



West Rainton Primary Voice

West Rainton Primary Voice—Issue 75

December 2024

West Rainton Primary School Newsletter

Dates for your diary:

- Thursday 19th December 2024— carols around the stable 9.00am Christmas parties!
Break up for Christmas 3:10pm
- Return to school Monday 6th January 2025
- Friday 31st January 2025— Lunar New Year celebrations
- Wednesday 19th February 2025— Intra-school dance festival (pm)
- Wednesday 19th February 2025— Valentine Disco 4:30-6pm
- Friday 21st February 2025— break up for half term.

Teacher training days still to come in this academic year:

Friday 16th May 2025

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 took on the Disney blockbuster, *Beauty and The Beast Jr.* with such iconic songs like 'Belle' and 'Be Our Guest'

The children did an incredible 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 festive 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 2025 and can't wait to discover what lies ahead for our brilliant school!



Beauty and the Beast Jr.

There are not many feelings that compare with seeing the results of weeks of work put into a KS2 show, and Beauty and the Beast 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 abun-

dance of talented singers, dancers and actors on show this year.

KS2- you did us proud!



This year we are paying special attention to jobs and aspirations

Inspiring careers and future skills

This year, in school, we are drawing children's attention to the wide and varied world of jobs and careers.

It is never too early for children to begin thinking about the skills that they possess and the subjects and activities that they enjoy as this can often lead to great choices in future. As the old saying goes, 'do a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life!'

We have had visits so far from the NHS careers bus, Durham University historians and the County Durham Fire and Rescue service.

We are also working on our future skills in every day lessons such as our use of technology, communication skills and our creativity.

There are many more opportunities planned for the year ahead.



We're the only school we know who run a termly attendance raffle

Thanks for making every day count!

This year we set you all the challenge to help us raise our attendance and my goodness, have you responded!

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 currently sit just a fraction below 96% but this is around 3% higher than the same point last year.

Spring and summer time

should hopefully see us over the bulk of the germs however, and we will be pushing to stay as close to the 96% attendance mark as a whole school by July. If we do, our much-loved inflatables day will return!

Classopoly will continue in January and it is great that everyone is making every day possible count!

Lumiere 2024

Our second Mini Lumiere event was a fantastic occasion with the school community coming together to celebrate art, science and music all in one big night!

The art installations, made by the children, were so brilliant that both Lumiere Durham and Artichoke (the company who run the big event in Durham city every 2 years) have both posted on their social media about us.

We run the Lumiere project as part of our

physics partnership with Durham University and it was lovely that a lecturer of astronomy was able to come and share his knowledge about Saturn with us.

The burger van was also a very welcome addition!

We will return with Lumiere in autumn 2026!



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 'Christmas Counts' 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 'Everyone Loves a Baby!' packed full of lines to learn and remember.

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 pleated paper angels 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!

What a super end to the term our little nursery friends have had! In the run up to Christmas, they had some very special visitors when the cast of 'Searching for Santa' came into school to do a performance just for our little



ones!

They loved singing along to the nursery rhymes and Christmas songs. It was just brilliant to see their little faces light up with joy and excitement.



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 cosy Christmas fun day too!



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 2025 begins with some dancing magic
- Read about our special Shakespeare project in upper Key Stage 2
 - See how our Lunar New Year celebrations went