

# Westville House School

## Christmas 2010 Newsletter

Our 50th Year - Golden Jubilee Celebration Edition

### A Message from the Headmaster

We are reaching the end of one of the busiest terms ever at WHS. We have begun our Golden Jubilee celebrations, been inspected by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate and managed to cope very well with some awful weather conditions. We have enjoyed the usual programme of excellent work and activities, organised by our inspirational staff, which have been greatly enjoyed by all the children. It is no wonder that we were placed well within the top 100 prep schools in the country by the Sunday Times.

**Charles Holloway**



### Birthday Celebrations

Our Golden Jubilee year got off to a flying start with a balloon launch. This was followed by a fantastic street party complete with Westville birthday cake after which the children were presented with souvenir teddies. We were delighted to welcome the very first pupil Kerstin Jarman (left), at our Open Day. She brought photos and other fascinating memorabilia and has promised to come and talk to the children next year.



*Former pupils launch the Jubilee Year*



14 November 2010

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

**Sunday Times Top 100** : We were delighted to discover that we were included in the Sunday Times 'Top Preparatory Schools' list at number 41! This is a huge achievement especially as we were being compared with much bigger, selective Prep Schools in other parts of the country.

### Inspection

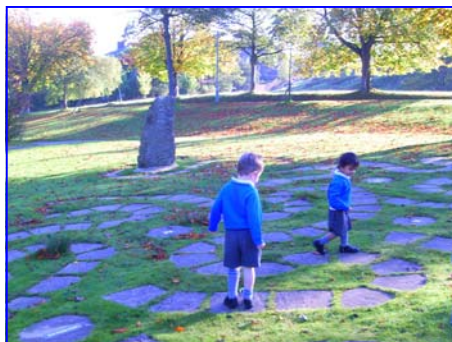
The term became even busier than usual when we were told on the day of the Harvest Festival that we would be inspected the following week! The team of Inspectors were with us for a week altogether, in two separate visits. The written report is not with us yet and we are not allowed to pass on any of the verbal feedback; suffice to say we were very pleased with what we heard!

## The Early Years and Pre-Prep

Our youngest children have been very busy with trips and activities.



The Nursery visited Ilkley Tarn and Maze. They also had a delivery of their 'Puddle Suits' donated by the PTA for outside play. There was a trip to Abbey House Museum for PP2, where they had to look for, and found, Albert Bear.



PP3 enjoyed a trip to Eureka! in Halifax and PP4 had a fun trip to the Ilkley Toy Museum, where they were shown around by past parents Mrs Samuel and Mrs Fisher. They also had a visit from two four footed friends - Flora and Florentina, who belong to one of the children.



### Harvest

Harvest was based on the story 'Tattybogle the Scarecrow'. The high standard of readings, singing and behaviour were much enjoyed by the audience and our Inspectors! It was a special occasion and a great start to our Inspection Week.



'Tattybogle' with two of the children together with the harvest gifts we donated to the Salvation Army in Bradford.

### New Playground

Our new Woodland Classroom and Outdoor Play Area was officially opened by Helen James, one of our Governors, on a snowy Monday! The youngest children had a fantastic time exploring and enjoying this new facility which has lots of things to do and keep them busy.





### NSPCC

The children presented the NSPCC a cheque for £1511.66, the result of their Sponsored work out. Well done everyone!

### Eco Challenge

This year we have had a change in our Charity fund raising cycle. Instead of our Charity House Bazaars, this term we have held a Penny Line Challenge raising money for the Rotary Campaign against Polio, as well as planting lots of crocuses supplied by the Rotary Club.



### Cranedale

Our oldest children in Form 4 (Year 6) enjoyed a residential trip to Cranedale Centre where they took part in a range of different Science and Geography based activities and tasks in what was a fun and exciting stay.



### A Real Roman Soldier at Westville!

Form 1 enjoyed an exciting visit from a real Roman Centurion who brought lots of things to see, try on and do as well as answering questions and really brought Roman history to life.



### Maths Challenge

Four of our Form 4 (Year 6) children competed in the annual GSAL Primary Maths Challenge and were thrilled to come 2nd overall. They were up against teams from 31 other schools, having initially beaten stiff opposition from 71 other West Yorkshire Schools in the first round.

Congratulations!



### Outdoor Pursuits

The older children had a wonderful time building shelters, making fires and learning other emergency and survival skills in the Outdoor Pursuits Club. Everyone got very muddy and the verdict was 'brilliant'!



## Westville Sport



### Cross Country

Westville ran its 2<sup>nd</sup> Schools' Cross Country this term which was a great success. We were delighted to have so many of our own children running or helping on the day and thank you to all the staff who helped and contributed to such a successful day.



Despite the weather we have managed plenty of exciting football, rugby, netball and tennis matches. This term we have been especially pleased with the development of our hockey (it is great that Miss Dobson is now a qualified hockey coach) with some fantastic fixtures played already, particularly against Malsis, Giggleswick and Highfield. Well done!

### Field Development Project

A huge sigh of relief was breathed by everyone at school when Planning Consent was granted for our Field Project at the end of September. Work is progressing on the detailed specifications and the movement of the electricity pole. We held our Bonfire Celebration on the field and the children have really loved using it during the snowy weather!

### Minibus

We were delighted to have a brand new minibus delivered at the start of term. This is slightly larger for a more comfortable ride as well as giving extra storage for bags on the way to matches and on trips.



### Musicians' Success

Congratulations to all our young musicians for all their achievements this term. A group of our singers and the Guitar Group entertained visitors at the Audley Clevedon Retirement Village as part of their Festive Morning. Several of the children have taken music exams this term and are awaiting results after Christmas. However we are able to congratulate Tabitha Wood (Piano) and Isabel Woodward (Singing) who took their Prep tests and have been given some delightful feedback already. Congratulations to Alex Keeley who has been accepted for the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain on the violin.



### Nativity

The Pre-Prep Nativity wowed its two audiences with their 'Little Nativity' adapted for the children by our own staff. All the children took part, with some being soloists, in singing and in speaking. Well done everyone!



### Carol Service

This year 'A Little Child was Born' is a perfect way to end a very busy and successful term. There are readings, carols, singing and instrumental soloists all done by lantern and candle light.

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**  
**from all at Westville House**

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