



West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 65

March 2023

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

Dates for your diary:

- Friday 31st March— break up for Easter holidays
- Monday 17th April 2023— return to school and nursery.
- Monday 1st May 2023— SCHOOL CLOSED— BANK HOLIDAY
- Friday 5th May 2023— Coronation celebration in school (wear red, white and/or blue!)
- Monday 8th May 2023— SCHOOL CLOSED— BANK HOLIDAY FOR CORONATION
- Tues 9th-Fri 12th May Y6 SATS WEEK
- Mon 15th— Thurs 18th May 2023 Y2 SATS WEEK
- Friday 19th May 2023— DERWENT HILL TRIP Y5/6 SCHOOL CLOSED
- Friday 26th May 2023— break up for summer half term

Teacher training days still to come in this academic year:

**Friday 19th May 2023
Friday 21st July 2023**



The green shoots of spring are well and truly through now, and the promise of warmer and brighter days ahead is almost reality.

The children have been busy learning about the traditions associated with Easter as each class studies different aspects of the bible stories.

We have been really pleased to welcome in visitors from St Mary's church 'Open the Book' group who come in and re-enact bible stories in assembly. This week, they performed the story of The Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter Sunday with many of our pupils joining in as disciples.



While the eggs, bonnets and hot cross buns may seem like just a treat, they all hold links to the teachings of the bible. They are also a lot of fun! Our fair this week was a great suc-

Easter fun!



cess because of your support and generosity.

We had some great donations of prizes from Tesco, Morrison's, Sunderland Bowl, Ramside Golf, Wise Reflections and Murray & Co Jewellers as well as many parents, grandparents and staff members. This means that we maximise our profits and have more money to spend on treating our super pupils!

Prizes for our decorated egg competition and Easter Bonnets will be given out on Friday before our second attendance raffle of the academic year.





A 'GOOD' report from the inspector!

As you know, we received a visit from Ofsted early in February and 2 weeks ago we received their long-awaited report.

We were so pleased to see how well the inspectors captured our unique school and its fantastic happy, inclusive ethos.

Our favourite comments from the report include:

'Pupils feel at home at West Rainton Primary. It is a small school with a strong culture of inclusivity.'

Classrooms are purposeful and calm. Teachers expect the best of their pupils. In return, the pupils appreciate their teachers.'

Much work is done to give pupils access to rich cultur-

al experiences. Pupils can choose from an impressive array of extra-curricular activities.'

'Pupils adore reading.'

'Pupils have an impressive knowledge of mathematics.'

'The school is proud of its place in the community.'

You can read the full report on our website or class dojo.

Budding learners across spring term



Y6 have also created some fantastic prototype bird hides in DT.

It may be the shortest term of the year, but my, it's been a busy one!

Our classes, without exception, have worked their socks off.

In reception, the children have enjoyed learning about the village in the past comparing old photographs to present day.

Our year 1s have been creating beautiful bunting in their DT unit on textiles.

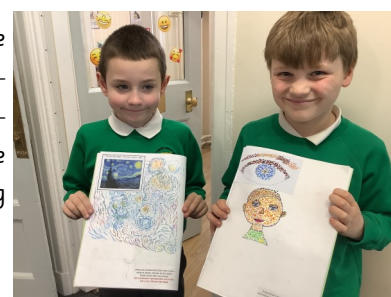
In year 2, preparation for SATS have started as well as a fact-filled unit on China

We've been wowed by some fabulous artwork in Y3/4 as they've studied great pointillism artists such as Van Gogh.

In y4/5 a unit on space has captured the curiosity of our young scientists and it's great to see some keen on becoming

STEM ambassadors in school.

In Y6, as well as SATS revision, the children have continued a full timetable and have enjoyed delving into the history of The Industrial Revolution.



If you can see it, you can be it!



12 lucky pupils enjoyed a night at the basketball.

