

A Court Journal

Autumn '09 ~ Edition 10

27th November 2009

The Newsletter of Alleyn Court Prep School

HEAD—lines.

It has been a remarkably busy period since our return after half-term, so much so that I am for once swamped with material for inclusion and anxious that I do not omit anything that is worthy of mention. However, I have tried my utmost, hence this burgeoning edition stretching to a record 6 pages!!

We certainly started the half-term off with a bang, with an excellent fireworks display. The evening was well organized and supported and we were most fortunate with the weather. Many thanks to Nicola and members of the Parents Association for their efforts in making the evening such an overwhelming success. If the fireworks drew baited breath and awe and wonder, it was little in comparison to the tales that Lewis Pugh was able to regale to the children of Senior School. He is an explorer and swimmer who has achieved feats such as swim-

ming the entire Thames, swimming in all of the world's oceans and swimming in the Arctic Ocean in just a pair of Speedos! His exploits in the Arctic have led him to become an environmental campaigner on global warming with direct concern about melting glaciers—pictures of which had a profound impact as to how serious a problem this is becoming. His slides and comments captivated the children and staff and we are most thankful to Dean Smith for arranging this visit.

Our children have once again thrived in the Arts, with commendable recognition in the ISA regional art competition. Mr Larwood is due praise for his continued inspiration of the children and he was absolutely delighted with the Y5 group 1st place for their 3D driftwood. A notable result on the first occasion that we have submitted artwork in this category. The art currently on

display around the school is of excellent quality and it is often taken for granted and not appreciated that the children who have produced it are at their oldest only 11 years of age.

Most of our Y6 children have now breathed a vast sigh of relief, as the 11+ exam which has loomed so large for so long has now been and gone. Many of the children have returned confident with their performance and the papers sat and they now await the results in March with eagerness.

In having to reflect on all that has happened, it is often difficult to look ahead at what's to come and the next few weeks until the end of term promise to be as busy if not busier than all that is reported within this newsletter.

The Christmas period is always a joyous but manically busy time in any school and I'm sure that it shall be no different for us.

Next week, we have our Pre-Prep concerts and our PTA Christmas Fair. The following week we will have our Junior School performances, with a highlight being Year 3 once again performing a Mr Ekins inspired classic pantomime.

These performances are to be followed by our PTA Christmas disco for Years 1-3 and 4-6 respectively and our Christmas lunches and Pre-Prep parties.

In a change from convention, our Carol Service will this year be held on the penultimate night of term at St Augustine's. We look forward to having Father Collis officiating at this service for the first time. Miss Furley prepared some excellent choral arrangements last year and I sincerely hope that the service will be better attended this year, so that the vocal talents and efforts of our children can be truly appreciated.

G. R. A. Davies

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Pre-Prep News

As we are all busily preparing for our Christmas concerts, we would like to offer our thanks to all parents and grandparents who are currently making costumes. They are looking marvellous.

The children of both Pre-Preps took part in 'Children in Need' last week by dressing as children from all over the world. We had various costumes from Spanish and Chinese ladies to cowboys from America. Thank you to all the parents for supporting this charity. It was a fun day for all.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the parents for supporting our troops in Afghanistan via the charity 'Smiles Across the Miles.' The items have now been collected and are ready to send abroad.

Mickey and Tinkerbell classes have taken part in a 'windy balloon walk' around the grounds at Thorpe Bay, taking advantage of our Autumn weather.

Congratulations to Winnie the Pooh class for winning the Guy competition in the Pre-Prep section at the PTA Firework night. Thank you to Mrs Williams, Mrs Fryer and Mrs Redfern for their help.

Lastly, we say a very sad farewell to Mrs Penny Reid, who will be retiring at the end of term and Miss Stephanie Gilbert who will also be leaving the Pre-Prep at Christmas - we wish them both every success for the future and hope to see them visit us on a regular basis.

Mandy Gordon

Junior School News

The children have all been working very hard recently preparing for our Christmas productions. The costumes that have already been brought into school all look fantastic and I am sure all of the others will be equally good. We would like all costumes in school by Monday 30th November as a photographer from the Southend Echo is coming into school on Tuesday 1st December to take some photographs.

