



# ADDINGTON

## NEWSLETTER

May 2015

HELLO EVERYONE!!

This is such a short half term but we have been really busy. We have had quite a few inter-house events which are always good fun, and next week we have a Superstars music concert alongside four other Berkshire special schools.

Several classes are planning their summer trips out and next week we have our very first overnight trip for our key stage 3 children. I am not quite sure whether it is the pupils or the parents who are most nervous. I am sure they will have a great adventure.

Our new trim trail is very nearly finished and our secondary pupils have been getting more and more excited as they have been watching its progress. We hope to open it for pupil use by half term and plan to have a "Grand Opening" in July.

This week we have had 25 young people out on a one week work experience. I went to visit two of them at work in Wokingham Library and WHSmith. It was really lovely to see them in a real work situation, following instructions, being part of a team and demonstrating their growing maturity.

Michelle has purchased an exciting piece of science equipment which some of you might have seen demonstrated at Parents' Evening. It is called Rubens Tube and has a real "wow" factor as it demonstrates the features of sound waves. Apparently it can be used to roughly work out the speed of sound and show combustion. I know Michelle is planning to demonstrate it to the students in the next few weeks.

We have a poet in residence working with our key stage 3 children. Chris White is a children's author, poet and illustrator. The four week project has involved the pupils writing and illustrating collaborative poetry for a book and preparing a piece of performance and poetry, which we will film to show to fellow students and parents later this term.

This project uses key stage 3 "Catch-Up" money and we are using this government funding to help inspire writing in our pupils. I was able to join one of their sessions and it was clear that he had completely engaged the pupils and they were really contributing well to the writing.

I do hope that you all have a lovely half term.

**Liz Meek**  
HEADTEACHER

# SPORTS PAGES



## Inter school Tag-Rugby tournament at Brookfields – 30<sup>th</sup> March

Addington took two teams to the Tag Rugby tournament that was held at Brookfields. We were very unlucky not to win both the Green and Amber event as both teams narrowly lost in the final. They played some fantastic rugby and showed great sportsmanship. Thanks to Ian, Audrey and Krissi for their support on the trip.



## Sainsburys Active Kids

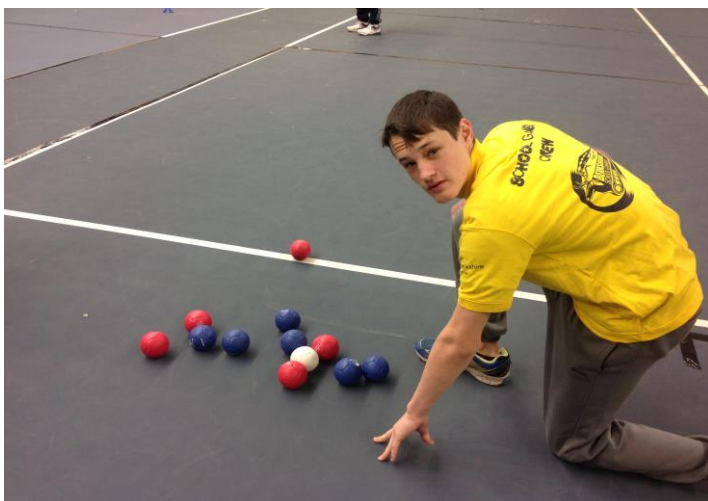
Please don't forget to send in your vouchers if you still have them at home! We will be counting them and placing our order for more sports equipment shortly.





### *Berkshire School Games* *Boccia champions*

Three of our students are the Berkshire School Games **Boccia champions**. They played 2 excellent games and beat Brookfields (9-3) and Arbour Vale (8-3). They had to qualify for this final by previously beating 4 mainstream schools in this area. They were delighted to win gold medals at such a prestigious venue as Bisham Abbey



### *Young Ambassadors at the* *Berkshire School Games*

Two students were chosen to represent Addington as our Young Ambassadors. They attended a training day at the beginning of the year, as well as one to prepare them to help volunteer at the Berkshire School Games. They were both teamed with a student from Altwood and were very helpful in the Boccia games. Thanks for all your hard work! We hope you have learned some valuable leadership skills.

### **Football Fun Day**

On the 30th April, Addington attended the Football Fun day at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre in Oxford. The morning included participating in different workshops learning new skills including passing, shooting and dribbling. In the afternoon there was a tournament competing against other SEN schools in the area. Addington played brilliantly beating Manor Green 2-0 and losing 3-1 to Chilworth school. Top goal scorer and star of the day was Danny Shilton who scored 2 goals.



