



PRIESTLEY SMITH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



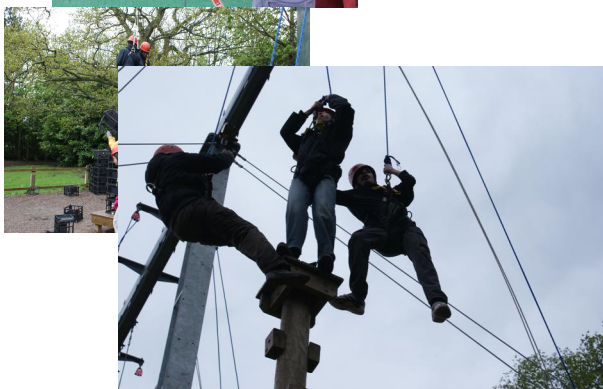
Headteacher's Letter to Parents and Friends

28th May 2010

SECONDARY STUDENTS GO CAMPING

On 7th May 15 Secondary students and 7 staff went camping to Blackwell Adventure site.

During the weekend they took part in a wide range of exciting activities, including rock climbing, abseiling, archery, low ropes, crate stacking, high all aboard and swimming. Despite the weather not being particularly warm, they had a fantastic time and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Next year's trip has already been booked!



LEARNING ABOUT ANIMALS

The Foundation Stage and Infants have been to the farm to find out first hand about animals.

They had the opportunity to handle a range of animals including chickens, horses, cows, rabbits, ducks and sheep. The horses and chicks were definite favourites - I think they would have brought them back to school if they could.



SIXTH FORM PROVISION TO GO AHEAD IN SEPTEMBER 2011!

Following our bid to the Local Authority to extend our provision to include Post-16, we have now had the go ahead to start planning and preparing our Sixth Form ready to start in September 2011.

This is an excellent development for the school, enabling us to better prepare our students for the future and helping to increase their chances of success. Students will be able to choose to stay on with us after the age of sixteen, undertaking a variety of different courses.

We are now in the process of redesigning the learning environment for the Sixth Form and preparing the courses ready for next year. A very exciting time!

A HIGHLY CREATIVE AND MUSICAL WEEK...

The Primary Department have had a very exciting and creative week. Since Monday they have taken part in a wide range of music making activities.

It started on Monday with the bagpipes



and the drums



On Tuesday the children joined in with the Fire Service Band



And sang along with the mandolin



On Wednesday it was time to play the steel pans



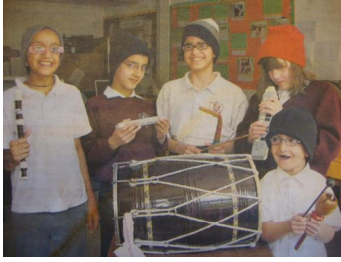
On Thursday the double bass player came



And on Friday the children played the African drums



and finished with a performance of the Raja's Secret!



A wonderful week that the children will not forget in a hurry!
SPECIALIST STATUS

In June 2010 we aim to submit our bid for specialist school status in Special Educational Needs: Sensory/Physical.

If successful, this bid will help to confirm our role as a regional centre of excellence in the education of visual impairment and will enable us to support other schools, both locally and nationally. It will also bring in to the school additional funding towards specialist resources and equipment.

We shall know whether we have been successful by 31st July 2010.

A CELEBRATION OF OUR RADIO PLAYS

On Tuesday 11th May the Secondary Department, together with St Albans School, were invited to the Council House Banqueting Suite to celebrate the production of their radio plays recorded at the BBC earlier in the term.

We had the opportunity to listen to all of the radio plays and each child received a copy of all six plays.

This has been an amazing project in which the students have had the opportunity to write, produce, perform and record radio plays and to work alongside professionals involved in this industry. They even produced the sound effects!

The Women in Theatre Group, who led the project, were extremely complimentary about the skills and confidence of our students and are so keen to work with the school again that they have just successfully raised £5000 to produce a community play with the students next year.



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEET WITH MEAL PROVIDERS

Since November the School Council has met twice with Citiserve, the school meal providers. As part of these discussions, which covered aspects such as theme days, quality of fruit and portion sizes, the students asked that the menu should include halal meat options. Citiserve have followed through on this suggestion and halal meat is now being provided in the Primary dining rooms and will be available from June for Secondary students. An excellent result for the School Council.

BIRMINGHAM CITY JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Tuesday 25th May two of our students took part in the Birmingham City Judo Championships. They have been learning judo in after-school sports club and have made excellent progress.

The two boys, Ali Kazi and Saleh Ahmad, did extremely well. Ali achieved a bronze medal and Saleh a silver, narrowly missing the gold.

Congratulations go to both Ali and Saleh!



HALF TERM

The school closes for half term at the usual time on Friday 28th May. The children will return to

school on Monday 7th June. We hope you all have a lovely break.

With best wishes,

Helen Porter