



West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 23

December 2015

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

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Win a free school jumper!

Hidden within the pages of this newsletter are eight famous Christmas films. To begin the Christmas season, can you name the film that these characters feature in? Parents and Grandparents can help with some! Write answers on a piece of paper with the name of your child and all correct entries will be placed in a draw to win a free school jumper or cardigan! Entries must be received by 10am on Friday 8th January 2016.



Dates for your diary:

- Friday 18th Dec– Carols around the tree 9.15am
- Friday 18th Dec– Christmas Party. Break up for Christmas
- Monday 4th January 2016– School reopens for Spring Term
- Friday 5th February 2016– Chinese New Year celebrations
- Friday 12th February 2016– Break up for Half-term

Teacher training days still to come this academic year:

- Friday 27th May 2016
- Monday 18th July 2016
- Tuesday 19th July 2016
- Wednesday 20th July 2016

Merry Christmas to all our families and friends

As 2015 draws to a close it is yet another chance to reflect on a busy, busy year in West Rainton Primary. In a year that has seen major refurbishment works with our new windows and dining room we have barely had time to stand still and take stock.



What has remained the same however, throughout all of 2015, is the fantastic attitudes and hard work of your children.



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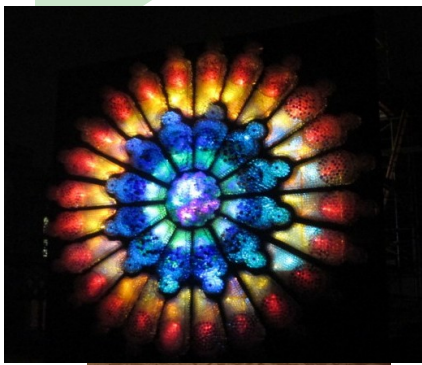
As we leave to celebrate Christmas 2015 we all send our very best for a fun-filled and happy time for all of our families and friends. We hope 2016 brings us all a whole host of new opportunities and exciting events to take part in.



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Lumiere's Litre of Light



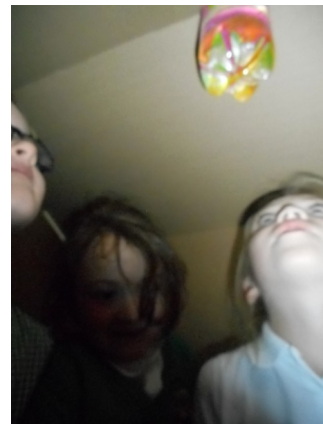
The Litre of Light installation in Durham Cathedral's cloisters.

We loved taking part in this year's Lumiere festival held in Durham City in November. Pupils in Year 3 and 6 decorated bottles with artists to install in the litre of light exhibit in the Cathedral cloisters. The children learned all about poorer countries around the world who use this form of light source in their homes by magnifying the sun's

rays through a bottle of water.

We decorated our bottles with a red design and therefore they were somewhere on the outside petals of the replica rose window.

What a lovely project to be part of!



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"The Great Fire of London was in 1666 and started when a baker left his oven on"

Class 2 pupil

The Great Fire of ... Rainton!

Pupils in Class 2 ended their unit of work on the Great Fire of London by inviting in Green watch from Durham Fire Service to re-enact the historical event.

The children made 'London' out of boxes and straw and placed them closely together to show how easily the fire spread from one house to another.

The whole school came out

to watch the demonstration and learned some valuable tips about fire safety along

the way, particularly about fireworks, sparklers and matches.



We will remember them

It was a lovely occasion back in November to share our remembrance day celebrations with the residents of Springfield Lodge.

For the youngest and oldest residents of the village to spend time together is something we really enjoy and we learn so much from our conversations with the residents there.

our moment of silence to think of those who gave their lives in service to protect us.



Pupils sing at Springfield Lodge



We held a very special remembrance assembly in school too which included



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Key Stage 2 Rocked You!

Pupils in Key Stage 2 have grown to love one of the world's most famous rock bands, Queen, through a fantastic production of 'Schools Will Rock You'.



Auditions were hotly contested and the standard was very high. This served the production well as we tackled probably the most ambitious show a primary school can attempt!

The cast have worked incredibly hard this half term to learn lines, routines and songs to ensure the production was ready for the sell-out crowds.

A whole new generation of Queen fans has been created by learning hits such as 'Radio GaGa', 'Killer Queen' and the classic, 'Bohemian Rhapsody'.

We hope you enjoyed the show as much as we enjoyed performing it.



Key Stage Two's production of 'Schools Will Rock You' 2015

*"Don't stop me now.
I'm having such a
good time, I'm having
a ball.."*

*Killer Queen from
'Schools will Rock
You!*

Classes 5 and 6 visit the Gurdwara

Pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 experience a great learning opportunity recently when they visited the Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara in Sunderland.

They learned about the rituals that take place within the Gurdwara and some key facts about the Sikh faith.

The visit complemented the children's recent learning in RE and taught them all something new about a culture and faith different to their own such as how charitable the followers of Sikhism are asked to be.

It was lovely to have parshad, (a shared meal) with the Sikh community afterwards.



The children learned so much about the Sikh faith from their visit to the Gurdwara.

West Rainton Primary School take part in St Mary's Church festival of wreaths



Our festive photos that filled our wreath

Another beautiful carol service took place in St Mary's Church this week and for many residents in the village, this is seen as the start of Christmas.

We were delighted to take part in the singing with a very enthusiastic choir of children on the night.

We were also really pleased to take part in what seems to be becoming an annual tradition of creating a Christmas decoration for the church.

This year the theme was wreaths and ours featured all of the subjects we teach here at West Rainton along with a photograph of every one of



our pupils in a Christmassy disguise.

Thank you to everyone who donated old jumpers and cardigans to create our fantastic wreath bow- it looked striking hanging above the children's altar in church.

Year 3's feel the rhythm!



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Year 3 ended their term of African Drumming with a superb performance last week. Mr Abbot, from the Durham Music Service, has been teaching the children since September and went as far to say they were 'the best Year 3's he's ever taught.' Well done Year 3, we are very proud of your achievements.

Christmas lunch fun!

We had a beautiful Christmas lunch cooked for us by our angels in the kitchen. Turkey, sprouts and roast potatoes all went down a treat!

The children thoroughly enjoyed the food and fun that was served up in our dining room. Photo props provided a lot of fun and enjoyment and it was

lovely to celebrate Christmas altogether as a school.



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In the next issue of West Rainton Primary Voice...

- See what spring term has in store for our learners
- Find out how we celebrated Chinese New Year
- Learn all about West Rainton, Horrible Histories style!