### **Bikeability training (May 2015)**

11 key stage 3, 4 & 5 students participated in Bikeability recently. This course is run by Wokingham Borough Council and teaches the students how to cycle safely on the road. The instructors were impressed with the student's hard work and good behaviour. 3 students achieved Level 1 and 7 Level 2.





### *Inter school Basketball Tournament*

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April Addington School hosted a highly successful Inter-school Basketball Tournament. We welcomed Arbour Vale who brought two teams, and Brookfields, to play in a Green and Amber tournament.

We were very fortunate to have three JMA students who were a part of the Berkshire School Basketball Games winning team, come and referee our games. They were very impressed with the high standard of basketball and the teamwork on show.

The green team came up against a very good Arbour Vale team. It was a closely contested match and could have gone either way, with Addington winning after two quarters. However Arbour Vale came back to win the game 20-11 despite an amazing 3 pointer scored by Shane Chaplin which was without doubt the basket of the day!

The Amber team came third in their tournament scoring two baskets, both from Liam Fuller.

It was a terrific day as the sun was shining and it was lovely to have some of the classes come out and support the team.





# *The Music Page*

Our theme for this term is 'War and Peace' and so far the students have been exploring the marching band in lessons. There have been learning to read rhythm grids/standard notation whilst others have been composing their own rhythms and melodies.

Last year saw the debut success of 'Special Superstar'. This is an evening concert which brought together other special schools from the area, to sing as a choir with each school having one or two superstars to perform a solo. Following the success of last year, Berkshire Maestros have been supporting the event this year with Addington, Arbour Vale, Kennel Lane and Castle school all involved in the concert. This is one of our few big events this year and we are all excited for the concert, it is going to be fantastic! Pictures of the concert will follow in the next newsletter.

Addington hosted an afternoon for Infant School teachers to develop their music skills this half term. The afternoon was very well attended. This was the first part of our Key Stage 1 singing morning in July, when children from many local schools will join some of our younger students to sing together.



We also have had the Orchestra of St John come in again this half term to perform to our students. Most students attended a fantastic African drumming workshop by Alicia and Doudou. The students were able to explore playing djembes and African rhythms along with some traditional singing and dancing.

We are looking forward to a busy half term next half term – our Proms planning is well underway and as soon as the timetable is finalised we will let you know! All children in the school will be performing in the week and we hope that parents will be able to come in and watch performances. **Proms weeks is 29<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July.**

Wishing you a relaxing half term break!

Sean, Jules and Martin  
Music Team



## Dear Parents/ Carers

The past few weeks have, as always, been busy and varied. Last term ended with the happy task of distributing Easter eggs to all of our students, courtesy of the Loddon Vale Rotary Club and the Thames Vale Vultures Motorcycle Club. It was good to see so many of you at Parent's Evening on the 14<sup>th</sup> May and our coffee morning with Helen Sturman of Adviza provided interesting information.

I also had the pleasure of organising a day long cultural event with local charity INSAAN for our year 9 and some of our Access pupils. The pupils and staff were treated to food, henna and musical workshops and all chose clothes to wear at a fashion show. The day was wonderful and our pupils were so enthusiastic in joining in; a great time was had by all. Here are a few pictures of the day.....



Please continue to use the Parent Support Page on the Addington website for information, advice and support and do not hesitate to contact me, either through class or via reception, if you feel I may be able to help you and your family in any way.

**Lucy - Parent Support Adviser**



Now that the sun has arrived everything in the garden seems to have grown overnight. The tomato plants suddenly have fruits and are almost touching the greenhouse roof.

The students have been very busy planting up baskets and potting on plugs. We now need to get sowing and planting out our sweetcorn and beans, along with melons and beetroot.

The Thursday gardeners won first place in the Newbury Challenge on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The judges' decision was unanimous as every student gave a detailed account of how they created their entries and really impressed the judges when they were questioned.

All 12 students working towards the City and Guilds qualification are working really hard and showing good progress. Their portfolios have lots of written, as well as photographic evidence, and are something they should all be really proud of.

**Chris Jones**





## ADDINGTON SCHOOL LIBRARY



A very big thank you to all the students who took part in the 'World Book Day' Bookmark Competition 2015.

