



School News October 2008

Dates for the Diary

NOV

- Mon 3 Staff Inset Day
- Tue 4 SCHOOL OPENS
Prospective Y7 Open Evening, 7pm,
- Thu 6 Senior UKMT Maths Challenge
Nursery—P6 Parents' Evening
- Mon 10 3.45—5.15 Staff Child Protection
Training
Head's Surgery 6pm
(by appointment)
- Wed 12 Scholarship Assessment Day— P2 and
P5
Y7 Parents' Evening, 4-6pm Priory
- Fri 14 Senior Entrance Exam (9am)
Music Scholarship Activities (2pm)
- Mon 17 Year 11 Mock exams begin
- Mon 24 PFA Bags2school collection
- Wed 26 Years 7-9 Theatre Visits
- Sat 29 Christmas Fayre 10am— -12.30pm

Dec

- Mon 1 Head's Surgery 6pm
(by appointment)
- Wed 3 Whole School Advent Mass 11.30am
- Thu 4 Y11 Connexions Interviews
- Fri 5 Prep Christmas Concert 2pm
- Mon 8 Y11 Connexions Interviews
- Tue 9 Senior Christmas Lunch
Prep Christmas Party 1pm
- Wed 10 Prep Christmas Lunch
Senior Festival of Carols and
Readings, 7.30pm, Church
- Fri 12 Whole School Carols by Candlelight
11.30am, Priory Hall
Reports for Years 8-13

TERM ENDS 12.30PM

Whole School Photograph

Please note that unfortunately due to adverse weather conditions the Whole School Photograph planned for the 30th September had to be cancelled. A new date of 24th March 2009 has now been booked. Further details will be provided nearer to the time.

Reflect and Review

As this Half Term draws to a close I would like to commend all students and staff for their hard work and parents for their continuing support. Half term holidays are an opportunity to reflect on what has gone before and to decide priorities for the weeks to come. Senior Interim reports provide a reference point for what is going well but our focus should be, 'even better if....' Next Half Term will be a busy one. Assessments for entrance into Senior School and for Prep Scholarships, Year 11 Mocks, Year 7 tests and all of our preparations to celebrate Christmas, will give a particular direction to what we want to achieve. However it is important to remember that what we strive for as individuals is crucial and can be enhanced by working closely together, with the shared purpose of being the best that we can be.

Mrs Pat Adamson

Super sleuth Damian Drooth investigates

Local children's author, Barbara Mitchelhill, recently opened the refurbished Prep School library. Barbara, who is currently writing her latest book titled Missing, is well known for her Damian Drooth and Eric series of books which are aimed at children aged from 7-12 years who are particularly interested in humour and adventure. The library, which is available for all children from Nursery to Year 6, has now been extended over two floors and includes soft seating areas for the children to immerse themselves in their reading, as well as an area for research. After the ribbon had been cut and the library formally opened, Barbara spent the day talking to children about the whole process of writing a book from initial idea to publication. Mrs Carey, Head of Key Stage 2 commented "It's been great fun having Barbara in school and wonderful to see how interested the children are about books and how they are produced." The funds to refurbish the Prep Library have been kindly donated by the PFA.



Barbara Mitchelhill opening the Prep Library, assisted by Mrs Davis, former Chair PFA, Mrs Adamson and Mrs Champ, current Chair PFA

Success at last

Eleanor Davies, (Year 10) was part of South Staffs Sailing Club's winning team at the unique and prestigious Southport 24 hour race for classic sailing dinghies. Success came after 41 years of the club competing in this event. The winning team used a Lark class boat and five pairs of crews to outshine the other 70 teams. The 24 hour event in difficult wind conditions at the Southport Marine Lake was a real challenge but well sailed.

