



Dates for your diary:

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- Friday 25th October 2024—break up for half-term
- Monday 4th November 2024—return to school and nursery
- Friday 15th November 2024—Children in Need day
- Friday 22nd November 2024—non-uniform for chocolate donations.
- Wednesday 27th November 2024— Christmas Fair 3.15pm
- Wednesday 4th December 2024 — EYFS Nativity 10am
- Thursday 5th December 2024— Y1 & Y2 Nativity 10am
- Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th December 2024— KS2 production of 'Beauty and the Beast Jr.' 6pm
- Thursday 19th December 2024—carols around the stable 9am Christmas party day!
- Break up for Christmas 3.10pm
- Return to school 6th January 2024

Teacher training days still to come in this academic year:

Friday 20th December 2024

Friday 16th May 2025



West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 74

October 2024

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

Starting the school year with a bang!

What a start to the academic year it's been! We have already achieved so much in the first 8 weeks. The children have started the year with the very best attitudes to their work and their conduct towards each other.

Across the whole school, everyone has produced so much work showing their autumn term learning and we are exceptionally proud of them all!

It is one of our proudest highlights of the term when our new reception children take the lead in assembly to perform their harvest songs for family and friends.

It's hard to believe that they'd only been in school for six weeks as they sang, danced and spoke so confidently.

They have loved spending time with their Y6 special friends and both groups were rewarded with a pumpkin-carving experience before our Hallowe'en disco.

It is clear that they have learnt lots about autumn and how Christians celebrate harvest in church.

This year, your harvest donations made 57 meals for a local food bank charity who asked us to pass on their most grateful thanks.



Investigating religious diversity in the North East

Y6 had a brilliant RE experience recently when they visited two places of worship across the North East.

They spent the morning with Brother Khadim at Newcastle Central Mosque where they wowed him with their knowledge of the Hajj pilgrimage.

After a quick trip from Tyne-side to Wearside, we then

visited the Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara to find out about how Sikhs worship and support their community.

Y6 were shown the features of the Gurdwara including the sach kand (a special bedroom where the sacred book–Guru Granth Sahib– is kept each night).

Well done Y6! You were incredibly respectful of

the beliefs of others and you came back with so many facts.



Bringing learning to life

Reading is the key to unlocking all learning done in school. Once children have the skills to decode and understand the written word, the possibilities for learning become limitless.

Across the school, pupils have been reading some fantastic texts in class, producing some stunning writing as a result.

One of our favourite books in Year 2 is *The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark*, and a visit from one of our parents and a

feathered friend proved very exciting.

The children asked some wonderful questions about how owls hunt, sleep and rear their young before writing their own reports.

Atlas, the owl, also visited Y4 to be a wonderful model for some life-drawing. The art unit, all about birds, has produced some fantastic pieces of work and it was lovely to see how well our Year 4s captured their feathered visitor on paper.



Y2 enjoyed a visit from Plop (AKA Atlas!)



The mini conductors stole the show!

A collaborative concert with Bearpark and Esh Colliery

We had a fantastic night in St Mary's Church back in September as a choir of wonderful singers performed for a packed-out church.

The band played some of their best hits from film, TV and theatre as well as some poignant hymns.

The band and choir then

did 3 pieces together which worked out incredibly well despite never actually rehearsing in the same room!

Everyone loved the show, especially the finale, when 2 of the pupils had a go at

conducting the band which wasn't as easy as it looked!



Spooky goings-on at the Hallowe'en Disco!

Our first disco of the year was a great success with everyone enjoying being a little bit spooky in the run up to the half-term holidays.

Reception and Y6 made some scary pumpkins together to decorate our hall along with all the brilliant colouring competition entries from the children

We have a new and exciting PTA event

If you can see it, you can be it!

A core objective of our PE and Sports' Premium funding this year is to give pupils opportunities to experience elite-level, professional sport.

We've started this year off on a real high with a trip to see The Lionesses take on Scotland, fresh from their narrow defeat in The Women's' World Cup final.

12 lucky children went along to The Stadium of Light to cheer on Mary

planned for the run up to Christmas as well as our traditional Christmas Fair on Wednesday 29th November.



Earps, Lucy
Bronze, Millie Bright and Lauren James
as we roared them to a 2-1 victory!

It was great to watch the stars of the summer inspiring both our girls and boys to aim for the very top of their game!

We look forward to more of these trips across the academic year.



West Rainton pupils to become TV stars!

Our intergenerational nativity is back after a three year wait due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic. 19 children and 9 residents will take part in a special performance of 'The Fireside Nativity' which you are welcome to attend on Thursday 14th December at 3:30pm in St Mary's Church.

Before that, however, a TV crew will be visiting West Rainton to film a dress rehearsal for a very

special episode of Songs of Praise which will air a couple of weeks before Christmas on BBC 1! We believe the episode will be hosted by Rev. Kate Bottley, formerly of Gogglebox fame!

Obviously, this is HUGE news and the children and residents are very excited for the big day to arrive. It will certainly be a very memorable Christmas for the village this year!



**BBC Songs of Praise
will visit West Rainton
very soon!**



What a super start to nursery and reception our littlest friends have had! Our morning nursery pupils have enjoyed exploring autumn in their forest school sessions each week. They love nothing more than to hunt through the fallen leaves for the treasure of conkers or acorns beneath.

Our two-year-olds have settled incredibly quickly into nursery routines and are particularly enjoying

A focus on the subject of PSHE incl. RSHE

Here at West Rainton, we are so proud of the broad and ambitious curriculum we offer to all of our pupils.

Relationships and Health Education falls within the PSHE (personal, social, health education) umbrella and has been statutory since 2020. At West Rainton, it is led by Mrs McDonough.

Within this subject, pupils learn, at an age-appropriate level, about a wide range of topics including: people who care for us, healthy relationships, money matters, human development, internet safety, physical and mental wellbeing, substance misuse and, as they get older, puberty.

A key feature of this is ensuring our children grow up ready to embrace a positive life in 21st century Britain showing understanding, respect and tolerance of the nine protected characteristics of the

the outdoor area as they develop more expression and growing communication skills.

It was brilliant to welcome so many parents in for our first stay, play and learn session of the year. The adults really helped to bring our topic of autumn celebrations to life with the Hallowe'en-themed activities. The children loved showing their adults what we do in nursery and reception every day. We are so impressed that our morning nursery children are already beginning to hear initial sounds in words as they make 'silly soup'.

Next half term, the children will add to their festivals' knowledge when they experience Diwali before looking ahead to Christmas. Make sure you've got a free day in your diaries for the EYFS nativity play on December 6th at 10am.

Equalities Act 2010– gender, race, religion or belief, age, disability, marriage/civil partnerships being just some of these.

Our work in this subject is evidenced in class scrapbooks, and our children love taking part in discussions and broadening their world-views.

The curriculum empowers children to grow up having a confident view of themselves and being able to express their wants and needs. Alongside the thought-provoking texts we read in English lessons, these sessions also teach us that there is no such thing as 'normal' and that uniqueness is what makes us who we are and should be celebrated!

Our Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship Award shows just how well we deliver this crucial area of learning.

You can find out more about RHE, and its links to safeguarding, by visiting the school website and reading the RSHE policy.



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 Christmas events spark imagination and magic
- Find out how our appearance on BBC Songs of Praise unfolded
- Share in our learning as 2023 comes to a close