The productions are on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December and not the 11th and 12th as mentioned in a recent letter. Please return your request for tickets as soon as you are able.

Year 1 will be performing the Nativity story, Year 2 are preparing an exciting show called the Xmas Factor and Year 3 are busy working on a pantomime based on Jack and the Beanstalk.

I would like to thank all Junior School parents for supplying costumes and helping the children to learn their words and songs. I hope to see many of you at the performances, which I'm sure will be fantastic once again. Oh yes they will!!!! *Mr Ekins*

ISA Art Success

The Art Department is happy to announce that it has had continued success in this year's ISA East Region Art Competition; held once again at Finborough school in Suffolk. Fourteen pieces of work were submitted this year, which included three-dimensional work for the first time.

Mr. Larwood attended the evening exhibition on November 11th along with Miss Goodliffe, Mrs. Briffett and Holly, Chloe Lambert and her family, and Nathan Batchelor with his mum and dad.

The results of the competition were as follows; Holly Briffett gained a runner-up place in the Under 11s painting category, Rosie Larwood came second in the 3-D category with her "mushroom mirror", and a Year 5 group entry in the same category entitled, "Driftwood

Art" captured 1st place. This winning entry will go on to the national ISA competition held in Warwick later this month.

Congratulations must go to all of those pupils whose work was submitted this year.

We await delivery of a new Mac computer, which has kindly been purchased for the department by the PTA. We are looking forward very much to exploring it's full benefits, with our initial intentions being to use it for photo manipulation and design. We are most thankful to the PTA for this support and investment in the department. We have had a most busy term, assisting them with making the Guys and Christmas Cards, which has been great fun for all concerned.

Mr Larwood

Reading Competition

On Friday 6th November, we had our annual reading competition. The children practised diligently over half term and their confident efforts on stage in front of the assembled masses of Junior and Senior school respectively were most commendable.

There was an excellent array of poetry and prose chosen, with the children excelling in presenting their own interpretations of these works.

We thank Mrs Slater for her organisation of the event and for her overall preparation of most of the candidates through her LAMDA lessons.

We would also like to thank Mrs Sue Carr, our adjudicator this year who coped admirably with the difficult choices that she had to make and thoroughly enjoyed the ex-

perience, commenting most positively about the children's clarity and voice projection.

Results (winners only)

Y1 **Matty Treharne**

Y2 **Layla Nabi &**

Alex Marshak

Y3 **Sophie Vidler**
(also awarded Most Outstanding Junior)

Y4 **Ines Wilcox**

Y5 **Aaron Gordon**

Y6 **Holly Briffett**
(also awarded Most Outstanding Senior)

For winning their respective sections as most outstanding, Sophie and Holly will read at the Carol Service on 15th December.

Southend Festival

Many of our children have once again seized the opportunity to demonstrate the quality of performance at Alleyn Court, during the recent Southend Festival. We have had excellent representation in many categories of the public speaking and singing competitions. It is also pleasing to note the number of former pupils who are continuing their efforts in this regard; most of whom are still working closely with Miss Furley and Mrs Slater. Mrs Slater must be congratulated on the extensive number of medals that her protégés have won for their recital and reading performances, with Eleanor Butt, Ines Wilcox and Jonathan Marshak also winning cups for their respective categories and thus being invited back for the prizewinners performance this Sunday.

Results :-

Bronze Medals

Jake Palmer, Eleanor Butt, Kamna Patel, Mya Nott, Teddy Waller and George McAllister.

Silver Medals

Alex Marshak, Freya Miller, Eleanor Butt, Ines Wilcox (x2), Pippa Woodford (x2), Teddy Waller and Talia Lieberman.

Gold Medals

Layla Nabi, Ella Findlay, Eleanor Butt, Ines Wilcox and Jonathan Marshak (x2).

Miss Furley is delighted with the performances of all her singers at the Festival and believes they all sang beautifully. They all scored well and in the range 82-84 out of 100. Thanks to Miss Furley for all her dedication and support in preparing them. The following sang at the festival: Talia Lieberman, Chloe Lambert, Hollie Vidler, Isobel Foley and Jennifer Steward.

