



# West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 72

May 2024

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

## Dates for your diary:

- Friday 24th May— break up for summer half term
- **Sunday 2nd June— St Mary's Church Big Lunch picnic at 1pm**
- Monday 3rd June— return to school and nursery.
- Tuesday 11th June— Athletics Records' Day 1pm (KS2 only)
- Tuesday 18th June— Sports' Day 9am (reserve date 25th June)
- Wednesday 19th June— summer term disco 4:30-6pm
- Wednesday 26th June— school photo day
- Wednesday 3rd July— School picnic 1pm
- Wednesday 17th July— Nursery graduation 10am & Y6 awards night 6pm
- Friday 19th July Y6 leavers assembly 9am

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

**Monday 22nd July 2024**

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## Derwent Hill adventurers!

What better way to end the week of SATs tests than with a trip to the Lake District and a weekend of



adventure!

21 Y5 & 6 pupils and 4 members of staff had a fantastic experience at Derwent Hill in Portinscale, just



outside of Keswick on 17-19 May.

The weather was glorious all weekend as the children got to experience canoeing, hill-walking, high ropes challenges and gorge-scrambling.

It was brilliant to see the skills and confidence growing over the week-

end such as independently negotiating Derwentwater on rafted canoes and understanding how belay ropes and carabiners keep climbers and



abseilers safe.

The children showed once again how impressively they can conduct themselves as all staff members at Derwent Hill commented on their behaviour, manners and attitudes.

We are already booked for our next trip there in May 2025!





## Summer term learning and treats!

The first half of the summer term has been a busy and exciting one. We're taking part in a choral concert at Durham Cathedral again so many children have been busy rehearsing for that.

tiful artwork produced, some gory science about the digestive system, ultimate frisbee in PE and 3D modelling in computing.

We've also enjoyed some treats such as free ice lollies for everyone from Tesco and a visit for Y6 from the ice cream man as a well done for their SATs preparation.



There has been some fantastic curriculum units covered this half term with some beau-

## Fun at the farm

Summer term means one thing— end of year trips!

Back at school, the children have been learning about animals and their young and did some super writing to recall the events of their visit.

Reception started off our season of exciting visits with a trip to Hall Hill Farm.

The children showed great listening skills and exceptional behavior while feeding and holding the animals. They also had a ride on a tractor and trailer experiencing what life is like working on a farm.

Coming up later in the term, our classes are off to a whole range of exciting places including Auckland Castle, Oriental Museum and the beach!



Reception having fun at the farm.



## The children enjoyed meeting staff from Banks Homes.

We are watching the development of the new Banks housing estate change and grow week by week right next door to school.

As part of their work, several staff members have been in to school to talk about their roles and what the houses will look like.

Children in Years 5 and 6 have been busy creating safety post-

## Supporting Banks homes

ers and promotional images pupils from the estate once to welcome residents to West Rainton. families begin to move in.

The steel band were also thrilled to be asked to play at the housing estate's launch event at Ramside in June.

It will be lovely to welcome new



## Mandala artwork with former pupils

We are always seeking opportunities for professional people to work alongside our pupils in broader areas of the curriculum. We were delighted when Belmont School asked if we would host 4 former students and Jayamini from Gem Arts to create some beauti-



ful mandalas. Working with Year 5 all morning, the group were able to produce beautifully symmetric woven mandalas.

In year 6, the media changed to canvas and oil pastels but the results were just as stunning! It was lovely to have some of our former pupils visit us again and show just how well they are doing at Belmont too.



## Y4 visit Rainton Meadows

Year 4 spent a great morning with staff at Rainton Meadows nature reserve as part of their geography work on fantastic forests.



The class were intrigued by all of the different species of tree that can be found on our doorstep and the wildlife and ecosystems that

those trees support.

They now have a deeper understanding about identifying different types of trees and how, as stewards of the planet, we need to do our best to protect them in any way that we can.



## Reception get to grips with balance

Within their West Rainton journey it is a key aim of ours that all of our pupils are given the opportunity to learn to ride a bike and to swim proficiently.



premium funding, we purchased our own set of balance and pedal bikes, as well as helmets, elbow pads and knee pads to get our reception friends off to a flying start.

It was great to see the confidence of everyone growing over time and lots of the class were able to move on to pedal bikes (without stabilisers) within the first session!

Well done Reception!



**Reception children show off our new**

We would like to pass on our warm congratulations to Miss Kelly who will be getting married over half term and returning as Mrs Mugford!



## Nursery are growing strong!

Pupils in our nursery are enjoying learning all about the world around them as they look at plants, seeds and



growing.

As our preschool group get ready for their final half term before starting reception, it is clear that their language, communication and wider knowledge of the world are really coming along.

As well as reading stories about nature and the environment, the children have also enjoyed lots of bee-themed activities and, more recently, growing their own 'cress-heads'!



## How do we promote future aspirations?

Within our very exciting and busy curriculum, we are building up skills, experiences and opportunities that allow our children to start thinking about the world of work and future aspirations.

Each subject leader looks at how their subject can promote skills for learning and life, building in many opportunities to visit places of work or invite people in to talk about how the subjects lead to a career.

Recently, we have had visits from a construction manager for Banks housing as well as a civil engineer

who told us her job is to look at the condition of the ground that the houses will be built on and to solve problems such as drainage, sewerage and internet supply.

We have also recently had a professional artist in working with upper key stage 2 and a geologist in Y3 supporting learning around rocks and soils. We have had many visiting historians over the year as well as several musicians.

In June, Y5 will visit Durham University to talk about aspirations with author, Richard O'Neill. A group of Y6 pupils will also take part in the university's science fair.

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

- Say farewell to our y6 leavers
- Share in the celebration of our nursery graduates
- Look at how busy our steel band have been over the summer!

### 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.