



West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 69

December 2023

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 19th December 2023—carols around the stable 9.00am Christmas parties!
Break up for Christmas 3pm
- Return to school Thursday 4th January 2024
- Friday 9th February 2024— Lunar New Year celebrations
- **Wednesday 15th February 2023— Intra-school dance festival (pm)**
- **Wednesday 15th February 2023— Valentine Disco 4:30-6pm**
- **Friday 17th February 2023— break up for half term.**

Teacher training days still to come in this academic year:

Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Friday 19th May 2023

Friday 21st July 2023

Merry Christmas from us all!

The run-up to Christmas has to be one of the busiest but most magical times to be in school. Seeing the children's excitement grow day-by-day is just brilliant.

We loved sharing our Christmas performances with you all in the past couple of weeks.

Our early years and Key Stage 1 teams produced fantastic Nativity plays which were the cutest possible way to start our Christmas. It was lovely to see such confident little stars up on stage beaming at their loved ones who'd come to watch!

More recently, our KS2 children (all 85 of them!) took on the Disney blockbuster, Mary Poppins Jr. with such iconic songs like 'Spoonful of Sugar', 'Step in Time' and 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.' The children did an amazing job of bringing this show, which is normally performed by a cast of adults, to life. Stunning singing, great dancing and best of all, true enjoyment was clear to see!

It takes such a lot of hard work to bring productions of this quality to life and I would like to thank, once again, the incredible staff team that we have at West Rainton— they really are the exception not the norm in schools!

It was lovely to celebrate with the children and reward them for their hard work with a panto trip and Christmas jumper day when we had our beautiful lunch together.

We hope the Christmas holiday brings everyone some peace, happiness and simply time to do the things you love with those who mean most to you.

Merry Christmas from everyone at WRPS. Thanks for all your support in what has been another busy, exciting and hugely successful year. We'll see you all in 2024 and can't wait to discover what lies ahead for our brilliant school!

Mary Poppins Jr.

There are not many feelings that compare with seeing the results of weeks of work put into a KS2 show, and Mary Poppins Jr. was no exception.

Many audience members expressed that this was the favourite of all the shows we've done, and that is all down to the hard work of our entire cast.

For a small number of pupils, it takes a lot to get up on stage and perform in front of a packed hall, and it was great to see those children thoroughly enjoy the experience this year.

For others, the stage is where they come alive and I think you'll agree there was an abundance of talented singers, dancers and

actors on show this year.

KS2– you did us proud!

Snow much fun!

The children were very excited to be able to play in the recent snowy conditions and we made the most of it with some team challenges to create mini snowmen.

The whole school played brilliantly, working together with all ages to create a lovely range of snow sculptures.

Our pupils understand the importance of keeping

themselves and each other safe by listening carefully and following rules for certain conditions. The older children are also brilliant at making sure the younger ones are included in everything we do. This allows us to trust them to take part in more adventurous tasks and activities.

Let's hope we get a little more snow before the winter is out!

The whole school worked together to make mini snowmen!

Thanks for making every day count!



We're the only school we know who run a termly attendance raffle funded by PTA events!

Nationally, attendance in schools has taken a big hit over recent weeks with many bugs and childhood illnesses doing the rounds.

We are so pleased that our whole WRPS team is working as one and that parents know when absence is needed or not.

Please rest assured that we would never keep poorly children in school. Equally, we will not send them home for no reason.

We do have some work to do after Christmas to ensure our attendance rises again as our collective attendance is below that of previous years at this point.

Spring and summer time should hopefully see us over the bulk of the germs however, and we will be pushing to get as close to the 96% attendance mark as a whole school by July.

It is great that everyone makes every day possible count!

Our TV appearance on BBC Songs of Praise!

Well, Christmas 2023 will certainly be one to remember when 20 of our pupils appeared on national TV alongside their grandfriends from Springfield Lodge.

Rev Canon Kate Bottley came up to West Rainton in late November along with a camera crew to capture our joint nativity play for Songs of Praise.

The episode, which aired on December 17th, was an absolute joy to watch and showcased

the wonderful inclusive ethos that all of our pupils and staff evoke.

We have to thank so many people who helped with this project including: Leamside Nursery who provided the 'forest' with the help of a willing volunteer to transport them, St Mary's Church who provided a gorgeous venue and the brilliant parents who came in to get our kids ready on the day.

Nativity stars!

Our youngest pupils did a fantastic job of not one, but two nativity plays earlier this month.

Our EYFS team in nursery and reception put on a cute traditional nativity called 'The Twinkly Nativity!' They really enjoyed performing to for all their family members.

Then it was the turn of year 1 and 2, who showed great maturity and stage presence to perform 'A bundle of Joy! packed full of lines to learn and remem-

ber.

It was great to see such confident singers, dancers and actors up on stage with beaming smiles.

Well done to our brilliant staff team in EYFS and KS1 who literally work miracles every day!

A European Christmas decoration exchange

One of the best things about heading into Key Stage 2 (so the children tell us) is that they get to do languages lessons for the first time.

Our year 3s, for the past few years, have participated in a beautiful project across autumn term where they make and send around 24 Christmas decorations to dozens of countries across Europe. We then wait in anticipation for the return parcels to arrive.

This year, the children made wooden wreaths and wrote about their Christmas traditions before sending them off to France, Germany, Spain, Italy,

Greece, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

We decorated our beautiful European themed tree in early December— what a super start to our languages journey!

**Our European
Christmas tree**



Nursery's Christmas fun!

themed day which was just magical!

They have had such a busy term building up their subject vocabulary, learning all about number, singing many songs and experiencing the forest classroom.

They thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas dinner in school too.



What a super end to the term our little nursery friends have had! In the run up to Christmas, they have had some fun days in nursery with snowman face painting and a special Polar Express

A focus on the subject of computing

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

The subject of computing, led in our school by Mrs Maddox, is largely made up the Teach Computing scheme of work.

Over time, the children build up skills in computer science which includes skills such as coding and debugging software. They also build up their knowledge of programs used to support work in other subjects such as word processing and publishing tools.

A huge part of our computing map is e-safety and the children study ways in which they can be safe and respectful online throughout every unit of work that they study.

The internet can be the most wonderful place to gain instant information, to con-

nect with friends and to be entertained. But, it can also be a very lonely place if used inappropriately or unsupervised by trusted adults.

In school we talk about spending far more time in the real world than the virtual one and our older children know when online relationships are unhealthy and it is time to switch off.

Recently, our older children have been using a 3D modelling software to being making designs that are able to be 3D printed. In 2023 we bought our own 3D printer and added this to our ambitious curriculum

Unlike any other subject, the world of computing is an ever-changing one. This makes it both exciting and challenging.

Our children seem to take the challenge in their stride, however!

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 spring term 2024 begins with some dancing magic
- Read about our special Shakespeare project in upper Key Stage 2
 - See how our Lunar New Year celebrations went