

End of Term Newsletter

Michaelmas 2009

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Christmas Cards

Congratulations to Connie Habershon, Rauri Edwards, Imogen Ashby and Isabelle Bruce who had their designs chosen to be the school Christmas Card.

Staff Changes

After many years service to the school, Mr Wardell leaves us to take up the position of Director of Music at Barrow Hills School. Mark's musicianship is world class and the children have been very fortunate to have been able to work with him. He was Director of Music here at Prebendal for a number of years, but more recently he has been an Assistant in the department where he has been particularly involved in helping to prepare children for examinations and scholarships, as well as taking a junior choir and working with the Choristers.

One of our matrons, Mrs Maguire will be returning home to join her family in South Africa. Mrs Maguire has been fully involved in the life of the school. Miss Jess Piggan, our Gap Year Student from Australia, will be returning to her homeland to continue her studies at university. Mr Diederich has also returned home to Germany.

We wish them all well in their new ventures and would like to thank them all for bringing something special to our community.

At the end of the Lent Term, Mr Woodman will be leaving to take up the post of Head of Science at St Mary's School, Lincoln. We will have time to mark his departure appropriately at the end of next term.

Academic Prebendal

Once again lot of hard work has taken place this term and it is good to see the children progressing well. There has been some excellent work on display in the classrooms and around the school and it is a testament to the quality of teaching and learning that takes place here at Prebendal. It has been magnificent to have read out the names of so many children who have achieved Bronze and Silver Certificates. I have listed below all those children who achieved their Gold Certificate for 150 pluses or more, this is not an easy target and they deserve a special mention for all the hard work they have put in. In addition, I would like to highlight the child who achieved over two hundred pluses and was rewarded with a Head Master's Prize!

Head Master's Prize (200 Pluses)

5E Joseph Hill

Gold Certificates (150 Pluses)

Year 3 Ben Shepherd, Ryan Zhou, Luke Sherren, Georgia Spink, Georgina Wain, Rhianna Batchelor, Tabitha Trend

Year 4 Oscar Turner

Year 5 Imogen Ashby, Miles Piper, Christian Pethick, William McCathie, Jocelyn Madden, Brandon Bailey, Francesca Miller, Matthew Leung, Dominic Hammond

Year 6 Grace Gold,

Year 7 Blaise Bird, George Parker, Charlotte Twinley, Edward Rowe

Many congratulations to all these children.

The children have had a busy time in the classroom and have been involved in a lot of hard work. To help make learning more accessible there have been a number of educational trips/activities including: Year 8 had a few days at Lulworth Cove on a science and geography fieldtrip in preparation for producing an investigative project for their senior school examinations. Year 4 took part in a Greek Drama Morning which involved the children acting out roles of slaves, wealthy merchants and creating freeze frames and scenes from pottery vases. The year group dressed in Greek costume and thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

For children in Years 6 (11+ for senior schools) and 8 who are returning to exams, it is important that the holiday is used wisely. It is a long break and there is plenty of time, with careful planning, to ensure a good revision programme is undertaken. Guidance has been sent home at the end of term with the children themselves.

Sporting Prebendal

The girls have had a mixed bag of results this term both in hockey and netball. The U13/12 had six matches this term in both hockey and netball, winning only one in each sport. Their best match performance this term was against Dunhurst in netball, it was goal for goal and in the last minute an interception by Charlotte Margarson sent the ball down to the Prebendal half and Connie Habershon scored the winning goal. The U11A and B's have had six matches each, both teams winning four, lost one and drew one. The U10's have suffered this term with matches called off due to the weather, so they have not had a lot of match practice. They only lost narrowly lost in both of their matches; so well done. The U9's finished the term with an excellent 8-0 defeat of Dunhurst finishing the term in style. The U8's have played two matches one win, one loss. Well done to all the girls.

The boys had a term full of excitement in sport, despite the weather cutting down on the fixtures. In football, the U9's gained in composure as the term progressed and had good some good victories, particularly against Oakwood and Broadwater Manor. The U10's have worked hard and had a memorable day at the difficult Isle of Wight tournament. The Under 11 soccer teams have had a great term. Prebendal were runners up in the Broadwater Manor Tournament, winners of the

Dunhurst Tournament, runners up in the Portsmouth F. C. Tournament and have qualified for the regional final of this competition. The A team were unbeaten in their five fixtures against other schools and the B team only lost once in their five matches. A record to be proud of. The U13's had a number of matches cancelled and only managed to play 4 games where they lost just once.

It is also noteworthy that again, a number of our players have been invited to join the Sussex Elite Squad, while in girls football we have also had a group of players invited to the West Sussex Development Centre next term.

