am	Epiphany Mass
		Years 5 & 6 Choir - Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena
Thu 13 Jan	3.00-4.45pm	U8A/U8B Boys Tag Rugby v St Columba's College
Fri 14 Jan	2.00-3.00pm	U11 Girls Hockey v Brentwood Preparatory School

NHPA Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 14th December

Visit Santa in his Grotto

Games galore - "Score Against Santa", "Splat the Maiteser", "Play your Cards Right", "Treasure Hunt" and many more

Gift stalls - jewellery, designer make-up, hair accessories, stocking fillers, books, home gifts, cakes



2pm to 6pm
Preparatory School Hall

Entrance: Adults - £3 to include mince pie & drink
Children - Free

Please come along to have fun and support the NHPA



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50% off all day packages
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enjoy, enrich, evolve

lifeshouse 

Founded 1642



New Hall School

OWN A PONY DAY

at Runningwell Equestrian Centre

Thursday 16 December from 9.30am-3.30pm

Spend the day with us at Runningwell Equestrian Centre, where you will be given your own pony for the day.

The day will be packed with fun activities and you will learn how to ride and care for your pony.

The theme for the day is Christmas, which will be just around the corner! There is a prize for the best Christmas fancy dress outfit and you can even bring items to dress up your pony!!

For more details please contact Runningwell, on 01268 711 221.

www.newhallschool.co.uk



Mrs Conrad, the staff
& pupils of
New Hall Preparatory
School would like to
wish you all
a very happy
and holy Christmas.

