



West Rainton Primary Voice

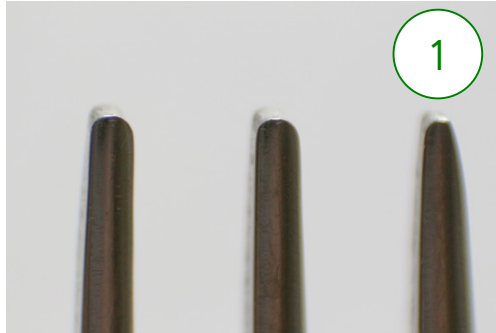
West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 25

March 2016

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

Win a free school jumper!

Here is another opportunity to win a free school jumper or cardigan by taking part in our fun quiz! We have recently put ourselves under the microscope to find out what our pupils and parents think of school. Can you recognise everyday items under the microscope? To enter all you need to do is identify the everyday household objects from their close-up pictures. Send entries into school on a piece of paper by 10am on Friday 15th April 2016. A winner will be chosen in a draw from all correct entries.



Answers to last edition's quiz— name the flowers:

1. Snowdrop, 2. Bluebell,
3. Daffodil, 4. Pansy,
5. Foxglove, 6. Rose,
7. Gerbera, 8. Carnation

Dates for your diary:

- Thursday 24th March— Break up for Easter holidays
- Monday 11th April— Summer term begins
- Mon 2nd May— Bank Holiday (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- Mon 9th— Thu 12th May SATs week for Y6
- Thursday 26th May— Break up for Summer Half term
- Friday 27th May— Staff training day. (Robin Wood for Y5/6 pupils)

Sport Relief 2016

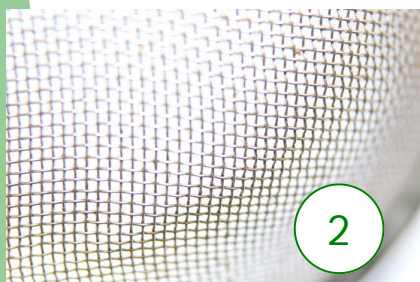
Thank you so much for making our sport relief family fun afternoon such a memorable and enjoyable event for all of the children. Much like last year's international picnic, the event has quickly become one of the children's favourite days of the year.



total raised by the charity on the night. Thank you so much for your generous support.



Some of our adult winners on Sport Relief day.



We had over 70 adults join us for tournaments in curling, netball, rounders, high jump and javelin. It was great to see so many children and adults joining in the sport relief run too.

The children loved having you here with us to join in sports, and it proved to be a very quick response to our pupil survey request for 'mams and dads to come in more often'.

We were very proud to contribute £180 from our school community to the huge grand





Above: Many princesses joined in the World Book Day fun!

Right: Just a small selection of the characters on show!

Celebrating World Book Day

World Book Day is becoming one of our favourite days of the school calendar. The children are incredibly creative and surprise us every year with their invention of great costumes.

On World Book Day in March we had a range of heroes, princesses and animals from some of the most loved stories.

For those who love to read, get involved with reading council's 'Get Caught Reading' competition which involves snapping photographs of the most unusual places you can read!

E-mail photos to a.mcdonough101@durhamlearning.net and the first winners will be chosen at the end of April.



Dancers entertain at Durham's Gala Theatre

Once again, our pupils made us proud as they performed alongside other County Durham schools in the Primary Dance Festival at the Gala Theatre this month.

The group showed how talented they are when they expertly performed complex routines to 'Cotton Eye Joe' and Bollywood favourite, 'Jhoom Barabar Jhoom'.

Many weeks of rehearsals helped us to be as polished as we were and it was great that our high quality performance

was rewarded with 'most energetic performance.'

We would like to say a huge

thank you to our families for coming along to support us on the day. You were definitely the loudest crowd!

4

"It is amazing to think that the crowd who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem might have been the same people who were calling for his crucifixion just one week later."

Father Barnaby Huish



Pupils enjoy learning even more about Palm Sunday and how it is celebrated.

Year 3 visit St Margaret's Church in Durham

Pupils in Year 3 brought their RE learning to life when they visited St Margaret's Church in the centre of Durham City.

Father Barnaby Huish, the rector at St Margaret's, set lots of exciting challenges and tasks for the children including a very special opportunity to ring the church bells.

It was interesting to see how the church prepares for Easter by covering the statues of Jesus and the crosses with purple cloths. There were no flowers in church; instead there were palm leaves decorating the alter.

Father Huish showed us how Christians remember the Last Supper and explained why

Easter Sunday is his busiest day of the year.

We received great comments on how well behaved and how knowledgeable our Year 3's were on the visit.

5



Pupil and Parent surveys show overwhelming support!

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete a parent survey on your way out of parents' evening. The results were overwhelmingly positive and supportive; it is always lovely to hear that your feedback reflects our hard work and opinion of the school. The one or two points for improvement will also be taken on board and acted upon.

Pupils have also completed surveys and again expressed how happy and appreciative they are of all that we do. Headline outcomes were:

100% of our pupils feel safe in school.

100% of our pupils believe they are

well taught.

99% of our pupils are happy to come to school.

98% of our pupils describe behaviour in school as good.

100% of our pupils believe we deal with bullying well.

100% of our pupils say they are listened to by teachers.

For a full analysis of both pupil and parent surveys please access our school website.



Word cloud of our pupils' descriptions of our happy and fun school.

Taking part in British Science Week 2016

The children had a fantastic experience in British Science Week when we were visited by a space dome.



From a pirate adventure for Reception, to Tim Peake's training in Year 6, everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time inside the dome.

Also as part of this celebration of science, Year 6 pupils were given the opportunity to visit the University of Sunderland to take part in an explosive science lecture. It was a lot of fun (once we got over the shock of the bangs!)

Maybe the scientists of future Britain are here within our school.



Bare Necessities

We thoroughly enjoyed M&M production's performance of 'The Jungle Book' in school last week.

It was a great way to get to know a classic story of adventure, animals and bravery.

"My favourite was Mowgli. Shere Khan was a bit scary."

Reception pupil watching 'The Jungle Book' in school.



The Jungle Book by M&M Productions

Year 2 celebrate the life and work of St Cuthbert



Pupils take part in the re-enactment of the life of Durham's most famous Saint

As part of a history unit all about Durham Cathedral and its importance, Year 2 visited our most famous local landmark to enrich their learning about Northern Saints.



The pupils talked so much about the Bishop of Lindisfarne and famous monk that the stewards of the Cathedral were suitably impressed with their knowledge.

The children led prayers around the shrine of St Cuthbert before going to add a brick each to the Cathedral's Lego model.

It was very special to share in a hugely important day in Durham Cathedral's calendar.



Palm cross making in RE

Year 3 learnt a new skill recently as they mastered the



art of weaving palm crosses. They were trickier than they look!



Congratulations School Council

We would like to offer our congratulations to our school council who put together a bid to the Fairtrade Foundation to be recognised as a Fairactive

school. After achieving the Fairware award last year, this year's council wanted to go one better to improve outcomes for farmers around the world. They

organised a Fairtrade coffee morning for the community and performed an awareness raising assembly for the children in school.

It would be great if everybody tried to make one change to Fairtrade in their weekly shop; then we would have made a real difference in the world.

Congratulations to all on achieving this award.



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

- Find out about the refurbishment works that have been happening in school
 - See what's been happening in Reception's outdoor area
 - Share in our learning as we prepare for end of year assessments