

Wychwood (C.E.) School News

The school year is now split into 6 terms divided by the old half-term holidays. We have just finished term 2 of this academic year and what a busy time it has been.

Music for All

Music lessons are taken in violins, brass, cellos and guitars. These are organised by the County Music Service. It was sad that Janet Parsons retired this term; she took her last cello lesson at the school just before Christmas. A new County initiative to encourage children to take up music lessons has been to provide the instruments for a weekly class lesson. This term saw Mrs Hall's class of 27 children learn to play the violin, they finished the term with a performance for their parents. They played very well and were a credit to Felicity Cormack who teaches them.

Afternoon Tea Club

On Tuesday afternoons after school Mrs Loxton and Mrs Wheeler ran an Afternoon Tea Club. This was very successful and was attended by 44 children who enjoyed cooking, tasting and creative activities. The staff received much positive feedback from parents, for which they were very grateful. Other after school activities that ran this term were Hockey, Craft Club, and Computer Xplorers.

Miss Chappell's Year 3 / 4 class and Mrs Napper and Mrs Finch's Year 4 / 5 class had Badminton lessons this term with a



qualified coach, Larry Ng. This had been organised by Mrs Barrett as part of the West Oxfordshire Sports Co-ordinator programme.

We supported Children in Need again this year. Our School Council organised the day which included the children dressing up as 'what I want to be when I grow up', a colouring competition and our

annual *Pennies Around the Playground*. We were so pleased to be able to donate £624; our thanks go to all our families for their generous donations.

Shining Stars

As part of national Anti-Bullying Week in November the School Council, with ideas from their classes, drew up a school charter to emphasise the importance of friendships and positive relationships. They also acted as playground buddies for the week, helping to engage children in games and being a point of contact for children who may have no-one to play with. They also made up playground games for the week and helped to order some new playground equipment purchased with funds donated to us by our PTA. Their charter is displayed on posters made by the children around the school.

The term finished with the PTA Christmas Bazaar (which raised a magnificent £875 for the school – thank you if you attended or donated items for the stalls) and our Christmas

Continued on page 53

performances. The Foundation Stage Unit led the way with their version of the nativity story, *The Sleepy Shepherd*. They held two performances for parents and one for the school. Our tradition of having a real baby Jesus for the play continued thanks to the Carter family for allowing Ethan to play this role. A retiring collection raised £85 towards the purchase of a new camera for their classes. Our Key Stage 1 children performed another version of the nativity story, *Shine Star, Shine*. And shine they did, once for school and a performance at St. Mary's Church, Shipton for their families. Although only 5-7 year olds they sang and read clearly with much enthusiasm. Key Stage 2 classes also did two performances of *Silent Night* which

told the story of how the carol *Silent Night* came to be written. Those taking violin lessons welcomed everyone at the beginning of the performances and the children went on to tell the story through narration and songs. A cameo of the nativity scene was part of the story with extracts from other well-known carols being sung. Retiring collections were taken from the church performances in aid of Helen and Douglas House, totalling £430.

Thanks must go to all the staff at Wychwood Primary School who put so much effort into the performances and extra curricular activities that take place at the school throughout the school year.
Julie Hemming

Fifield News

Many thanks to Geoffrey and Lucy Maitland Smith for the magnificent fireworks party, drinks and eats on Saturday 7th November. It really was a splendid party making £222 for the Hall Refurbishment Fund.

New Supper Club

Members of the new Supper Club have enjoyed two delicious meals and enjoyable evenings. The meal costs £7 a head (cash please) and bring-your-own-bottle. Everyone is welcome but places must be booked and paid for in advance (with information about dietary needs). The date for booking and paying is the Friday prior to the Suppers, which take place on the first Wednesday of the month. Please telephone Diana Coad on: 01993 830518 for more information.

Bangers, Beans, Bingo and More

Look out for details about this

forthcoming event, which will probably be held in late February or early March. Then the official **re-opening of Fifield Parish Hall** by David Cameron is expected to take place in February. Because of the size of the Hall and the number of Grant Makers and substantial contributors who must be invited, it will not be possible for all of Fifield to be present inside the Hall at the actual opening, but the Trustees hope everyone who wants to meet Mr Cameron will be able to do so afterwards. Full details will be circulated nearer the time.

The 2010 **Fifield and Idbury Fete** is planned for **May 29th** and will be in **Idbury**. More than ever this year everyone's help will be needed. More details as time goes by, but please make a diary note of the date now, and be ready and willing to offer help and support for the Big Day.

Catherine Hitchens