Castlecroft News

Summer Edition!

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Goodbye Year 6 Thank You and Good Luck!

Dear Year 6,

I would like to thank you first and foremost for being the amazing young people you are. It has been our utmost pleasure to see you grow this year; you have all come so far. Your hard work and dedication should be commended and we are so proud of all you have achieved this year. Whether it was conquering the SATs, trying something new on our residential, helping out others in school, being part of a committee or sports team; you have all worked so hard to develop your skills and be the best you can be. Learning is like a map. At first you don't know where you are going but by asking questions, seeking guidance, and by getting lost more than a few times, we wind up at journey's end. This journey may be ending (and you have come so far) but the next one is just beginning. We all wish you the best in the future- it's going to be a bright one. We will miss you all so much, so please don't forget to come back and let us know how you are doing. Keep being amazing!

Mrs Jones





The Chicks Arrived in Nursery! By Indy

A farmer brought 2 boxes with eggs in, into our Nursery. We put the eggs carefully into the incubator and put the lamp on, which would keep the eggs warm, to make it feel like they were with the mommy hen. It was really exciting when the chicks started to peck their way out of the shells. It was funny to watch. When the chicks finally got out of their shells, they looked very wet and tired. The light soon dried them out and they were really fluffy. There were 3 boy chicks and 3 girl chicks. The boys had brown feathers and the girls had yellow.

The chicks were soon running around the incubator and playing with each other. They ate loads of seed, drank water and pooped a lot. We are only borrowing them from the farmer.

When the chicks got bigger and stronger we could hold them. I didn't want to hold them, so I stroked one, the feathers were soft and squishy. I loved having the chicks in our Nursery and watching them grow bigger

and bigger. We will be sad when they are too big and have to go back to the farmer.





Science Fair By Lukas B

Six children from Year 5 were selected to go to a Science Fair at St Nicholas C of E School on Wednesday 7th May. We were doing a surface tension experiment. The experiment we started with was how many H₂O (that's two hydrogen particles to one-part oxygen) could fit on a 1 pence and 2 pence coin, by using a pipette. The aim was to see what people think, what the result actually was and how close they were to getting it right. The count was over once the water was leaking off the coin.

We also got to visit the other school stands. On one of them there was a bottle with a piece of paper on the top. We had to hold the bottle upside down and see which paper stayed on the longest. I won, followed by Raul, then Jayden.

Birmingham University also had a stand, they were using a Tesla coil to help to generate electricity.

I really enjoyed the Science Fair as we did loads of experiments and got to show people how to do things and see what the results were. We also got to check out other school's work, which was very interesting.

Science Week is one of my favourite weeks in school because I love Science.



My Kingswood Diary By Lexi-Rae

Wednesday 14th May

First, I got on the coach and I sat next to Amber. Next, we stroked the rabbit, Tinkerbell and guinea pigs, Toffee and Treacle. Then, we went on the adventure ropes. They were fun. After that, we got ready for lunch. We had roast chicken. After lunch, we did 'Shake a Tree'. Before long, we went pond dipping. Me and Evie caught a newt. Next, we had Freeze Pops and a story. Soon, it was time for the 'Owl Trail' walk and a play in the big hall. Then, we had a hot chocolate and biscuits. Finally, we brushed our teeth and went to bed.

Thursday 15th May

First, we woke up, packed and had breakfast. Next, we made our beds. After that, we went on the Kingswood Common walk and we built a nest for the birds. Then, we washed Nelly the tortoise's shell, I used a toothbrush. At half past 12, we ate lunch. We had sausage and mash. After lunch, we saw the air raid shelter. Soon after that, we did 'Adventure Ropes'. It wasn't long before the tree climbing. Finally, we got on the coach to go back to school.



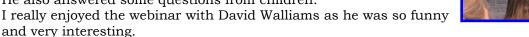
The Halls By Lola and Magda

Year 5 went on a coach to The Halls in Wolverhampton to sing with the Music School. When we arrived at The Halls, we got into our seats, waiting excitedly for the concert to begin. At the start, we did a singing and dancing warm-up. They played a lot of songs that we had practised in school with Faydra, but they also played a few surprise songs, such as 'Lava Chicken' and the warm up songs. There were other local schools singing and dancing with us at The Halls. Some of Year 5 knew children from other schools, which was great.

