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To jubilant shouts of 'yippee', the wives of the staff 'Mo Bros' celebrated the end of **November**. Yes, the 30-day facial hair growth was ceremonially removed in the very public 'shave-off' on Wednesday. Photos of the momentous event can be viewed on the school website ([www.kingshottschool.com](http://www.kingshottschool.com)). While the shaving was the focal point, staff commented on the fascination, curiosity and pained expressions of many children who witnessed 'wet shaving' for the first time. Perhaps not many see their dads shaving before work, and so this seemed like some bizarre activity. The children were fantastic, wearing mufti and sporting some very impressive 'taches'. Each child was asked to bring in £1.00, but I have also been humbled by the response from parents who have been very generous in supporting the Prostate Cancer Charity. Some even wrote to me, thanking me for increasing the awareness of an illness that affects men and their families across the country. Some knew men diagnosed just recently while others have lost those close to them. I am very grateful for the contributions from everyone. To date we have raised £1,072.12 which is a good way towards the £1,750.00 that I have committed myself to raise by next summer. Should you have missed the opportunity but still wish to contribute, please send your donation to Miss Day in the school office.

Once again, Kingshott, and **Year 4** in particular, can be proud of their positive impact on the environment. On Monday, forty-four children together with **Mr Comerford, Mrs Brown, Mrs Bellion, Mr Jones, Mrs Wheeler, Mr Dowrick** and a visiting student teacher, 'enjoyed' two hours of digging at a Woodland Trust site near St Albans, to be known as Heartwood Forest. The Trust is well organised when it comes to tying into schools' academic activities, and the tree planting dovetailed perfectly with the new Year 4 environmental topic work. Best of all, though, the children really enjoyed themselves and the smiles on their muddy faces spoke volumes for the success of the morning.

Yesterday morning, **Pre-Prep** children were treated to a magical production of 'Beauty and the Beast', this year's pantomime at the Gordon Craig Theatre. They joined in with songs, dancing and laughter and a wonderful time was had by all – oh no it wasn't, oh yes it was! The children were beautifully behaved and a real credit to the school.

This morning **Pitt House** got us into the Christmas spirit with a delightfully entertaining House Assembly. With the traditional elves, reindeers and some unusual characters too, we were all in stitches of laughter. This was a fine way to get the festive season underway.

I am delighted to congratulate **Jonathan Carragher** who heard last week that he has been offered a scholarship at Millfield. This is the first one of the year and we look forward to hearing of other Year 8s who have been successful too.

Having mentioned Aaron Hird in last week's newsletter, **Freddie Symonds** and **Alice Payne** have recently made a splash in the Hertfordshire swimming pools. **Freddie** did particularly well, swimming in his first gala and winning four gold and two silver medals. **Alice** impressed her coaches with county times in the 50m and 100m butterfly, 100m medley and 100m breaststroke. **Kieran McGowan** is another rising star and has been awarded a Mayor's Award for Talented Children. This is in recognition of various achievements including his swimming at both regional and national championships, and an individual British gymnastic medal. Next season he hopes to impress on the cricket field, playing in the Men's Hertfordshire Saracens League (Division 8). I have also just heard that **Alexander Gallimore, James McCammon, Joe** and **Callum Hall** have been selected for the U10 North Herts Area Winter Cricket Squad. Congratulations to all these sportsmen and women.

Mr Scripps has asked me to remind Year 6 parents who still wish their child to take part in the Bikeability Course during the Easter holidays that the reply slip needs to be returned to secure a place.

This is a somewhat strange entry in a school newsletter. On Monday a Penalty Charge Notice was found in the school playground. It was issued on 25/11/2011 to the driver of a red Seat (Registration number: LMO9 AVW). I'm sure that the responsible driver will want to avoid the £110.00 charge; they should see Miss Day to collect the document.

## **SPORTS FIXTURES**

**GIRLS' HOCKEY:** v Heath Mount –U11A **DREW** 2-2 (**Emilia Luders** and **Polly Jones**); U11B **LOST** 0-4.

The secretaries have asked me to pass on an important message when phoning or emailing the school to inform us that your child will be absent. Please inform us of the reason for the absence. This is to ensure that children who are suffering with sickness and / or diarrhoea are kept away from school for 48 hours, and in case we need to be aware of contagious illness in order to communicate to groups at risk and to control possible spread. Your cooperation in this regard would be most appreciated.

I am sure that you would like to join me in congratulating **Mrs O'Donovan** and her husband, James, on the arrival of their baby daughter **Daisy Mae**. Mother and baby are doing very well.

The run-up to the end of term begins in earnest as we prepare for Christingle, the Carol Service, the Years 7 and 8 production and two concerts. A busy time indeed.

Yet another day of blue sky; it makes you wonder what's in store for later in the season!

Iain Gilmour

## **BIRTHDAYS**

To the following who celebrate in the next week, we wish you a very

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Srinidhi Chegireddy, Dylan Cox, Edward Howting, Polly Jones, Hugo Lennie, Samuel Thorne, Papillon Turner.