



West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 24

February 2016

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

Dates for your diary:

- Friday 12th February—
break up for half term
- Monday 22nd February—
Back to school
- Friday 4th March— World
Book Day
- Tuesday 8th March— Gala
dance festival
- Friday 18th March— Sport
Relief events
- Monday 21st March—
Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 23rd March—
Easter Fair 3.10pm
- Thursday 24th March—
Break up for Easter
holidays
- Monday 11th April—
Summer term begins

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Win a free school jumper!

Roses are red, violets are blue, here is another competition for you! Hidden within the pages of this newsletter are pictures of flowers. Can you identify and name which flowers they are? 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 26th February 2016.

Play your part for a better internet

In a technological world, which advances by the day, our pupils need to be fully prepared to use the internet effectively in their adult lives, but more importantly, to use it safely.

We are always very proud to take part in the national 'Safer Internet Day' which, for 2016, took place this week.

This year's theme was to 'play our part for a safer internet' and we spent

today's society, it was very valuable for children to learn the power of positive comments made towards each other, especially online.



assembly and lesson time understanding our role in that.

With the strapline #shareaheart the focus of this year's work was on being kind to each other online. With cyberbullying a very prevalent issue in



Using the internet safely is something we dedicate a lot of our curriculum time to.

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Romeo and Juliet inspired Y6 artwork this term.

Masquerade! Paper faces on parade...

Pupils in Year 6 have used their studies about Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet as inspiration for a beautiful art project.

The masked ball, which takes place as the Montagues and Capulets hide their true identities from each other, really inspired the children to think of their own mask designs.

Using papier mache masks, paint and embellishments, the pupils created designs that were original and bespoke.

Throughout the process the children have also learnt about the origins of masquerade parties in 17th Century Venice and how the style has featured in many stories, plays and

films.

Congratulations Year 6, on such beautiful final pieces.



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"Our washing machine doesn't look like yours!"

Year 1 pupil at pit cottage

no.5



We braved the wind and drizzle to celebrate Chinese New Year with our families.

Year 1 enjoy going back in time to Beamish

Pupils in Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Beamish this week as they learned more about life as a Victorian coal miner.

Life down the mine was cold, wet and dark; Year 1 agreed it was a very difficult and dangerous job.

The children weren't so sure about Victorian school and agreed that they much prefer to be 21st century school children.

"I don't think it was very nice that boys and girls had to play on separate yards," one girl said.

After school, the children had to help at pit cottage number 5 which was in a terrible mess! The children helped to make the bed, lay the table for tea, tidy away clothes and toys, beat carpets and even empty the chamber pot!

History was well and truly

brought to life for these eager young minds.



Gong hey fat choi!

Our annual celebration of Chinese New Year continued last week with a dragon dance for our families.

The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the origins of the Chinese calendar and especially that the coming year is the year of the monkey!

A beautiful Chinese meal was prepared for us by Taylor

Shaw and fortune cookies were given as gifts.

We also paraded the dragon through the village to visit the residents of Springfield Lodge for the very first time. This was very well received and a hugely enjoyable experience for all.

May the coming year bring us all good luck and prosperous opportunities.



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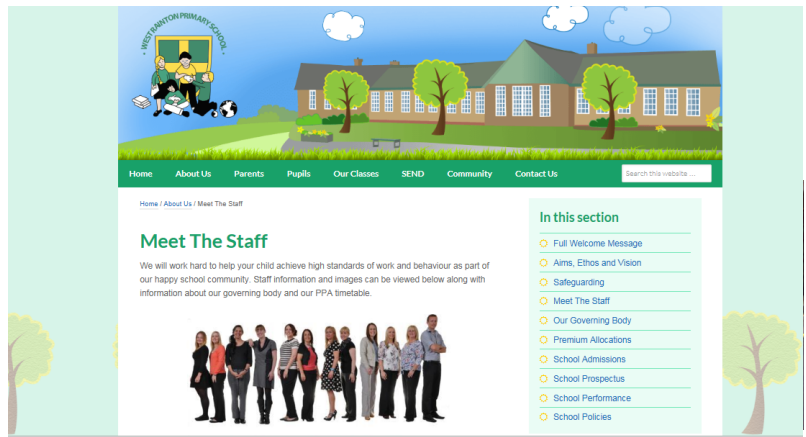
Our school website undergoes a makeover

If you have visited our school website lately you will find it much changed!

