



West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 63

December 2022

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 20th December 2022—
carols around the stable 9.05am
Break up for Christmas 3pm
- Return to school Thursday 5th
January 2023
- Friday 20th January 2023—
Lunar New Year celebrations
- Wednesday 15th February 2023
— Intra-school dance festival (pm)
- Wednesday 15th February 2023
— Valentine Disco 4:30-6pm
- Friday 17th February 2023—
break up for half term.

**Teacher training days still to come
in this academic year:**

**Wednesday 4th January 2023
Friday 19th May 2023
Friday 21st July 2023**

Merry Christmas from us all!

The run-up to Christmas has to be one of the busiest but most magical times to be in school. Seeing the children's excitement grow day-by-day is just brilliant.

We loved sharing our Christmas performances with you all in the past couple of weeks.

Our early years and Key Stage 1 teams produced fantastic Nativity plays which were the cutest possible way to start our Christmas. It was lovely to see such confident little stars up on stage beaming at their loved ones who'd come to watch!

More recently, our KS2 children (all 80 of them!) took on the Andrew Lloyd Webber, West-End show of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The children did an amazing job of bringing this show, which is normally performed by a cast of adults, to life. Stunning singing, great dancing and a real team effort was clear to see.



I can't begin to tell you how hard the children have worked this year as they have remained on full timetable of lessons throughout the entire term, putting most of the work in for the shows after school.



It have been lovely to celebrate with the children and reward them for their hard work with a panto trip and Christmas jumper day.



We hope the Christmas holiday brings everyone some peace, happiness and simply time to do the things you love.

Merry Christmas from everyone at WRPS. Thanks for all your support this year, and we'll see you in 2023!



There are not many feelings that compare

with seeing the results of weeks of work put into a KS2 show, and Joseph was no exception.

Many audience members expressed that this was the

Go, go, go Joseph!

favourite of all the shows we've done, and that is all down to the hard work of our entire cast.

For a small number of pupils, it takes a lot to get up on stage and perform in front of a packed hall, and it was great to see those children thoroughly enjoy the experience this year.

For others, the stage is

where they come alive and I think you'll agree there was an abundance of talented singers, dancers and actors on show this year.

KS2- you did us proud!



Snow fun!

The children were very excited to be able to play in the recent snowy conditions and we made the most of it with some team challenges to create mini snowmen.

The whole school played brilliantly, working together with all ages to create a lovely range of snow sculptures.

Our pupils understand the importance of keeping themselves and each other

safe by listening carefully and following rules for certain conditions. The older children are also brilliant at making sure the younger ones are included in everything we do. This allows us to trust them to take part in more adventurous tasks and activities.

Let's hope we get a little more snow before the winter is out!



The whole school worked together to make mini snowmen!



Thanks for making every day count!



We're the only school we know who run a termly attendance raffle funded by PTA events!

Nationally, attendance in schools has taken a big hit over recent weeks with many bugs and childhood illnesses doing the rounds.

We are so pleased that our whole WRPS team is working as one and that parents know when absence is needed or not.

Please rest assured that we would never keep poorly children in school. Equally, we will not send them home for no reason.

We have teamed up with other local schools recently to see how attendance compares and WRPS is doing well just now.

Spring and summer time

should hopefully see us over the bulk of the germs however, and we will be pushing to get as close to the 96% attendance mark as a whole school by July.

It is great that everyone makes every day possible count!

A Christmas filled with fun projects

Whilst still continuing to work very hard in all subjects, we've also taken the time to have some fun projects on the go this term.

Children in Year 3/4 have recently taken part in a European decoration exchange in which they sent and received 28 decorations from countries all over Europe.

This allowed our pupils the chance to see how traditions are similar and different across the continent.

It was great to have everyone join us for our Christmas fair again this year.

We were so grateful to have some brilliant donations of prizes for our tombola and raffle. Thank you so much for the support you continue to give us. We are mindful of not asking for too much in such challenging times for everyone but rest assured, every penny we raise benefits your children.

Our fair alone, raised just over £850 and every penny is spent on treats and experiences for our pupils.



Nativity stars!

Our youngest pupils did a fantastic job of not one, but two nativity plays earlier this month.

Our EYFS team in nursery and reception



put on a cute traditional nativity called 'A King is Born!' They really enjoyed performing to for all their family members.

Then it was the turn of year 1 and 2, who handled a very tricky nativity play packed full of lines to learn and remember.

It was great to see such confident singers, dancers and actors up on stage with beaming smiles.

Well done everyone in EYFS and KS1!



WRPS mini Lumiere sparks a new tradition!

Our first ever mini Lumiere event in school was a super project and occasion to be part of.



We welcomed around 350 visitors into school on the night of our event including 110 of our pupils who all

enjoyed the science and creative aspects of the displays.

The children thoroughly enjoyed creating their light installations for you all and learnt a lot about a different form of art exhibition as well as how light impacts in different ways.

As a first effort at this kind of event, it also taught us a lot—when Lumiere returns in 2024, we will be planning for both outdoor and indoor installations whatever the weather!



**WRPS mini Lumiere
2022**



What a super end to the term our little nursery friends have had!

In the run up to Christmas, they have had some fun days in nursery with snowman face

Nursery's Christmas fun!

painting and a special EYFS pantomime aimed just at little ones.

They have had such a busy term building up their subject vocabulary, learning all about number, singing many songs and experiencing the forest class-room.

They thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas dinner in school too.



A focus on the subject of computing

We are incredibly proud of the broad and ambitious curriculum offer the pupils at West Rainton receive.

The subject of computing, led in our school by Mrs Maddox, is largely made up the Teach Computing scheme of work.

Over time, the children build up skills in computer science which includes skills such as coding and debugging software. They also build up their knowledge of programs used to support work in other subjects such as word processing and publishing tools.

A huge part of our computing map is e-safety and the children study ways in which they can be safe and respectful online throughout every unit of work that they study.

The internet can be the most wonderful place to gain instant information, to con-

nect with friends and to be entertained. But, it can also be a very lonely place if used inappropriately or unsupervised by trusted adults.

In school we talk about spending far more time in the real world than the virtual one and our older children know when online relationships are unhealthy and it is time to switch off.

Recently, our older children have been using a 3D modelling software to bring making designs that are able to be 3D printed. Early in the spring, we will be hiring a 3D printer to bring these designs to life. If we like what we create, we may even invest on one ourselves!

Unlike any other subject, the world of computing is an ever-changing one. This makes it both exciting and challenging.

Our children seem to take the challenge in their stride, however!

Are you keeping your details and permissions up to date?

It is vitally important that you regularly check that the information we hold on you and your children is up to date.

We send out annual data collection sheets for basic details but we understand things may change in between.

Any changes to addresses, contact numbers, relative lists, medical information and people who are able to collect your child must be given to us at the earliest opportunity.

Also, if your permissions for your child to have photos/videos taken have changed, it is important to let us know.

Thank you for helping us to keep our data correct and secure.

Please see our website for copies of our privacy statements for parents.

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

- See how spring term 2023 begins
- Look at the subject of PE in WRPS
- See how our Lunar New Year celebrations went