



The Prebendal School

Half Term Newsletter

Lent 2010

Being a half-term of only five weeks, the time has flown by, however, so much has happened and has been achieved. With this letter you should also receive a letter from the PTA.

As usual over the past term and a half, I have heard from many schools where our children have moved on to and I am delighted to say that without exception our former pupils are enriching the lives of their schools, not just academically where they are flourishing, but also musically, on the sporting field and through drama and the arts.

Staff Changes

At the end of this term Mr Woodman, a teacher of junior science and mathematics will be leaving us to take up the position of Head of Science at St Mary's School, Lincoln. We have appointed Mrs Kay Carpenter to replace him in April.

We will of course mark his departure in an appropriate way before he leaves.

Earlier in the term we welcomed our new Gap Students, Miss Julia Fox from Australia and Mr Johannes Breet from South Africa. Mr Stewart Kayne has also joined our sporting staff this term, his particular strengths are cricket and hockey.

Academic Prebendal

We entered the Eagle House Mathematics Challenge. This involves teams of two mathematicians competing in a number of different mathematical events. The competition was fierce with an entry of over forty schools and we acquitted ourselves well with our 'A' team comprising of Alex Margarson and James Ritchie coming ninth. Well done to all that took part.

I would also like to congratulate all those children who have taken entrance examinations to their senior schools this term and have secured places for September 2010 and beyond.

We wish all those yet to sit for an award in the next few weeks the very best of luck.

Sporting Prebendal

The weather has not been kind to us this half term and as a result we have lost many of our fixtures. Nevertheless, the children of all ages have been able to have some fixtures with mixed results.

At the Westbourne Cross Country in the U9 Sophia Perham finished 3rd, U10 Honor Clinch finished 3rd and in the U11 race Mildred Maybury finished 2nd. Well done to these medal winners and also to all those that took part.

Regardless of the weather the cricket season has started with a number of children taking advantage of the indoor cricket nets at 'Game, Set and Match' and I am sure all those taking part have had an enjoyable and beneficial series of sessions. (The Father's nets will start next term!!)

Fixture Changes

Extra fixture February 24th U8 Netball at Seaford College 2.30pm. Cancelled fixture February 27th U9 and U10 hockey Westhill Park. Rearranged fixture Broadwater Manor March 9th U9 and U8 netball at Prebendal 2.15pm

Clubs

After half term there will be a fitness/running club on a Tuesday 4.45pm to 5.30pm to help get the children ready for the athletics season.

Musical Prebendal

As ever, Prebendal's musicians have been very active and there has been much music-making to enjoy. Early in the term, all of our prospective music scholars performed at a very special recital. The commitment and ability of these talented pupils was evident for all of the rather small, but very privileged, audience to see.

At the time of writing, the following have achieved Music Awards: Tim Ayling, Emily Hill (Cranleigh); William Glasse (Sherborne); Robbie Mansell (Canford); James Peskett (Charterhouse); Phoebe Pexton, James Lee (Portsmouth Grammar School); Laurence Edwards (Hampshire Collegiate School); Edward Walker (Radley). Once again congratulations to you all. A fantastic effort.

In addition, there have been a number of lunchtime concerts and a tremendous variety of music making at our Cathedral assemblies. It is easy to take the music for granted, but the quality of music making here at Prebendal is very special indeed.

I would also like to welcome our new Flute teacher Miss Jenny Doyne to the department.

Spiritual Prebendal

Founder's Day is an important occasion for the school and this year it takes place on Saturday, 6th March at 11 am in the Cathedral. The preacher this year will be the Very Reverend Dr. John Hall who is the Dean of Westminster and who has been involved in education for most of his ministry. I do urge you all to attend in this occasion as we give thanks particularly for Bishop Storey who refounded the school in 1497 and as we celebrate all of the school's current achievements.

The Lent Term began with many of our pupils taking part in the impressive, candle lit Medieval Epiphany Procession, which take place in the cathedral every year. A consort of recorder players made up of present and past pupils accompanied the carols, the Choristers sang and several pupils took part as candle bearers.

Mr Nason has begun his confirmation classes on Thursday lunchtimes in preparation for the Confirmation Service itself which will take place in the Cathedral on Saturday, 8th May when The Right Reverend David Wilcox will be the Presiding Bishop.

Charitable Prebendal

During the period of Lent, which covers the whole of the second half of the term, we will be having our usual retiring collection after the Tuesday and Thursday Assemblies. The money that you give enables us to continue our sponsorship of two children, one in Zimbabwe and the other in the Lebanon.

The children in 5E led by Miss Embiricos responded very quickly to the plight of the children in Haiti and organised a collection, which raised almost £500. Well done to them and all of you who supported their appeal.

Prebendal Visits

Mr Nason is organising his annual Youth Hostelling Expedition again this year. It takes place in the Lake District from 19th to 26th August. This holiday is open to all age groups in the Prep. School and provides a unique experience for boys and girls to spend time away from home together in a very sheltered environment and develop a sense of independence an important part of the growing up process. Letters giving fuller details and an application have been given out and there is a copy on the school web site. If you would like further information, please contact Mr Nason direct.

Choristers at Prebendal

The choristers are looking forward to their visit to Berlin, which begins on Friday, 19th March as the Lent Term ends. They are giving a concert in the city and they are singing a service at in Berlin Cathedral. The chorister parents and the Cathedral are organising a series of events to raise funds to cover the cost of the trip and I commend these to you.

School Dress

We all need to encourage the children to take a real pride in the way that they present themselves. I do ask that you, as parents, will support us in this. Please encourage your children to clean their shoes regularly, arrive and leave dressed tidily. Please can the girls ensure, that if their hair is shoulder length, it is tied back; whilst for the boys their hair is combed, tidy and of a reasonable length.

PTA

There is a PTA newsletter enclosed in this mailing and I would like to draw your attention to the Spring Social Quiz. I would also like to thank the PTA for all that they do and especially for organising the Pre-Prep Party (later this term) and the two discos for the older children.

Pre-Prep Prebendal

The first half of term in the Pre-Prep has been full of activity and excitement. The snow provided a great deal of inspiration for writing, drawing painting and clay work, but undoubtedly the most popular activity was the snowman, and in some cases, the igloo building that took place!

In January, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children went to the Festival Theatre to see the production of "Penguin". It was common opinion amongst the children that this was a most appropriate choice with the weather conditions we had been experiencing! As in previous years, the performance received lively and animated reviews from the children and requests to go back and see another production before too long!

Years 1 and 2 enjoyed and were also obviously inspired by the Children's Concert at the Festival Theatre. We are now all very keen to learn (and of course practice!) instruments! Having made the most wonderful instruments as part of the Science topic "Sound", Year 1 loved making comparisons between the real instruments in the concert and their own in school!

Kindergarten and Reception have been learning all about and experiencing Chinese New Year. The dining room at Northgate House has been decorated beautifully for everyone to enjoy and we all learned more about the festival from Reception's assembly. The children tasted a number of different dishes at the "Chinese New Year" parties and learned exciting Dragon dances. We would like to thank Mr and Mrs Zhou for very kindly providing Kindergarten with some delicious Chinese treats to eat and to Samuel for teaching his friend to use chopsticks so efficiently!

