



# West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 70

February 2024

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

## Dates for your diary:

- Friday 16th February – break up for half term.
- Monday 26th February– return to school and nursery.
- Friday 8th March– World Book Day celebrations
- Friday 15th March– Red Nose Day!
- Monday 18th March– Parents' evening
- Wednesday 27th March– Easter Fair
- Thursday 28th March– break up for Easter holidays
- Monday 15th April– return to school and nursery.

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

**Friday 17th May 2024**

**Monday 22nd/Tuesday 23rd July**



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 direction skills with their traffic-themed routine.

Year1 took us away from wintertime to the beaches of California with Surfin' USA!

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

In key stage two, our Year 3s put on a highly polished performance of 'Can't Stop the Feelin' with some super partner and group choreography.

## Dancing feet!

Year 4 raised the boy-band energy with their happy performance to 'What Makes You Beautiful'.

Year 5 showed great rhythm and timing to perform 'Dance Monkey' with some tricky footwork.

Our oldest pupils self-choreographed a routine to 'Miracle' by Calvin Harris.

Last, but certainly not least, our after-noon nursery tots wowed us all with their fantastic confidence to perform, 'Jungle Boogie'.



Well done to our Gala squads this year who represented the school at the primary dance festival in Durham so brilliantly.

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



## Lion dancing in the city!



What a superb experience we had this year when a professional Kung Fu coach came in to teach a group of Y5/6 pupils ceremonial lion dance steps.

The group spent 6 weeks training with the coach and mastering the moves of the Lunar New Year Lion.

nese New Year.

We hope to be invited again in future!

It all led to a fantastic afternoon in Durham City where the group performed alongside a professional team to entertain the very large crowds who had gathered to celebrate Chi-



## Kings and Queens of the Castle!



*Y3 on their trip to  
Durham Castle*

Year 3 have enjoyed a new history unit all about castles.

Living in the Land of the Prince Bishops, we are spoilt for choice over where we can take this study, and Y3 loved their visit to Durham Castle recently where they wowed the experts with their

outstanding knowledge.

Year 3 have a good understanding of the role of castles as protection and status as

well as different styles of castles through the eras.



*Year 1 impressed with  
their knowledge of The  
Great Fire of London.*

Year 1 recently enjoyed a visit from an historian from Durham University.

Bringing this very famous event to life was an easy task for our

## Year 1 enjoy a visit from an historian

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 safe-

ty measures and skills in place today, compared with back in 1666.

They have also compared this event to the lesser known Great Fire of Newcastle in 1854.

Great work Year 1!



## 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.

The children were thrilled to get the DT tools

out to make their own African djembe drums and shakers.

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



## Grandfriends' Club

On the back of our TV appearance at Christmas alongside our Grandfriends at Springfield Lodge, we have established Grandfriends' Club!

Once a month, a group of children will visit the residential home to do some topical crafts and sing songs with the older

people.

We know how much this brightens their day but also, how much it adds to our pupils social and emotional development too.

Our first visits in 2024 have included a session on laughter yoga and, more recently, valentines crafts.



We love our visits to Springfield Lodge!

## Year 5 shine in their historical writing

Our Year 5s have had a busy start to 2024 with two big projects on the go at once!

Working alongside author Richard O'Neill and Elysium Theatre, the Y5s have been writing and producing creative artwork about the Border Reivers— a lawless group of people, full of adventure and deception, who lived between England and Scotland in the 14th-17th centuries.

As if this was not

enough, the Y5s are also participating in the Shakespeare Schools' Festival where they will take on a performance of Macbeth at the Gala Theatre in March.

Rehearsals are coming along nicely and we know they will be fantastic on the night!



**Year 5 are so busy this term!**

Our nursery pupils have recently been basing their learning around classic fairytales as well as taking part in recent cultural events such as Chinese New Year and pancake day.

Not only have they become very familiar and capable at retelling 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.

## Pancake day in nursery

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 our selves 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 more of our spring term learning
- See how Y5 get on with their Macbeth performance