



# West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 66

May 2023

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

## Dates for your diary:

- Friday 26th May 2023— break up for half term.
- Sunday 4th June 2023— Big Lunch picnic in St Mary's Church grounds.
- Monday 5th June 2023— return to school and nursery
- Tuesday 13th June 2023 (pm)- Athletics records day
- Tuesday 20th June 2023 (am) Sports day
- Wednesday 21st June 2023— Summer disco
- Thursday 22nd June 2023- School group photo day
- Monday 10th July 2023— parents' evening
- Wednesday 19th July 2023- Nursery graduation 10am
- Wednesday 19th July 2023 -Y6 awards night 6pm
- Thursday 20th July 2023- Y6 leavers' assembly 9am

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

**Friday 21st July 2023**

**Teacher training days planned for next academic year:**

**Monday 4th September 2023**

**Wednesday 3rd January 2024**

**Friday 17th May 2024**

**Mon/Tues 22nd/23rd July 2024**



Last week, we took our biggest ever group of adventurers to Derwent Hill in Keswick, Cumbria.

30 children had an absolute blast



exploring the mountains, lakes and rivers of The Lake District. Derwent Hill is situated in the little village of Portinscale on the shore of Derwentwater, just a short walk from Keswick town centre.

Over the weekend break, we packed in so many activities such as climbing mountains, canoeing, gorge scrambling and the infamous Derwent Hill 'big swing'!

In between the big activities, we also did some orienteering in the grounds of our wonderful home for the week-

## Derwent Hill adventures!



end, we mastered the low-ropes course and ate the most delicious food!

The children also enjoyed life in dormitories, having a big sleepover with



their mates.

The whole group gave it their all and have come away with memories for life. Y5s are already talking about returning next summer.

Well done to all our adventurers!

## the big lunch

eden project

COMMUNITY FUND



On the final Sunday of the half term holiday (4th June) St Mary's annual Big Lunch event will take place.

For those who've attended before, you will know how much fun the children have all playing together whilst the adults catch up with a chat.

This year, there will be

a visiting scientist to entertain the children, a steel band to entertain us and of course, the ice cream van!

There will also be organised sports and games for the children to join in with and an open mic for any budding singers or musicians.

This year, children will also receive a free snack bag picnic, making this an

entirely cost-free event.

There will also be a trail of Incredible Individuals' figures for visitors to enjoy—these will be entered into September's village show.

Everyone is welcome any time from 1pm and it really is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

## Spending time with our grand-friends!

The relationships between our pupils and the residents of Springfield Lodge continue to grow.

Year 4/5 are involved in a 'playfulness project' where they use role-play, mime and circus skills to invent their own individual clown characters.

Every two weeks, the class head along to Springfield Lodge and share in their entertaining skills with their

grand-friends!

One of the sessions fell on the weekend of the Coronation too so the children had a great time discussing the new king with the residents, many of whom reminisced about the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II 70 years ago.

We value this link with our community so much.



*Age is no barrier to having fun!*



**Working in the style of Andy Goldsworthy**

## Class 2 get creative outdoors

In their final art unit of the year, our Y1 pupils have looked at the work of Andy Goldsworthy who creates organic artwork outdoors using natural objects found to sculpt.

This can be a tricky concept for young children to understand, as the artwork inevitably doesn't last long before it is either blown or washed away.

The children loved using feathers, pebbles, conkers, shells, grass, leaves, pine cones to create their own stunning pieces.

It was fantastic to see the imagination involved in coming up with designs as well as the super teamwork needed to create such beautiful sculptures.



## Reception have fun on the farm!

Reception class had a fantastic visit to Hall Hill Farm recently to support their topic of learning around life cycles and animals and their young.

The children handled the tiny chicks, fed the baby lambs and had an exciting ride on a tractor and trailer.

They were very excited to tell everyone about their experiences when they got back to school. They have also done some super pieces of writing about their visit, which will be their entries

into the village show in September.

It is always lovely to hear the views of people we meet on visits as they are always so complimentary about the children here.

Well done, reception!



## Class 3 enjoy a visit to Durham Cathedral

As part of their RE studies about Saint Cuthbert, Y2 enjoyed visiting Durham Cathedral and learning about one of the most important Northern Saints.

The children are always fascinated to know that Durham Cathedral was built purely because of St Cuthbert's tomb which attracted thousands of pilgrims every year.

Y2 enjoyed re-enacting his life story and exploring the magnificent architecture and windows of the Cathedral.

Later this term, 28 of our children will have the privilege to sing in the Cathedral in an outreach music project alongside several other schools.



Year 2 loved re-enacting the story of Saint Cuthbert's life and work.

## Author, Richard O'Neill pays a visit

We were thrilled to have author, Richard O'Neill in school and nursery this week.

Richard spent the whole day with us, working with every class from nursery to Y6 on storytelling and composition skills. He even enjoyed lunch with the children and spent the break playing football with them too!

Richard's work is inspired by his proud Traveller heritage and he often uses tales passed down to him by his older relatives and community in his work.

As most visitors are, he was utterly charmed by our pupils and said he would love to return to our school again in the future.

Many pupils are now inspired to write the sequels or spin-offs from Richard's stories. What an inspiration!



The children loved Mr O'Neill's stories.

Like the rest of the UK, and much of the world, we were keen to mark the first coronation of a new monarch in our country for 70 years.

We had a brilliant red, white and blue day complete with a stunning afternoon tea and massive slices of Victoria Sponge cake!

In nursery, the children read stories about how King Charles' special day



might go, writing their own invitations for a coronation party.

Working with St Cuthbert's Hospice, a lot of pupils also entered a colouring competition to put themselves in the throne and decide one thing they would do if they had the job for just one day.



## A focus on the subject of DT

We are incredibly proud of the broad and ambitious curriculum offer the children at West Rainton receive. In readiness for secondary school, our children are taught in discrete subjects so that each week they encounter every lesson on their timetable.

Design and Technology, led in our school by Mrs Pickford, is a great subject for children how love to find out, deconstruct, design, build, evaluate and problem-solve. In this subject the children get hands-on with woodwork and textiles tools as well as a unit on cooking and food preparation.

We also added to our DT repertoire this year by investing in a 3D printer which the children are fascinated by.

DT is also a great subject to prepare for the world of work as products are designed with a function and target market in mind, helping us to become critical consumers too.

The subject allows children to become very reflective and able to assess their own work against given criteria.

Just this year, there have been great projects building wooden bird hides, sewing felt bees, making vehicles, producing electronic circuit cards and designing fabric bunting.

## 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...

- Share in our sporting achievements
- See how our summer term learning unfolds
- Say farewell to our Y6 leavers as they head on to their next steps