

# JOHN BEDDOES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## CHRISTMAS 2010



**Ffôn / telephone: 01544 267259 / 267565**

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### Christmas 2010. (Number 16)

Dear Parents/Carers

Once again it has been another busy and exciting term. The cold weather came early but fortunately did not affect us opening. It did, however, mean we had to cancel the Christmas Concert as some staff and pupils were unable to get in, hence rehearsals were unable to take place.

Modernisation has taken another step forward and I would ask you all to look at the [www.powys.gov.uk](http://www.powys.gov.uk) under the modernisation section to get the details of the "preferred way forward" being proposed by the County Council as consultation will start in the New Year.

At the end of this term Mrs Dexeter will be leaving us after covering for Mrs Davies whilst she has been on maternity leave. I thank Mrs Dexeter for all her hard work this term and wish her all the very best for the future.

### Assemblies

This term we received visitors from the Evergreen Club for our harvest Festival Assembly in October and from The Royal British Legion for our annual Remembrance Service



### School Council

The school council have been working with Powys catering and the Healthy Schools team to improve the food at break and lunchtimes.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December they met with officers to develop a way forward. This was in response to the Kirkland Rowell survey that pupils, parents and staff completed last summer term. Further development in the New Year will be posted on the school web site [www.johnbeddoes.org](http://www.johnbeddoes.org)

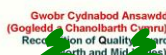
### Presentation Evening.

Our Annual Presentation Evening on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> November was again a very enjoyable occasion as we celebrated the successes of the previous year with our guest of honour Baroness Perry of Southwark, who presented the prizes followed by an entertaining speech.



### 6<sup>th</sup> Form Evening.

A date for your diary, particularly if you are in Year 11, is 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011. We will be holding our open evening for the September 2011 intake. There will be presentations and then opportunities for you to speak with subject teachers about the range of subjects we offer in school and in partnership. Including the Welsh Bacallaureate which develops



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student's skills preparing them for life after school whilst giving the successful students the equivalent of a grade A at A Level.

### Sport

The Under 13 and 16 Netball Teams are South Powys Champions and both have been undefeated all season. After four years of trying we managed to win the U16 South Powys Netball tournament over Christ College, Brecon. They now face Welshpool in the Powys final.

### 5 x 60

This term 5 x 60 has proven to be very popular at John Beddoes. We have eighteen 5 x 60 activities in total running between September and December. These clubs take place at lunchtime and after school every day of the week throughout the term. This means that approximately 280 pupils are taking part in these activities at John Beddoes. We try and provide a good range of activities to keep pupils interested. Currently throughout the autumn term we have the following activities/clubs taking place: street dance; girls rugby; girls football; dodge ball; spinning; badminton.



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### Global Gardeners

Pupils, staff and parents are taking part in an exciting new project linked to gardening. Part of this project is to restore gardens at John Beddoes and to that end a 'big dig' was organised to try and clear the build up of weeds that has taken over some of the beds in the front of the school. These will then be planted up with bulbs for the spring and later, colourful flowers. Another bed will be planted with vegetables which it is hoped will produce crops which can either be taken home, sold or used in the school kitchens.

The second strand of the project is to communicate with their partner school in Karton, the Gambia, which already has a well established award winning market garden. It is hoped they will provide information on how to create a successful vegetable plot and pupils might even plant up one area as a Gambia plot, to see if similar plants can or cannot be grown. In return they will be sending sorely needed tools to them to help with their education.

Whilst we have plenty of willing hands at John Beddoes, we are short of tools, both for the pupil's own use and to send to the Gambia. If anyone has gardening tools of any description either big or small, which are in a reasonable condition but surplus to requirements (or if you would like to make a small financial contribution to this tool appeal), please contact Mrs. Ruth Kirkby at John Beddoes on 01544 267259.



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### Parent Call

As you are aware we are always looking to improve how we communicate important information with families, so with that in mind, we have decided to trial an automatic electronic communication system called 'Parent Call'.

This system uses automatic voice messaging and text messaging to contact you directly on your home or mobile phone. We will be using the system to contact you for such reasons as your child's absence, to advise you of forthcoming events (e.g. parent's evenings) or for unforeseen reasons such as school closure. We are sure that this will prove to be an invaluable means of communicating with you. Until this system is in operation please make sure you check the Powys website [www.powys.gov.uk](http://www.powys.gov.uk) during inclement weather to check if we are open.

### Important Dates.

21<sup>st</sup> December – ESDGC Day  
22<sup>nd</sup> December – Christmas Holidays  
5<sup>th</sup> January - Pupils Return  
13<sup>th</sup> January - 6th Form Open Evening  
18<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term  
28<sup>th</sup> February – Pupils Return  
15<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays  
3<sup>rd</sup> May – Pupils Return  
6<sup>th</sup> May – Founders Day  
27<sup>th</sup> May – Half Term  
6<sup>th</sup> June – Pupils Return  
14<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Holidays

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



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