Don't Forget

Prospective Y7 Parents' Evening - 4th November 7pm, Priory Hall

Senior Entrance Exam - 14th November 9 am, Priory Hall

Prep Scholarship Assessment Day, (current Primary 2 and 5)

- 12th November

News from the Literary Society

The New Vic Theatre's production of 'Dangerous Corner' by JB Priestly was the destination recently for the Literary Society. Written in 1932, this was Priestley's first play and tells the tale of a group of high flying executives who come together for a dinner at a stylish country retreat. During the course of the evening a chance remark sets them on a path of destruction as a number of secrets are exposed that threaten to undermine the seemingly perfect lives of the guests.

The next event will be after Christmas, when the Society plans to visit Keele University for 'Poetry Live'.

Thank you

Victoria Burton, Alice Costello and Abigail and Bethany Price would like to thank all of those who donated toothbrushes for the Smile Tu Campaign. Over 200 toothbrushes were collected in school which will go a long way to support the orphans at the Tumaini Home in Mombasa. The girls are currently in Kenya and we look forward to their return.

British Signing After School Club



Girls from the Senior School are learning some new skills at the Wednesday After School British Signing Club run by Mrs Lake. Here they are signing 'Please pass me', 'I would like', and 'something from the shop'.

Year 7 Classics Project

The summer 2008 Classics Project featured high quality entries from all members of Year 7. Joint-first prize was awarded to Jenna Hands and Talitha Stubbs for a thoroughly researched piece of sustained work which displayed originality and excellent organisation. Runners up Victoria Jenkinson, Mia Shaw and Amy Champ, were awarded 'Highly Commended' certificates.



Are you into Sports?

For all of those budding sports enthusiasts out there who are looking for an indoor venue, the school Tennis Centre is available for booking most evenings and weekends from £13 an hour. Please note that there is a substantial Parent Membership discount on these rates. For more information please contact Celia Clewlow, tel: 01785 818664, e-mail: cm.adams@virgin.net

P.F.A. NEWS—DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

BAGS 2 SCHOOL - official bags for all your textiles for recycling will be sent out w/c November 10th. Bring your bags in to school and leave them in/outside Priory Hall on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24th from 8 am - 9.30 am.

HOME CLOTHES DAY please BRING A BOTTLE or BAKE A CAKE! On FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th everyone is invited to come to School wearing home clothes and to either bake a cake or bring a bottle (or both!) which will be used at our Christmas Fayre. Nursery and infants are invited to bake (or buy!) a cake for the cake stall, Prep and Senior girls are asked to bring a bottle for the bottle tombola.

Our **CHRISTMAS FAYRE** will be held on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29th from 10am - 12.30pm. Further details will be sent out after half term but we would welcome donations of any gift items, ceramics, unused toiletries, jewellery, handbags, books, DVD's and toys for our stalls. If you can help at all, donations can be dropped off at Priory Hall w/c November 24th.

For further information contact P.F.A. Chair—Karen Champ 01782 393430/07525 235016

Wroxeter Rocks!

Wroxeter Roman City was recently the destination for children from Primary 4. Wroxeter was the fourth largest city in Roman Britain, first settled by the Roman army nearly 2,000 years ago. Having studied Roman Britain in school the children were able to experience first hand what it meant to be an ancient Roman. Dressing in costumes and handling artefacts,



Katya Helliker and Ashleigh Davies dress the part

encouraged the students to learn about Roman lifestyle. An introduction to Archaeology showed how archaeologists piece together their finds to build a picture of daily life and help us to understand today what has gone before. Mrs Coombs, Year 4 Form Tutor, remarked, 'The children love visiting Wroxeter, as for them it brings history to life in a relevant way that they can understand, appreciate and enjoy even more.'

Booked Up



Thanks to the Booked Up scheme Year 7 have now received their free books. Booked Up is a national programme run by Booktrust, an independent national charity which encourages people of all ages and cultures to discover and enjoy reading. Year 7 are now looking forward to lots of lively discussion about their books and hope to post book reviews on the 'Booked Up' website. For more information please visit www.bookedup.org.uk

Team Building Day

The Team Building Day, involving Years 10, 11 and the Sixth Form, was a great success again this year. The teams carried out a number of challenging exercises including building towers made of straw and skiing with planks of wood.



The winning team in the building tower challenge



Concentrating hard