Everyone on the stage wore purple sparkly outfits, so they were all matching and looked FABULOUS! Some people were singing in harmony and some were playing instruments such as the saxophone, different types of guitars, drums, violin, baritone, trumpet, trombone, clarinet and flute. Everyone there loved it, and on our way back to the coach, we were singing the songs we had been singing at The Halls. It was a really fun day.

David Walliams Webinar By Harry

Each class in the juniors had a live link with the author David Walliams. He was in London talking to us about his books. He told us how he was inspired to write the different stories and how he created the characters. One of his characters was based on his sister and in the book she isn't very nice. He told us about his new book which is about the world's worst superheroes. It sounds really good. He also answered some questions from children.





It has made me want to read more and write exciting stories.

Netball Match Erin M and Chloe S

There were 6 of our netball team chosen to play a tournament at The Grammar School on Thursday 22^{nd} May. We played 7 matches, each match lasted 7 minutes. It was really good fun. We all tried our best but didn't manage to win a match, however, we drew 2 of the matches. We liked playing as a team and had a great time. Castlecroft finished in 6^{th} place out of 8 schools. It was a very competitive tournament. Mr Morgan told us to try our best and it doesn't matter where we come as long as we gave it our all.

We rotated our positions throughout all the 7 matches. Our top scorer was Erin M, scoring 2 goals. We all had an AMAZING time and were ready to do it all over again.

Science Week By Isabela J

During 'Science Week', each class was asked to do the 'Cube Experiment'. We had to measure the span of our hands with a ruler, then grabbed as many cubes as we could hold. Each class recorded their results in different ways, Year 3 used bar charts for our results.

We thought that bigger hands would hold more cubes, but in some cases that wasn't true. We also learnt all about the scientist Joseph Priestly, who discovered oxygen. Before that, people thought the air was magic. Joseph heated up some mercuric oxide, making a gas called oxygen which wasn't magic at all.

In class, our science topic was 'Adapt and Change', so we looked at how a chameleon can change colour magically, adapting to its surroundings.

I really enjoyed Science Week as we did some cool experiments, like putting Mento mints in a can of coke to see what would happen. The mints created more gas in the can and the coke erupted. It was very exciting to watch. We did the experiment twice, just to make sure the coke fizzed up again.

Greek Day By Sam

Year 5 had a Greek Day organised by Timezone. We sat in a fabric hut and were taught about Greek life and important battles. After that, we were split into groups. The main groups were Athenian and Spartan and the others were allies. Then, we had a debate to decide who should lead the war. Athens won. Then, we played a lot of Greek games.

After lunch, we practised ancient Greek writing. Finally, we marched around the hall with a shield and a spear.

Greek Day was very interesting and lots of fun.







Sports Day Isabella J and Jasleen K

We had Sports Day on Tuesday 17th June. There were lots of different races, like: the relay, sprint, obstacle, sack, egg and spoon, hoop and the three legged race. We also had tug-of-war against our school houses. Wrekin came 1st in the tug-of-war.

It was a really hot day, so we got tired very quickly but we kept going as it was so much fun and we were doing it for our house colour.

Wrekin won the Sports Day with Clent in 2^{nd} place, then Malvern and not far behind, Clee. Sports Day was great, it teaches us all about competing in a team and just enjoying the activities, whether you win or not.







<u>CPR Training</u> By Jakob and Rosleen

On Friday 20^{th} June, Year 6 did CPR training with Miss Wall from the Year 2 class. We sat in the hall and had an introduction to CPR. Miss Wall asked us some questions about CPR, we told her what we knew. Then, she told us about CPR and asked us what we knew about DR ABC. It



means Danger, Response, Airways, Breathing and Circulation. This helps you to remember what order you give CPR. We then learnt about the techniques of CPR, we got into groups and tried it out on an adult, child and baby. You use different techniques for them all. We used two fingers on a baby, it's better to go hard and break their ribs than to not have them breathing. For a child its one hand and an adult you use two hands.

At the end of the session, we asked Miss Wall our questions. We gave Miss Wall an applause for all the hard work she does with St John Ambulance.