Ian, with the support of Liz, Val and Jeanette, judged the entrants and after a very difficult decision, picked the winners from the various key stages. The standards were very high and all the entrants are currently displayed in the library.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Trish  
HLTA Library



### Good Behaviour Award Winners



Congratulations to the following Students who achieved good behaviour awards for the 1st half of Summer Term:

Gabriella D'Isanto. Mary Ellen Lally. Jenny Reilly. Shane Kirby.  
Nathan Hunter. Nathan Wheatley. Haaris Naseer. Thomas Miller.  
Phillip Spriggs. Favor Onoriode. Kathryn Beecham. Joseph Kenneh.  
Alistair Slocombe. Rhea Gill. Ben Reynolds. Matthew Nicholls.  
Faris Abnoof. Roxanna Abbaspour. Jasmine Pritchard.  
Chanique Gage. Isaac Sheikh.

Well done everyone.....keep up the good behaviour!

Simone Pengraeve  
Behaviour Support Teacher

# Addington Association

## GRAND DRAW TICKETS

Tickets for a summer grand draw will have made their way home to you - check the bottom of the bag! Please buy as many as you can and consider selling them to family and friends as well, we can always send home extra tickets! First prize is £100 and there are lots of other prizes on offer too.

## RAFFLE PRIZES

We are always looking for items we can use in our raffles so if you have anything that may be suitable please do send it in. We are looking for unused, good quality items. Maybe your employer/business would be willing to donate something we can use. We really would appreciate your help in getting good prizes for our draw. Remember all the money we raise from our raffles and events goes back into the school to support **your** children.

## AGM

The AGM was a very quiet evening with just the core members of the association staying on. Some longstanding members felt the time had come to move on and I would like to thank them for all their hard work over the years. Unfortunately there were no new members and this is very disappointing. As mentioned above the association exists to support the school, our fundraising efforts over the years have enabled us to provide the pupils with minibuses so they can attend events and get out into the community. I cannot stress enough just how much money we contribute towards those buses, the most recent one was £22,000! Our name might not be on the side of it but every bus has had a large financial contribution from the association.

We would welcome any new members to support our efforts for the benefit of all the children. If you would like to have an informal no obligation chat about the association please contact me - Natalie 07951809049  
nataliemwalker@virginmedia.com

Wishing you all a pleasant half term.

Natalie Walker  
Addington Association





This year we decided to hold our Buddy Election to coincide with the General Election. This helped to underpin the democratic process of voting and to understand the concept of being an 'active citizen'.

Addington students throughout the school participated in the Buddy Elections. Twenty-five students put themselves forward as candidates and voting took place in the school library on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The whole school took part in the election process by either, placing a vote in the ballot boxes or by postal vote if they were off site. Students also participated in the electoral process by acting as tellers and scrutineers. Candidates were encouraged to lobby voters outside the Polling Station.

The following 8 students were elected:

Nathan Hunter, Mitchell MacKenzie, Jade Lawrence, Jamie Kirkwood, Shayne Kirby, Scott Denton, James Hardman and James Whitehead.

All Buddies will receive training in helping with playground games and supporting students who are new or perhaps feeling a little uncertain at playtimes. Buddies also take part in the Proms, sports days and visitor days by showing people around the school.

We thank the outgoing Buddies for all their commitment and hard work.



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# Addington Youth Club

Managed and staffed by  
Wokingham Bracknell & Districts Mencap

Wednesday evening 7pm to 9pm  
Fun for all youngsters from Year 9 up

Look out for the activities planned for the summer term.  
Come along and try a session.

Contact Wokingham Mencap on 0300 777 8539 for more information.

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## SCHOOL LUNCH PRICE LIST



Primary Pupils..... £1.95 per day  
Secondary/FE Pupils.....£2.15 per day

All monies should be paid in advance.

**ONLINE PAYMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE** please ask for details

**Please remember that your child does need to bring money in on a daily basis. Lunch must be paid for every day.**





**ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES**  
**2014/2015**

**Autumn Term 2014**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

**Half Term:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Training Days for Staff – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

**Spring Term 2015**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

**Half Term:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Training Day for Staff – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

**Summer Term 2015**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

**Half Term:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May

May Day Holiday – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Training Day for staff – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

**190 days for pupils**



**ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES**  
**2015 - 2016**

**Autumn Term 2015**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

**Half Term:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Training Days for Staff – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

**Spring Term 2016**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March

**Half Term:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Training Day for Staff – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

**Summer Term 2016**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July

May Day Holiday – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – school closed

**Half Term:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Training Days for staff – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July – school closed

**190 days for pupils**