Some recent events



Some members of Winnie the Pooh class pictured during the construction of their prize winning guy.



Reports of some unsavoury guys hanging around the pavilion; really are unfounded.

Alleyn Court General News

Business Success

We would like to offer our congratulations to Mike and Shannon Green, parents of Thomas in Year 3, who supply the school with many of our IT and administrative equipment for their recent success in being chosen as Southend Business Awards, Growing Business of the Year 2009.

Modelling Success

Congratulations to former Head Girl Danielle Zarb-Cousin, a cousin of current pupils Tyler and Cody Cachia, who is doing some modelling promotional work for a High Street store. She can be seen on displays in the shop window of Tom Wolf locally in Southend and in national stores. She has also just shot a promotional advert for Chanel that will run over the Christmas period.

Activities and Prep

These will continue until Friday 11th December. However, all

external clubs after school will end today because the darkness is now too much to contend with.

Sweets and snacks

I am delighted at the positive response and feedback that I have had regarding sweet snacks since the last newsletter. The situation appears to have improved significantly as a result. However, I must still urge caution about the types of snacks that come into school, as we have had one or two pupils who have responded badly recently to other children's snacks that contain nuts and naturally, this is a cause for concern.

French Dept pen-friends

Following on from the recent pen-friend link with École Canardiere in Strasbourg, Year 6 have recently forged new links with École du Champ Seigneur in Burgundy. Our letters are written in French and the replies are received in English. The

initial batch have recently been sent off and the children are most excited by this communication that enables them to practise their skills and learn about schools and culture in France.

We thank Madame Gabarrot for providing the children with such opportunities.

Mrs Reid farewell coffee morning

A number of parents are organising an extended farewell coffee morning for Mrs Reid on Tuesday 15th December at Westcliff. The morning is expected to run from 9am - 11am and all who know Mrs Reid are welcome to come and participate in a celebration of her time at Alleyn Court and to wish her well for her retirement.

Charity amounts

We are delighted with the amounts raised on non-uniform days over the course of the term for good causes and thank all who gave such generous contri-

butions in support of these events.

We raised £332.56 as part of Jeans for Genes and £345.25 for Children in Need.

New site manager

Mr John Maynard, currently a caretaker at the Deane School in Benfleet will start as Site Manager on Monday 7th December. He will work initially with Malcolm Black, who will transfer to Westcliff as Site Manager at the start of next term.

Stage Presence

The eagle-eyed amongst you will be able to spot a very familiar face in Cinderella, the pantomime being held at the Cliffs Pavilion over the Christmas period. Jessica Goody of 4S will be appearing on the following dates:

Dec : 13,16,19,21,23,27,29 and 31.

Jan: 2,5,7,9 and 10.

Good luck to her with this.

FORTHCOMING DATES & EVENTS

30 th	Rehearsal for Pre-prep Christmas Concert Christmas Trees arrive at Alleyn Court Y6 Basketball v St Thomas More 4.15pm start	12 th	PTA Disco
December		14 th	Carol Rehearsal, Dr Guyler visiting 1D Pre-Prep Christmas Lunch & Party at Westcliff (no morning school, please drop children at Westcliff at 11:30. Collection for Tinkerbelle & Peter Pan 2:30, Minnie & Mickey 2:45 and Paddington and Winnie the Pooh 3:00)
1 st	Girls Tag Rugby v Westborough (H) 2.15pm Y6 Boys Basketball v Chalkwell 3.45pm	15 th	Mrs Reid's Farewell Coffee Morning at Westcliff, Dr Jain visiting 1S Main School Christmas Lunch 7pm Carol Service at St Augustine's
2 nd	9am - Tempest Photo Retakes 1.30pm – 2.15pm School Council Meeting	16 th	Last Day of Term 12noon close for Pre-prep, 12.30pm close for Main School
3 rd	Pre-prep Christmas Concert –Westcliff Parents 2.20 – 3.30pm Y3 & 4 Girls Dance Session	17 th	Jerry's Soccer School 9-2pm
4 th	5L Class Assembly Pre-prep Christmas Concert – Thorpe Bay Parents PTA Christmas Fair Alleyn Court Relays 1.30 – 2.30pm Y4-6	18 th	Jerry's Soccer School 9-2pm
8 th	U11, U10 v St John (H) 2.15pm	January	
9 th	Basketball v Shoebury (H) 3.45pm	5 th	Back to School
10 th	Junior Christmas Concert 9.30am Varsity Match Twickenham		
11 th	Junior Christmas Concert 9.30am Extra Curricular Activities and Prep Club End		