We continued our exciting programme of visits to elite sporting events this in March with a trip to support Newcastle Eagles as they took on top-of-the-league, London Lions.

12 pupils enjoyed such an exciting and close match where the Eagles could have taken a shock victory with the final shot of the game.

The skills on display were incredibly impressive and it has been great to see them being practiced on our sports court back at school.

We have further trips planned to see Newcastle Thunder in rugby League and Durham in the T20 cricket.

What fantastic opportunities!





Durham Primary Dance Festival Stars!

be the turn of our netballers as they take part in a local tournament.

Following on from last half-term's hugely successful dance assembly in school, we were proud to take 30 performers to Durham's Gala Theatre to dance again on a much bigger stage!

Our Y6 routine, inspired by Stranger Things, was well received by the audience members, and it was a pleasure to see our KS2 dance

crew's hard work and dedication shine in their 'Jerusalema' routine.

Our children are always great ambassadors for our school when they are out competing.

Recently, our football team also had a great few weeks finishing 4th in their league.

Later in the summer, it will



Our very own steel pans arrive

Our now well-established steel band members were thrilled to unwrap our very own set of pans when we returned after the half-term break.

In our Friday night club, the brand new pans, sprayed in green, have already played some fantastic pieces.

We have been able to secure our own set of pans after being part-funded by a grant from Cllr Bill Kellett.

Soon, they will also be decorated with

our school logo and we hope for you all to see them in action at our summer picnic in July.

The band are progressing brilliantly and have some great pieces already well-rehearsed, thanks to our superb teacher, Holly Fagan, from Durham Music Service.



Our steel band enjoyed unwrapping the new drums and hearing for them for the first time.

Year 1 have musical 'little fingers'!

Our year 1 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed learning alongside Elaine from Durham Music Service this half-term in their 'little fingers' provision.

The sessions build up young children's understanding of rhythm, tempo and dynamics in music through games and songs. Using both untuned percussion and tuned instruments, the y1 children are able to distinguish between different rhythms through careful listening.

This skill continues to build across school as the children listen to more and more pieces over time, paying

close attention to what they can hear.

Children in year 2 spend a term focusing on world percussion; this year it has been the rhythms of Brazil on the samba drums which will culminate in a performance for parents.

Our juniors all learn the recorder and build up to 8 note pieces by the end of Y6.

You will get to see examples of our musical talents at the school summer picnic on 5th July.



Year 1 enjoy their 'little fingers' music lessons



World Book Day is always a special occasion in our school because of our deep love of books and literature.

It is very important to us to begin that love of stories from the earliest opportunity with our 2 year-olds in nursery.

Our nursery children loved dressing up as much-loved characters and shared stories with so many volunteer readers who came in to lead

story time across the day.

Further up the school, our older pupils also enjoyed dressing up and celebrating their favourite stories.

It is always a delight to hear the children talking so fondly of the books and authors they've read in school and at home. Reading really is the key to all other education and in our school, it's going strong!

Thank you so much to all of you who hear the children read all year round. We couldn't do what we do without you and you are making such a difference!



A focus on the subject of geography

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

The subject of geography, led in our school by Miss Kelly, lays a foundation for so many future careers and life skills.

As well as gaining a deep understanding of the world around them; continents, capitals, flags, populations, climate etc, the children also study human geography such as trade, economics, environmental issues and natural disasters. This begins right from nursery when children are encouraged to take active notice of their local area.

In our school, geography is taught in half-termly blocks to all year groups from Y1 – Y6.

A key component of geography is fieldwork and this year there has been a big push on

skills of studying and documenting the local environments as well as map and compass work.

Miss Kelly has great links with Belmont School's geography lead and he has been in to run CPD for staff as well as bringing along some of the secondary students from geography club to mentor our y4/5s.

Our next steps with geography development are to look at how we assess children's knowledge and skills over time.



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

- See how our Derwent Hill trip goes
- Look at the subject of DT in WRPS
- Look ahead to a summer of fun

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.