Extra-Curricular Prebendal

This term saw a number of House competitions take place. Please check below to see how well your House has done:

House Singing	Luffa
House Football	Luffa
House Hockey	Luffa
House Netball	Sherborne
House Cross-Country	Sherborne
House Pluses Cup	Neville

Camera Club

The following children were awarded prizes:

1 st	Sasha Ruane
2 nd	India Guy
3 rd	Elliot Carpenter and Sophie Campbell

Musical Prebendal

A message from Mrs Kayne:

I would like to say thank you all for making my first term at The Prebendal so special. I have really enjoyed getting to know the children and it has been wonderful seeing how incredibly musical they all are.

Congratulations to those pupils who sat ABRSM music exams. We are eagerly awaiting the results and Mrs Kayne will send these out as soon as they are received – probably in the first week of the holidays.

Christmas began in the festive surroundings of the beautifully decorated Bishop's Palace where Bitz'n'Pieces and Special Choir performed beautifully at the PTA Wassail. We then had our hugely successful Christmas Concert in aid of the NSPCC with over 100 children taking part. Thank you to your support as the retiring collection raised over £800, a magnificent achievement. What particularly impressed me, was that we should so clearly be achieving our stated aim of providing 'Music for All', whilst still sustaining such a consistently high standard of quality and musicianship. It was wonderful to see lots of our seven year olds, new pupils and beginners making their first steps onto the concert platform!

Also in the final week, the Special Choir sang carols at the Cross accompanied by a wind ensemble. They also sang at the opening of the Christmas Tree Festival at the St. John's Chapel. The Carol Service brought

the term to a joyful close with Year 3, School Choir, Special Choir and the Cathedral Choristers providing the musical items.

Spiritual Prebendal

Our Cathedral Assemblies this term have continued to be based on themes suggested by the calendar of the Christian year. We constantly strive to remind the pupils of caring, sharing and respect for each other and for their surroundings. In the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday we thought a lot about remembrance and the significance of the poppy and on the 11th November we observed the two minutes silence in the playground at 11.00 am. On the eve of Advent Sunday, a large group of children took part in the Advent Procession in the Cathedral acting as candle bearers for the clergy and the choristers. They played their part extremely well and I was very proud of them, as indeed were the parents of the school who attended the service. There is a similar Epiphany procession in which the choristers and the school recorder players take part in the Cathedral on Sunday 10th January. Mr Nason is anxious to hear from parents of any children who would like to take part as candle bearers in this service and they should contact him on 01243 775615.

I hope to see many of you at the Cathedral Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4 o'clock. This year the children are asked to come dressed as shepherds, angels or wise men so that they can take part in a great crib tableau. Prebendal pupils will take part in the service by reading the lessons.

Just after the new term begins, the Chaplain will begin his confirmation classes and any parents who would like to discuss this important step further are invited to contact Mr Nason.

Charitable Prebendal.

During the term the school has raised £450 at the harvest service to provide a music therapy cushion for Chailey Heritage School. We also supported the Earl Haig fund with the sale of poppies and Year 8 attended a disco organised by Laurence Edwards and Rauri Edwards to raise funds for the George O'Brian Trust. A charity that they had chosen themselves to support. Our Carol Service collections are going to the Mivumoni Library Project, a charity initiated by a Charlie Hammans, a former Prebendal pupil and of course our 'Shoes for Africa' is ongoing. To date we have sent out over 600 pairs of children's shoes to Africa. If you have any unwanted pairs of shoes, trainers or sportswear, they can be left in the large bin just outside the door to the stone corridor. There have also been many individual initiatives mainly from the younger children to support particular charities. I congratulate them all on their efforts and endeavors in this important aspect of life.

The school has sponsored a Christmas tree in the Christmas Tree Festival at St John's Chapel in aid of Chestnut Tree House. The trees will be on display from Wednesday 16th December to Saturday 19th December. Do visit the Chapel in St. John's Street in Chichester and support the charity. Mrs McGovern and the children have spent many weeks designing and making decorations and I am sure that they will appreciate your support. Visiting times for the festival (16th-19th December) at St John's Chapel, St John's Street, Chichester are Wed 4-6 pm, Thurs 10 am-8 pm, Fri 10 am-6 pm, Sat 10 am-6 pm. In the past few days some of the children's wonderful handiwork has been on display in the stone corridor, but I hope you will visit the festival to admire all the decorated trees and particularly the Prebendal tree and our beautifully made and jewelled decorations.

Prebendal further afield

During the term there have been several educational outings involving many of the year groups. Mr Nason is also organising his annual Youth Hostelling Expedition in the summer holidays from 19th to 26th August. This will be a week of walking and fun activities and is open to all pupils from year 4 upwards. More details will be sent out about this in January but I know that many parents like to get the dates in their diaries before planning their own holidays.