Local H story Week

Wightwick Manor
By Sienna L



On Monday 23rd June, Year 5 left school at 9:40 and went onto the Smestow Valley Nature Reserve. We walked along the canal and then crossed the road by The Mermaid pub. We arrived at Wightwick Manor where a lady called Joy and a man called Stuart showed us around the manor. We sat on the carpet and learnt all about the family who used to live at Wightwick. Then, we got separated into 4 groups and went into different rooms. There was the laundry room, kitchen, bedrooms and the dining room. After we had looked around the rooms, which were full of lots of old fashioned furniture and objects, we had lunch. We sat in the massive garden to eat our lunch, where rocks were put there 45,000 years ago when the glacier melted. After lunch, we had an activity to do. We had to find out as much information as possible about Wightwick Manor. Our group was focusing on the life of the servants, they lived a different life to the owners of the Manor. I enjoyed the trip as it was interesting finding out all about the Victorians and how the rich people lived compared to the poor.

Cosford Air MuseumBy Ishani and Erin

On Tuesday 24th June, Year 6 got ready to go to the Cosford Air Museum. When we arrived at the museum, we sat on a bench and waited to go into the Battle of Britain workshop. We learnt the Dowding system;

Radar Towers, the German radar towers span 360° but the English did not.

Fighter Commands which is when people are telling where the planes were so they could get ready.

WAAF which stands for Women's Auxiliary Air Force was established by George VI on the 28th June 1939 for duty with the Royal Air Force in time of war.

HQ bases were places where they were before war, so they could have a set plan. Additional Support, the additional support were the barrage balloons, rifle men and signalers. Barrage balloons were used to protect big buildings like Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and other important buildings.

Rifle men were on the ground looking up to see where the planes were. The only things these people had for protection were sandbags and helmets.

Signalers had even less protection, they only had tin helmets. No sandbags! After, we went to try on lots of clothes and go inside the shelters until Lucy (who was the instructor) sounded the air raid siren. Then, we went into an aid raid shelter, in the dark, and stayed there for a few minutes. Lucy pointed to the windows with a cross of tape on it, she told us that it was there in case it got shot or broke because of a bomb blast, so that it wouldn't harm anyone and would just break in a cross and fall right to the floor. We started to get quite cold, it was very cramped and the seats were cold, so we left.

Next, we went into the Cold War section. We went around all the hangers and answered some questions. A Cold War is a war with lots of bombs. We all got to sit in a plane that had flown in WWII.

After we had lunch, we tried to find the test flight area, but it wasn't there anymore, so we looked around the German planes. One of the planes had sank to the bottom of the sea bed.

We had a wonderful day at the Cosford Air Museum and we learnt a lot of interesting facts about history.





Boscobel HouseBy Evie and Lara

Year 2 were so excited to go to Boscobel House. We had watched a video about it in class, so knew a little bit about it, but wanted to know more. We got on the coach and chatted all the way there.



When we arrived, we put our bags in a safe place in one of the rooms. Then, we went outside to look at the pigs, sheep, chickens and ducks. These are some of the animals that they would have kept for food to feed the people

who stayed at Boscobel. Next, we went into a field with bunting around it and saw an Oak tree which was in the same place as the tree that Charles II hid in. The original Oak tree is not there anymore as it burnt down. Charles II hid in the tree from Oliver Cromwell's army, who wanted to execute him. After hiding in the tree, Charles II disguised himself and travelled to France, it took him 6 weeks. We had our photo taken in an Arber. Then, we had our lunch and swapped activities with the other group.

Our first activity of the afternoon was exploring the big house. There were electric candles around one of the rooms that, when you switched them on, told different stories about Boscobel House. After finding out lots of facts about Boscobel House, we got back on the coach to go back to school. Watching the video at school about Boscobel House was good, but actually going to the house was more interesting and we found out a lot more facts about it.

We had a fabulous trip, it was really interesting.



Netball Tournament By Sisi and Darcy

On Tuesday 24th June, 9 girls from Year 5 were selected to represent Castlecroft girl's netball team in a netball tournament at Woodfield school. As we arrived at the netball courts, 6 different teams were ready to play against us. Castlecroft finished in 4th place with Magda scoring our winning goal to achieve that position. A lot of the girls and boys we

played against were much taller and stronger than our team.

