



NEWS FROM SAINT PATRICK'S SCHOOL

As the first term of our special 40th anniversary school year has flown by, once more we can look back on a very busy and eventful time. We welcomed new children as well as Mrs Shearman and Mrs Price to our school. We are delighted to hear the news that Mrs Robinson has had a lovely baby girl, Holly Joanne, who we have all met already! Our new building is now complete and looks amazing, making much more space for us. We have all settled well into our new classes – and now deserve a rest!

As you may now know, at St Patrick's school we all learn Spanish, and we are very happy to welcome Senora Elena Biosca, a qualified teacher from Spain, who will continue to work with every child (and adult!) for the year. After a year's lessons, we are developing our confidence, enthusiasm and vocabulary more and more. In an attempt to build close links with a Spanish school, Mr Loftus was asked by the Local Education Authority to represent Wiltshire in a visit to Seville this term. He returned with a link with a school called Dos Hermanas and we look forward to getting to know them over the year.

Once again, as part of our devotion to Mary, throughout October, children have enthusiastically attended Rosary sessions during their lunchtimes. During November, we remembered the saints and all those people special to us, as well as those who had died in past wars or natural disasters. Children reflected in lunchtime remembrances as well as RE lessons.

The topics we are studying in RE throughout the school this term are (a) Babies (b) Initiation (c) Gifts as well as a week's study of holy days and traditions celebrated in Judaism. These topics are a fascinating way of learning about the life of Jesus as well as being a Christian today.

Arts week this year was very exciting. This year the theme was Multicultural Art. Impressive work in junk modelling was produced in Reception, with a European influence from Gaudi, Year 1 was inspired by Indian Rangoli sand patterns, Year 2 produced masks and a creative hanging – Mexican style. In the juniors, Year 3 made Egyptian clay cats and wrote on papyrus, Year 4 were inspired by Aboriginal Dreamtime art, Year 5 experimented with American Pop Artists such as Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol and Year 6 painted silk and made kites reflecting Chinese culture. A gallery evening was held for parents to look at all the outstanding work created. Another big thank you to all those parents who volunteered their help to make the week so successful and inspiring.

There have been many initiatives to support an interesting and creative curriculum this term. Year 5 have benefited from Rugby Training from Bath Rugby Team and recently went back in time to experience life in an authentic Victorian school. Year 1 recently visited Trowbridge Museum to support their history project on Toys and , Year 3 went to Chippenham Museum. St. Gregory's Drama department has also spent time supporting all year groups in movement. The infant classes have also enjoyed some local trips to the post office and about town to support learning in class.

At present, we are busy practising for our Christmas celebrations. Key Stage 1's 'It's a Cracker!' and Key Stage 2's 'Joe Carpenter and Son – An English Nativity'.

Fr. John celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with us on 8th December. Both Fr John and Fr Richard lead us in our Advent Reconciliation Service before the end of term. At all of our Masses and assemblies, we have included in our prayers all those who are sick in our parish family, especially Alice Pheby, who we miss very much and wish a continuous recovery for the new year.

Thanks and congratulations go to the PTFA, parents, staff and children who worked so hard to make the recent Christmas Bazaar so successful. Profits exceeded £1,300 which will go towards the Building Blocks campaign; ensuring we meet the school's contribution to our recent building work.

Voluntary help in school is invaluable and we are always looking for more helpers. If you have an hour or so free in the week and would like to help in school – hearing children read, supporting them in Numeracy, Literacy, computer skills or ANY other area, we would be delighted to hear from fellow members of our parish families of St. Patrick's or St. Anthony's. We are particularly keen to encourage retired members to come and work and talk with our children. Please phone the school on 01249 713125.

We hope every one in our parish communities has a happy and holy Christmas and every good wish for a wonderful 2007!

Feliz Navidad!

