



Dates for your diary:

- Friday 17th February 2023– break up for half term.
- Monday 27th February 2023– return to school and nursery.
- Friday 3rd March– World Book Day celebrations
- Friday 17th March– Red Nose Day!
- Monday 20th March– Parents' evening
- Wednesday 29th March– Easter Fair
- Friday 31st March– break up for Easter holidays
- Monday 17th April 2023– return to school and nursery.

Teacher training days still to come in this academic year:

Friday 19th May 2023

Friday 21st July 2023



West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 64

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West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

Dancing happy!

The children of our school love to dance!

It is a fun and energetic feature of our PE curriculum; the whole-school dance unit which culminates in our festival performance for our loved ones.



Audience members who came along to this year's show were dazzled by some complex routines, high-energy tracks and some very clever choreography.

Reception were able to show off their learning about African animals as they demonstrated each creature to music.

Year1 took us on a journey aboard a fearsome pirate ship where everyone has to heave-ho to get the treasure!

Firework, by Katy Perry, was the soundtrack to Y2's bouncing routine which modelled some great formation changes.



In key stage two, Mrs Firth's class showed us a great dance fitness routine to Danza Kaduro– definitely a hit for the disco!

Miss Kelly's class showed great rhythm and timing to perform 'Love' by Sebastian Yatra. A perfect choice for the week of Valentine's Day!

Our oldest pupils chose a contemporary routine inspired by Kate Bush's 'Running up that Hill' mixed with 'Titanium' by Sia.



Last, but certainly not least, our afternoon nursery tots wowed us all with their fantastic confidence to perform, 'If you're happy and you know it'.

We are so proud of everyone's effort and confidence to perform in dance this term.



Last week in school, we had our latest visit from Ofsted.

This was our first opportunity in over 5 years-first since the pandemic- to show the wonderful provision our children get day-in-day-out.

We welcomed two inspectors who visited every class, spoke to every staff

A visit from Ofsted

member and were delighted to chat to many pupils too.

Whilst here, they looked extensively at how we teach early reading, mathematics and history as well as aspects such as personal development, clubs, safeguarding and attendance.

We eagerly await their report, which we should

receive in March. We will share this with you all as soon as we get it.

In the meantime, what we do know, is that your children were absolutely fantastic as always. They showed exactly what West Rainton Primary is all about.

Spring term learning across the school



Y6 have enjoyed creating hapa-zome leaf dye prints in art!

As the days get a little bit longer and brighter, and the green shoots of spring begin to peep through, we are also seeing the promising signs of progress in every class across the school.

At the halfway point of the academic year, it has been lovely to see some wonderful learning opportunities. Class 3 have produced some beautiful textiles artwork recently as they've

studied weaving and batik.

In year 6, it has been great to see some fantastic writing around 'Julia and the Shark' a book that touches upon the challenges of mental health.

Y6 have also enjoyed ending their computing unit on 3D modelling software by seeing their creations come to life on a 3D printer. We have currently hired one before purchasing one for

ourselves.

There has been a sudden rush of pupils in Y2-Y6 showing real determination to improve their TT Rockstar's knowledge or speed.

Super spring term so far, everyone!



Class 2 impressed with their knowledge of The Great Fire of London.

Class 2 enjoy a visit from an historian

Year 1 recently enjoyed a visit from Michael from Durham University.

Bringing this very famous event to life was an easy task for our visitor as the knowledge and understanding of the event was already very good.

Year 1 could explain the causes of the fire and how

people pulled together to try to bring it under control.

They have made good comparisons between the safety measures and skills in place today, compared with back in 1666.



Reception learn from a safari experience

Reception have been thoroughly enjoying their unit of learning all about Africa.

Over the past few weeks they have looked at Africa as a continent, finding it on a globe. They have looked at how different a village is there to here in West Rainton.

They have made fantastic African-inspired jewelry, creating repeating patterns and using their fine motor skills.

In PE, reception's dance routine has an African

theme as they look at the movements of some fantastic safari creatures.

A little bit of Serengeti sunshine has been brought into the classroom whilst still in the depths of winter!



Science rocks in class 4

Class 4 showed all that they've learnt about rocks and soils in science with Katherine, a geotechnical surveyor, who uses this knowledge every day in her career.

The children were very good at explaining clues to decide how rocks have been formed.

They looked at several examples to decide if they were sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic.

It is great to learn from experts about how they use the subjects we learn in their jobs. Hopefully we can inspire the workforce of the future!



Pupils in Mrs. Firth's class loved quizzing Katherine on how she uses her knowledge of rocks to help builders plan construction projects.

Class 5 shine on their rivers' field trip

To end their geography unit all about features of the river, we teamed up with the Wear rivers' trust to spend the day studying the Browney near Lanchester.

The children could explain that this river is a tributary of the River Wear and spent the morning examining features such as meanders, beds and banks.

It was great fun measuring the depth of the river at different points and testing its speed by racing dog biscuits 'pooh-stick' style!

It was also great to see the health of the river as the children pond-dipped and discovered all sorts of nymphs and river shrimps. Even in the cold temperatures of February, the river was teeming with life.



Class 5 on their field trip

Happy endings lead to strong beginnings in nursery

Our nursery pupils have recently been basing their learning around classic fairytales such as the 'The three pigs', 'Goldilocks' and 'The three billy goat's gruff'.

Not only have they become very familiar and capable at retelling these stories, they've also acted out scenes, constructed homes and bridges, made porridge and collected data on toppings, written their own lists and talked to friends about other stories they like.

The language and communication skills of this group are really progressing well as explain their ideas and are beginning to make marks to represent them too.

In nursery phonics sessions, it is great to see children already familiar with some of the first 10 sounds. Children show good awareness of hearing those sounds in words.

They ended their unit recently with a lovely 'stay and play' session for parents.



A focus on the subject of PE

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

The subject of PE, led in our school by Mr McDonough, more than any other subject, encourages our children to set up lifelong healthy habits of exercise.

As holders of the AfPE award for quality PE and sports' provision, we pride ourselves on an ambitious and varied curriculum which introduces our children to as many sports and activities as possible over time.

Healthy competition is a vital part of this provision and we hold many competitions and performances over the year to push ourselves to new personal bests.

We have made excellent use of the PE and Sports Premium funding to ensure we are

one of the best equipped primary schools in the country! Amongst our equipment, we have a tumble track for gymnastics, a wall of dance mirrors, a dedicated high jump kit and our newly-installed long jump track and pit.

To promote our young sports stars we offer small scholarship funds to get children who show real promise into external clubs. We also take children to elite sports events to show where a dedicated attitude can lead.

We are supported one day a week in school by coaches from SAFC Foundation. We also have a professional gymnast coach to run our popular club.

PE is a subject that allows us to grow physically, mentally, tactically and socially and we are fiercely protective that our children get their full entitlement and a lot more!

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 we celebrate Easter in school
- Look at the subject of geography in WRPS
- Share in the highlights from our Ofsted report