Our website has recently undergone a makeover to improve its look, navigation and functionality; we hope you agree with us that it is a much better source of information now.

Visiting our website can tell you a whole host of information about what the children are up to. It can also give you an insight into our performance, our policies, latest events and helpful links for parents. A whole host of information is on there about how to ensure your child is using the internet safely such as parentinfo.org and thinkuknow.co.uk.

We would love to know what you think. Please share your thoughts with us on the



current content of the website or any future additions you feel would be useful.

The website can be found at westrainton.itss-durham.org.uk or by searching for West Rainton Primary in a search engine.

Please take a few minutes to look at our website. Let us know what you think.

Dancing stars!

Our annual celebration of dance has become a key event on the school calendar. It is one that the whole school community looks forward to and after seeing this year's performance it is not surprising why that is.

Reception were inspired by the blockbuster movie, Star Wars, for their routine. They were keenly followed by a star-studded performance from Year 1. Our year 2's were complaining about 'bills' in their fun routine and our juniors performed complex routines to 'Roar', 'Shut up and dance with me' and 'Want to want me.'

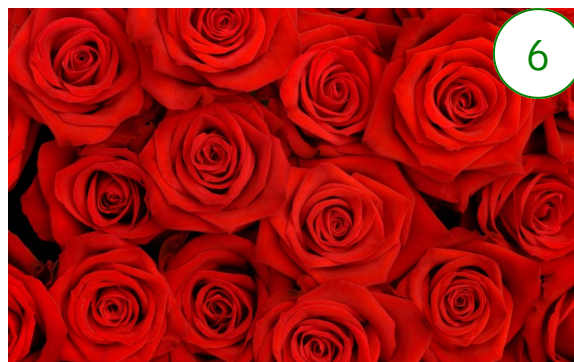
No wonder we are spoiled

for choice each year to choose a dance festival squad. Best of luck to our team this year who will be performing in front of 500 people at Durham's Gala Theatre.



"Our routine is tricky because we have to dance with the brush in our hands."
Year 2 pupil

All pupils in the school, from 4 years old to 11, have been covering a unit of dance in PE and each class came up with fantastic routines to show to our community.



Above: pupils in class 5 performing to 'shut up and dance with me'

Reception and Y1 enjoy the ballet



Our new friends, Donald and Daisy, help Reception to understand the tale of 'The Ugly Duckling'.

Our youngest pupils thoroughly enjoyed a fabulous experience this month when they visited Durham's Gala Theatre to see The Northern Ballet's production of 'The Tortoise and the Hare'.

The pupils have been learning about traditional tales such as 'The Little Red Hen', 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'the Ugly Duckling' and have based many of their learning experiences around these stories. Great fun was had when using our new friends, Donald and Daisy, to inspire Reception's work on 'The Ugly Duckling'.



The ballet, which lasted for 40 minutes, was designed to ignite the enthusiasm of tiny minds with memorable characters and settings. We were very excited to be part of it!

Artwork for a community

We have been very busy recently working alongside Steve Pardew, a local artist, and Durham City Homes to produce artwork for a village interpretation board.

Reception love sharing their learning with family members

Every Wednesday morning, Reception classroom plays host to a super session of children and family members learning together. We have loved showing off our



phonics and blending skills so far, although phonic bingo can get very competitive! We will be continuing the weekly sessions with writing and maths in the late spring and summer terms.



We created a scroll scene of West Rainton which will be included in a time capsule to be buried beneath the board when it is installed in the summer.



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

- Read about our fantastic Gala Theatre Dance Team
- Share in our world book day celebrations
- See how we took part in Sport Relief