At the end of the tournament, we all gathered for an end of match talk and an ice lolly.

Blist Hill By Grace

Year 4 went to the Victorian town, Blist Hill in Ironbridge. We arrived at the museum and had to wait for another school to be checked in before we could go in. When we went inside, we had to go up a dark staircase which lead to a platform. It showed us the history of steam trains and how women got the vote.

A nice lady then led us to a room where we got dressed into Victorian children's clothes. The girls wore a long dress with an apron and a bonnet. The boys had to wear a jacket, shirt and a scarf. We were told some rules about how we should act. We had to keep our eyes down and keep silent and we weren't allowed to look at people who were better than us. We walked down to the school room and sat down, the teacher was called Miss Malcolm, she was very strict.

After the lesson, we went back to room to get undressed and to have our lunch. We were split into 3 groups to look around Blist Hill. The best thing about the day was that we had to change our money into Victorian coins at the bank. We spent our coins at the sweet shop, but couldn't eat our sweets until we got home.

We went into the chemist, there was a horrible smelling, bright pink soap which was used to wash hands really clean. There was also a dentist's chair in the chemist shop. The chair looked quite scary with metal poles coming out of it and it didn't look very comfortable. A lot of the things to buy in the chemist had William Morris's 'Strawberry Thief' design on it as he was very popular in the Victorian times. You could also get your eyes tested at the chemist, which is like today but at least our chemists don't smell of that horrible pink soap!

Blist Hill was very much like the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley. I would definitely go to Blist Hill again because I like history and learn better by experiencing it than reading about it.



The Wildside Activity Centre By Megan and Archie

Year 3 went to the Wildside Activity Centre in Wolverhampton on Wednesday 25th June. We went by coach, the journey wasn't very long.

When we arrived at the centre, we sat in the classroom and the instructors told us how to stay safe by water and what to do if there was a problem.

We then went on a long walk along the canal. Canals are man-made, they were built in the late 18th Century and early 19th as a way to transport goods to different places, as there were no cars. We met a man on a canal barge called Jeff, he said hello to us.

We walked to the centre of a canal bridge and we tried to work out how many bricks were used to make it. There were 5,000, Ibrahim guessed exactly 5,000.

We also talked about how deep the canal was, it was as tall as Arya. While we were walking, we saw some ducks. They came up to us as they thought we had some bread for them.

It was a good trip because we found out a lot of facts about canals and bridges. It was a long walk which was enjoyable but very tiring.





Black Country Living Museum By Nori-Rae and Sophia

Year 5 went to the Black Country Living Museum on Thursday 26th June. We started the day by getting on the coach at 9:30am. It took about 45 minutes to get there.

Once we were there, one of the workers told us about the history of the Black Country Museum. Then, we went into Rosie's slanted house, where a lady told us some of the history of the house and Rosie's life. She had her own toilet outside, so she was richer than a lot of people who had to share a toilet at the end of their road.

Then, we visited the sweet shop and bought some old fashioned sweets, which were still as yummy as ours now. The red food colouring in Victorian times was made out of beetle's blood and the green was made out of rat poison. Luckily, it's not like that today.

We went into the cinema and watched a 17 minute silent film. It was called Laurel and Hardy. It made us laugh, even though they didn't speak. After that, we played some Victorian games that the children would have played in the streets. We had to flick a ball into a cup and run fast down the cobbled streets, rolling a metal hoop with a stick attached to it. There was also a box full of bean bags which we had to throw at a target that had been chalked on the wall. You won by hitting the highest numbers.

Next, we went to the pharmacy and the lady told us all about the medicine and how Vaseline was made out of petroleum jelly. You didn't get tablets in bottles, they were given to customers in containers. If you went to the chemist with a cough, they would recommend that you smoked, not knowing that it was bad for you.

We then had to rush off to the school house as we would have been in a lot of trouble if we were late. We lined up outside the school, boys and girls in separate lines. The teacher rang the bell and the girls went in first as that was more polite. The boys followed. We sat on hard, wooden benches with small desks in front, there wasn't a lot of room between us. We had to call the teacher Ma'am. We had to say the alphabet, BACKWARDS, which was really hard!

