



West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 71

March 2024

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

Dates for your diary:

- Thursday 28th March— break up for Easter holidays
- Monday 15th April 2024— return to school and nursery.
- Monday 6th May— SCHOOL CLOSED BANK HOLIDAY
- Monday 13th-Thursday 16th May— Y6 SATS week
- Friday 17th May— SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY— DERWENT HILL RESIDENTIAL TRIP
- Friday 24th May— break up for summer half term
- Monday 3rd June— return to school and nursery.

Teacher training days still to come in this academic year:

Friday 17th May 2024
Monday 22nd July 2024
Tuesday 23rd July 2024

REMINDER— Our school day changes slightly on our return after Easter.

**Doors Open at 8:30am and
SCHOOL STARTS AT 8:40am
We finish at 3:10pm.**



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 half term we have been treated to stories of Jesus' baptism and how he selected his disciples.



While the eggs, bunnies 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 success because of your support and generosity.

Easter fun!



We had some great donations of prizes from Tesco, Julie's Deli, Seashells, AB Cleaning services, Rainton pharmacy, The Three Horseshoes, 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!

Thank you to those who baked for us as well, and to those who helped children make bonnets or eggs at home too. You are a very creative bunch!



Y6 immerse themselves in the world of The Ancient Maya



Y6 had a fantastic trip back in time without even leaving the classroom this term when a history expert in Ancient Maya spent the day with us.

The day began with the ritual sacrifice the Maya would make to appease their gods before we got to be

archaeologists, finding and researching artefacts such as coins, pottery, military items from across the ages.

Then it was some tricky maths, trying to master the Maya number system which has a base of 20 rather than the decimal system we know and love!

On the afternoon, Y6 loved making their own Maya

pottery, looking at patterns and sculptures such as spirit animals.

What a fantastic way to add to our history unit as we compare Maya with Vikings and ask, 'who achieved more'?

All the World's a Stage!



Y5 were superb in their Macbeth performance!

Here at West Rainton Primary we care deeply that our pupils first experience of Shakespeare is a positive and engaging one.

Arguably the world's most famous writer who has stood the test of time by creating plays all about human emotion.

Macbeth is 401 years old and tells the story of an ambitious Scottish warrior and his wife who take

down the king (and many others) in a campaign of envy and ambition.

Y5 did a fantastic job to learn the 30 minute script, largely in the original text of the time, and plunged their audience into the dark and dangerous world of treason and rebellion.

They spent a day learning all about putting on a show in a professional theatre with tech rehearsals, back-

stage organization and teamwork.

The performance at Durham's Gala Theatre was the first of four school productions as part of The Shakespeare School's Festival.

A very mature and professional job from our super Y5s!



A night at the movies!



Movie Night: The sequel!

The introduction of movie nights in school has been a huge hit with our pupils!

They just love getting comfortable with their blankets, pillows and teddies enjoying food and a film with their buddies! So much so that some of them asked, 'can we do this every week?'

Well, we can't promise it will be as often as that but it will

certainly be an event we continue to plan in future calendars.

Reception and KS1 pupils enjoyed watching some short animation films, ending with a couple of Peppa Pig episodes, whilst KS2 enjoyed the film, 'Leo' whilst tucking into their burgers, pizzas and hotdogs!

Thank you so much to our

staff who give their time relentlessly to provide wonderful experiences like this for your children. They really are the best team!



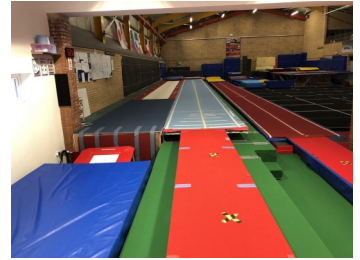
Durham City Gymnastics Club become WRPS partners

As many of you know, we have had a close affiliation with Durham City Gymnastics Club for quite a few years now, and our club has produced some fantastic talents in tumbling, cheer and gymnastics.

So much so, that the club have approached us to be official partners of theirs ensuring the children of our school get a fantastic opportunity to experience elite-level coaching from athletes such as British tumbling champion Shanice Davidson. The project will

also involve some school visits to the club facilities based in Sherburn.

If any other pupils, from Y1-Y6 would like to give gymnastics club a go, please see Mrs McGowan to sign up.



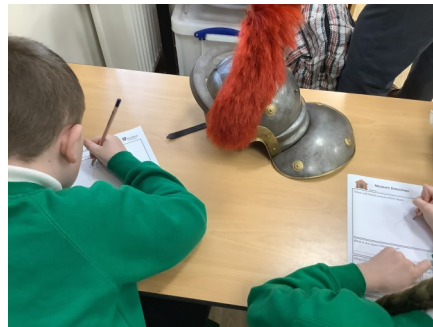
Y4 spend a day with The Romans

Year 4 spent a fact-filled day with John from Durham University who came in to discuss all things Ancient Rome!

The children enjoyed a range of activities which included learning all about the emperors through embossing their own coins.

They spent time looking at maps to see just how far-flung the Roman Empire was, and focused on Romans in our local area marching northwards to Hadrian's Wall in a battle with the Picts.

Year 4 particularly enjoyed handling Roman artefacts and looking at armour and weapons that were used at the time.



Pupils in Mrs. Firth's class enjoy a day of Roman history

The future of music is looking bright!

Our Reception and year 1 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed learning alongside Mrs McCartney 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 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 spent a term focusing on world percussion; this year it has been the rhythms of Brazil on the samba drums which culminated in a performance for the school.

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 3rd July.



Year 2 enjoy samba drumming



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 set a challenge to see how many stories they could read 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 for supporting our ambition for every child to develop a love of reading and books.



What is Fast Four?

We are incredibly proud of the bespoke broad curriculum we have designed with our pupils at its heart. The primary curriculum builds skills for life, shapes characters and ensures our children leave us with a readiness for their future steps in education and the world of work.

As part of that curriculum development, subject leads make decisions on the key skills and knowledge they want children to learn and remember. To ensure that learning sticks, we use a system of retrieval called 'Fast Four' where children are given 4 questions at the beginning of each lesson to revisit prior learning. The questions can be from their current topic or as far back as Year 1!

We have been using this system for a few years now and the children are brilliant at it!

See how you would fare with some examples of our fast four questions from a range of subjects:

Which 2 Northern Saints are buried in Durham Cathedral?

What were Canopic jars used for? Bonus point if you know what went in each one!

How many beats is a minim worth?

Can you name the 4 capital cities of the UK countries?

What are the primary colours?

Where in the body would you find the mandible? The clavicle? The patella?

Tell me a prime number? A square number?

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 our trip to Derwent Hill goes
- Assessment season begins as we head towards summer
- Share in summer term topics