

SCHOOL NEWS

Firstly, thank you to everyone who has contributed vouchers for the Tesco sports equipment scheme. We have a magnificent total in excess of 16,000 vouchers, and are in the process of ordering items such as a standing long jump mat for athletics, and a gym trolley to keep our gym mats in a good condition.

During this term, the Juniors enjoyed six weeks of tennis coaching which culminated in Years 4, 5 and 6 taking part in a tennis festival at the Leisure Centre. Marcham PTA kindly funded the cost of the coach and the children all had a wonderful day.

Harriet Scott, Denman Class news reporter interviewed some of her fellow Year 6 classmates.

Ben Everley said, "I learned a lot from it and it was good fun."

Natalie Wiseman went onto to say, "It was a lot of fun and I learned some new skills."

The final week of term has seen Denman Class involved in a range of practical activities such as making peppermint creams in lurid shades of pink and green. Did any of them reach home, or were they all eaten on the way?

Robin Butt, news reporter interviewed some of the year 5s.

Sarah Tierney had this to say, "They were very tasty and I enjoyed making them."

Ryan Fulton felt, "They were very tasty and I wish I could have made some more."

As usual, the children have produced excellent Christmas cards and beautifully coloured calendars for 2007. Regular work has also continued, and Denman Class have become journalists to write and produce in small groups a newspaper detailing the exciting journey Auntie Dot has taken around the world. Look out for these newspapers in 2007!

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It has been a busy month at school, beginning with the preparations for our highly successful PTA Christmas Bazaar. Thank you to all those who came and supported this annual event – including Father Christmas who took time out of his busy schedule to call in.

Just days after that we had our Christmas dinner hosted and cooked for us by Denman College. It was a delicious and enjoyable occasion as usual and much appreciated by staff and pupils alike.

In the last week of term we had our Carol Service at the Church involving all year groups of the school, but we also had an additional production this year, performed by the youngest children in the school in a packed hall – standing room only!

This presented the nativity from a different angle, telling the story from the perspective of 'The Grumpy Sheep' – one lone member of the flock who did not wish to accompany the shepherds down to Bethlehem. Amidst a cast of Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, three Wise Men, the Star, travellers, sheep and donkeys (all in fantastic costumes), one lonely sheep grumbled about her tired feet and said she wanted to be left alone. Confident narrators told the story, accompanied by enthusiastic singing from all the children. And the sheep carried on doing her best to look grumpy throughout!

However, all this changed when the sheep arrived in Bethlehem and saw baby Jesus. At this point she became ashamed about how grumpy she had been and gave her first ever smile!! She resolved never to 'grump' again and became 'the very smiley sheep'! *See cover for more photos.*

We would like to express our thanks to all those who have supported the school throughout 2006 – parents, Governors, PTA, Church and members of the community. We look forward to working with you in 2007.

JOY MAWDSLEY, Parent Governor

If you run or are a member of a group, why not write a short report about it?
January 2007

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

With the Festive Season now over attention turns to considering what 2007 may bring.

For Club members it means looking forward to the new playing Season. Fixture lists for this year were made available at the AGM of the Oxfordshire Cricket Association held towards the end of 2006.

The 1st and 2nd XIs are set to play, respectively, in Divisions 2 and 7 with the opening matches scheduled for 5th May. Further information regarding fixtures will be given in due course.

The Club's on-going programme of Cricket Field maintenance continues in preparation for this year's matches.

As is usual, details relating to playing for the Club, or umpiring on behalf of the Club, may be obtained from Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317).

Please come along and support your local Cricket Club.

CLIVE BENNETT



**8TH ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
From 1000hrs May 6th 2007**

Abingdon airfield, Dalton Barracks, Abingdon

A major feature of the day will be a two and a half hour flying display, hopefully featuring historic aircraft as well participation from the British armed forces. Invitations have also been sent out to overseas air forces in the hope that we can build on previous year's international content.

Ground attractions for all the family are being planned including a wide range of vintage/classic vehicles, live music, static aircraft, a craft marquee and a wide variety of trade and club/society stalls.

Our 2007 event will be officially opened by globe-trotting local aviatrix, Polly Vacher who we hope will also be flying in with her well travelled Piper Dakota aircraft.

Visitors to Abingdon Air & Country Show 2007 will be able to enter the site .

Charges will be Adults £8, OAP/Child £5, Under-5s FREE
Advance discount price tickets will be available from Abingdon Town Council Offices in the Guild Hall, Abingdon, via our web-site www.abingdonfayre.com and by post from 12 Austin Place, Abingdon, Oxfordshire from 31st January 2007 at reduced rates: Adults £7, OAP/Child £3.50, Under-5s FREE

Proceeds from the day will go to the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust, a vital but woefully underfunded asset to the local emergency services.

**WHAT WILL YOUR
NEW YEARS
RESOLUTION BE?**

Trying to get a bit fitter and meet new friends? How about joining in on a Health Walk in Abingdon.

Health Walks Can

- Improve muscle and bone strength
- Help lower blood pressure
- Strengthen heart and lungs
- Help with weight loss
- Reduce stress and
- Make you feel good.

Volunteer Leaders will meet you every Wednesday at 10.30 at the Tennis and Leisure Centre. The walk along local paths and tracks lasts about an hour. On our return to the leisure centre you may like to purchase a drink and stop for a chat. No specialist equipment is required for the walk, just wear comfy clothes and shoes.

THESE HEALTH WALKS ARE FUN FRIENDLY AND FREE.

If you need more information please contact

Viv Boorman 01235 554751

Liz Barratt 01865 391251

The first walk in 2007 will be on 3 Jan.