Parent Teacher Association

My first term as Chairperson of the PTA continues to be a marvellous one. Our fireworks night was a great success and ran very smoothly thanks to all the help I received with the organisation and preparation. Thank you so much to everybody's who helped (there are too many people to mention individually) and to everybody who attended. I would like to give special thanks to Mr Carr, Malcolm and John (site managers) for all their hard work before, during and after the event. Thank s also to our two sponsors – Mrs Holly Goody and Mr and Mrs Holmes-Patten at Ashling House Retirement Home for their generous donations which were much appreciated. If anyone would like any information on what Mrs Goody and Ashling House have to offer, please come and find me. Our school **Christmas Fair** is on **Friday, 4th December** from 3pm to 5pm in the Main Hall. There are both old and new stalls for you to try your luck at. Each class has been assigned a stall which needs to be manned ... and this is the part where we beg for your spare time! Any help before, during or after the Fair is really appreciated. Please see your class reps if you can spare any time on that day. Mr Davies will be drawing our Christmas raffle at the Fair and we have many fantastic prizes including our 1st prize of a Wii Fit Plus, 2nd a 2GB iPod Shuffle and 3rd a night away from the kids in a hotel! We sincerely hope that Santa may grace us with his presence and presents once again in the Library.

The **Christmas Discos** are being held on **Saturday, 12th December**. These are for years 1 to 3 (12.30pm to 2.30pm) and years 4 to 6 (3pm to 5pm). Tickets will be going on sale in the library before and after school from 7th through to 11th December at £5 per child. The children will be fed and entertained as they dance their little socks off!

And now to the New Year – we have organised a **Burns Night** for **Friday, 22nd January**. This will be held at the Camelia Hotel on Eastern Esplanade. There will be the traditional addressing of the haggis, a bagpipe player, an outstanding 5 course meal and a DJ to dance the night away. More information on this evening will be given nearer the time. So put the date in your diaries. Finally, some of the money you have so generously donated to the PTA at recent events has been put towards a new Mac computer for our Art Room. This will enable the children to manipulate photos and produce computer aided designs. This would not have been possible if you had not dug so deep into your pockets at so many different events – so thank you from all in the PTA. *Nicola*

The Back Page—Sport Report



Fencing success and taster sessions

Above left is Oscar Holt (Y5L), who has recently won the Leon Paul Junior Fencing Series with one round to go. He has incredibly amassed 100 points, which is the maximum achievable under the rules. Well done, Oscar!! Oscar's coach, James Thornton is currently trying to qualify for the Olympics and Oscar is determined to follow in his footsteps but maybe not for 2012!

On Wednesday, James Beevers, a former Olympic fencer and 4 times National Champion, who now runs Little Musketeers, gave fencing taster sessions for all year groups from Y1-Y5, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Y4W are pictured above right with James. We hope that there will be sufficient interest for James to start an activity session at the school next term, to add to our outstanding extra-curricular provision. Please look out for letters about this from Mr Hart.

Football

Jerry reports that the football season has gone very well overall, with some excellent results achieved by all teams. The Under 11s have played 8, and won 3 and drawn 3, which is encouraging. The team of the term have been the Under 10s without a shadow of doubt. They have played 9 games and won 8 of them, with the sole defeat coming away at Brentwood. Their open flowing football has been a pleasure to watch and they have the remarkable statistic of having scored 50 goals in their nine matches whilst only conceding 9—this is an incredible effort and all of the team must be commended for their performances. The Under 9s have also fared well, having played 3 and won 2.