We wish all those joining the school ski trip in January a safe and fun packed holiday.

Choristers at Prebendal

As always the choristers have had an extremely busy term, and apart from the daily and weekly round of services and rehearsals they have taken part in several other activities. At the beginning of December they sang in the Christmas Concerts at the Festival Theatre in a joint programme with the band of the Royal Marines. During the term two CD's have been released featuring the Choristers, one singing Christmas carols and the other performing with the Royal Marines. The carol CD has been awarded 5 stars by the BBC and won the recording of the year from the Gramophone Magazine. Copies of both are available from the Cathedral shop. Immediately the Lent Term finishes, the Choristers will board a plane for Berlin where they are giving a concert in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in the city centre.

The Arts at Prebendal

This term's senior drama production, "Oliver!" was a great success. The cast learnt the songs and choreography with enthusiasm, and clearly relished rehearsing all the scenes. The audiences obviously enjoyed the fantastic performances and came out full of praise for the standard of drama here at Prebendal. A special thank you goes to Mr Brittain for once again taking on the mammoth task of directing the play, to Mrs Fleming and Mrs Rees who I know supported him in this role and to all the other staff and parents for their contributions, whether it was painting the scenery, putting makeup on the children, helping with the choreography or helping back stage. I would also like to thank all the parents who helped and supported us by providing such wonderful costumes.

Pupils in 6H took part in a drama workshop to develop their understanding of the experiences evacuees in World War II. A visiting speaker, Mrs Grace Humphries, talked to the children about her own experiences of being evacuated in 1939.

The festive spirit arrived before half term in the ADT department with children throughout the school designing individual Christmas cards to be printed and bought by their families for PTA funds. After the design stages, Mrs Jenkin took on the complicated task of processing the orders, liaising with the printers and finally sorting out the huge stacks of cards on their delivery to school. The designs were bright and colourful and I am sure everyone is delighted to see their work in print. Congratulations to all our designers!

The Christmas theme continued through the second half of term with design and make work for the Prebendal's contribution and sponsorship of a decorated tree for the Chestnut Tree House Christmas Tree Festival. After some very creative design ideas and discussions about our chosen theme, it was decided that the best materials for all ages to work in would be fabrics. Everyone has enjoyed using felt to make a lovely variety of hanging ornaments with many learning to sew for the first time and some mastering blanket stitch and making what are in effect miniature stuffed toys!

Thanks to a generous contribution from the PTA, a new kiln was recently delivered. Next term the children will be creating colourful ceramics with a brand-new range of resources that will give long lasting results and a consistent, brilliant finish. New aprons are also on the shopping list!

This term sketchbooks for every child were introduced. A sketchbook is an essential part of the creative process and they have been greatly enjoyed and very well used for the development of design ideas and artwork across our projects.

Well done to everyone for working with such flair and enthusiasm throughout the term.

Northgate Prebendal

We are very privileged in Chichester to have so many wonderful “resources” in our surrounding environment and in the Pre-prep this term, we have certainly tried to make the most of them!

Year 2 had a wonderful visit to Goodwood House as part of their work on Egypt and came back full of awe and wonder at the beautiful artefacts that they had seen! Year 1 visited Chichester’s Toy Museum, which as one can imagine, was immensely popular and gave the children a great insight into the type of toys that were popular in the past (and still are today according to the excited comments I heard on their return!). I was fortunate enough to join the Reception children on their visit to the City Library where we were told a delightful story and then were faced with the near impossible task of choosing only one book each to take back to school! The magic of Christmas really began for the children in Kindergarten when they travelled on a canal boat meeting Father Christmas and tasting a range of Christmas food!

We have taken the task of celebrating Christmas very seriously in the Pre-prep, exploring the real meaning of Christmas in depth and thoroughly enjoying traditional celebrations. Our Christmas play was truly wonderful; the staff and children all worked extremely hard and most enthusiastically to produce a magnificent performance. Singing the anthem in the cathedral was also a high point for us along with visiting Mary, Joseph and the donkeys in the Christmas market, where the children sang “Away in a manger” to help the baby sleep! Christmas lunch was very popular (we have had requests to have it once a week from now on!) with the children wearing Christmas hats they had made and enjoying eating their lunch by fairy light! Thank you Mrs Peacock and Mrs Hurman for a delicious meal. We are now all looking forward attending the Carol Service together and to singing carols- a wonderful end to our term.

I would also like to thank Mrs Rowe for all her hard work in organising our Christmas Party. We all had a most entertaining afternoon and loved Father Christmas visiting us. Thank you to all the parents that helped us set up and tidy away after the party; it was much appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hannell', written in a cursive style.