It is fantastic to hear that every boy in Year 6 has had an opportunity to represent the school in a competitive fixture this term, with a C team playing against Chigwell and earning a creditable draw.

There have been numerous performances of note during the term, with a number of hat-tricks having been scored. The following have all notched up a hat-trick at some stage—Luca Albon, Joseph Bryan, James Fernley, Alex Portugal and Edward Pudney. Special mention however must go to Charlie Lockhart, who has been in phenomenal form in front of goal, with a strike rate that any professional footballer would be more than pleased with. Charlie has scored 23 goals in 7 games, which includes two hat-tricks, a 5 goal return and an incredible 8 goal haul, which is a tremendous achievement at any level of football. Well done, Charlie!

Cross Country

Our largest ever contingent of pupils from Alleyn Court took part in the Southend Primary Schools cross country league race two at Jones Memorial Park. On a wet, muddy and cold afternoon, once again our teams produced outstanding results, as shown in the table on the next page. Last Friday, Mr. Kirk Edwards, the Southend partnership manager came and presented four age group trophies for the combined totals in the two races and the overall Winner trophy. Despite being overall champions, we as an independent school are not eligible to take part in the county finals.

Next week (Friday 4th December) We are hosting the Alleyn Court Relays for local independent schools.

Basketball

The year 5 boys had their first match against Chalkwell Hall. They played some excellent fast flowing basketball with good team spirit. We won, 28 – 9. Top scorer was captain Mitchell Cox who weighed in with 12 points. Other scorers; Charlie Lockhart 6, M.Adler 4, Sean Sevelster 4 and Louis Hassan 2. Many thanks to Mr. Cox who refereed the game. The year 6 girls have been in action again, this time against St.Mary's. The girls showed more aggression and determination in this match. They comfortably won 35- 11. The scoring was led by captain Libby Madell who ended the match with 12 points. Other scorers: Jordana Lee 8, Megan Harrington 5, Victoria Collins 4, Hannah Portugal 2, Sienna Holcombe 2. Many thanks to Mr Madell who stepped in at the last moment to run the score table.

The Back Page—Sport Report Extended



Y6 Girls' Basketball team, with mascot.



Y3 boys looking rather too fresh after cross-country!

Year 3 Boys	Year 3 Girls	Year 4 Boys	Year 4 Girls
L.MacNamara 2 nd	E.Butt 1 st	A.Bacon 2 nd	M.Samuels 1 st
D.Smith 3 rd	H.Arch 4 th	T.Chandler 4 th	I.Wilcox 2 nd
M.Bacon 6 th	E.Findlay 6 th	H.Bashford 5 th	J.Goody 4 th
W.James 7 th	E.Baglow 7 th	D.Wells 10 th	L.Streeton 11 th
F.James 8 th	N.Smith 8 th	G.McAllister 12 th	L.Cortes 13 th
S.Hardie 9 th		A.Portugal 16 th	P.Woodford 14 th
T.Cato 14 th		L.Robins 20 th	
L.Albon 15 th		F.MacNamara 23 rd	
T.Pinkerton 17 th		W.Taylor 24 th	
O.Price 28 th			
Team score 18	Team score 18	Team score 23	Team score 18
Position 1st	Position 1st	Position 1st	Position 1st
Year 5 Boys	Year 5 Girls	Year 6 Boys	Year 6 Girls
C.Lockhart 1 st	S.Rankin 2 nd	H.Smith 1 st	N.May 2 nd
J.Bryan 2 nd	G.Healy 4 th	R.Pinkerton 10 th	B.Rungay 5 th
M.Cox 3 rd	E.Smith 5 th	H.Shields 12 th	O.Chandler 6 th
L.Hassan 10 th	I.Foley 6 th	H.Gibbons 14 th	B.Findlay 7 th
H.John 13 th	C.Lambert 9 th	J.Fernley 16 th	J.Lee 11 th
M.Adler 17 th	F.Harrington 21 st	J.Aggarwal 20 th	H.Vidler 14 th
L.Barthaud 19 th			
A.Lee 21 st			
Team score 16	Team score 17	Team score 37	Team score 20
Position 1st	Position 1st	Position 1st	Position 1st

Paul Hart