After lunch, we travelled on a double-decker bus, we all sat on the top deck to get a better view of the museum. Magda was allowed to press the bell to say we wanted to get off.

We visited Lillian's and Sam's house. Sam's house was really small with a little alley joining all the houses. Lillian's house was also small; it didn't have running water so she had to walk a long way to get her water.

Last of all, we went to the souvenir shop before getting on the coach to return to school. We had a wonderful time at the museum and learnt a lot about the Victorians.



Sponsored WalkBy Arya and Finley

Our sponsored walk started on the junior's playground and then we went through the school gates on to the track to Smestow Valley Nature Reserve. We walked down the track and up a hill into a field. We did big circuits, ending back on the Junior playground where a teacher stamped our sponsored walk record card.

On the walk we saw lots of nature, including a dragonfly, seagull, birds, trees and flowers. It was a boiling day, so we wore a hat and put loads of sunscreen on and had at least 5 cups of water. We enjoyed doing the sponsored walk as it was fun walking with our friends, chatting and looking at all the beautiful scenery. We raised an amazing amount of money for our school funds.

A MASSIVE £1,390.62.

Hoo Zoo By Lillian and Elijah

Our Reception class went to Hoo Zoo on Friday 27th June. We were going to see lots of animals and dinosaurs.

We saw a fox, which wasn't that big, walking around a cage. Foxes hunt for their food. We also saw a baby otter, lying on his back, juggling rocks. He kept dropping them onto his tummy. He wasn't very good at juggling but was really funny to watch. We walked past lots of dinosaurs which weren't real but looked



real. The T-Rex roared really loud and made us jump. There was also a big and a small dinosaur egg, we had our photos looking through the hole in the shell.

Before we got on the coach, we went onto the play area. The BIG bouncy cushion was brilliant, even Mrs Timmins came on with us but didn't stay on for long.

We had a great time at Hoo Zoo, we didn't want to come home as we were having so much fun!

City Athletics Final By Ishrah



10 children were selected to compete in the City Athletics Final at Aldersley Stadium on Tuesday 1st July. When we arrived, we were all very excited but also nervous to do our best.

The first race was the girl's 80m race, Aurora was just pipped at the post to get a medal.

Erica was awarded a bronze medal for the 800m, I won a silver medal in the obstacle race. To gain a medal you had to race in a qualifying race first. I qualified and enjoyed the race very much because having the obstacles made the race more fun. Ryan got a silver in the boy's 800m race and our relay team missed out on a medal by a second.

We all enjoyed competing because we were able to show off our skills and speed. We were very proud to represent Castlecroft.

Church of the Good Shepherd By David

On Tuesday 1st July, Year 2 went to the Church of the Good Shepherd. We walked and it wasn't far. Reverend Linda said 'Hello' and showed us the inside of the church. We made a cross and coloured in a stained glass window. I stuck some wings on a dove and Mrs Dawson helped me write 'Love Your Enemies'. Reverend Linda and her friends had made us some cakes and gave us blackcurrant juice in a cup. The teachers had a cup of tea!

We all loved our trip!





We had our Sports Day on Thursday 3rd July. We did an egg and spoon race which was a lot of fun but the egg kept falling off the spoon. It was a wooden egg, so it didn't break.

We bounced on a bouncy hopper to race our friends, it made us laugh while we did BIG jumps. We also did a dressing up race, we even had to put on a clown nose and sunglasses with a T-shirt and a hat. We enjoyed dressing up.

In another race, we had to run with water in a bucket and put the water in a bigger bucket, and the team to fill the bucket first, won the race. We did get a bit wet but that was nice as it was so hot.

The bucket race was hard as we kept spilling the water. Another difficult race was the hoop and bean bag race as we had to throw the bean bag into the hoop. Sometimes, we threw the bean bags too far.

We loved Sports Day because it was so much fun doing all the races and it was lovely having our parents watch us.

Road Safety By Oliver Farmer

Year 1 went into the hall on Tuesday 8^{th} July to meet a lady called Rosalind. She was a real Lollipop Lady and she was in her lollipop clothes, holding a big lollipop sign, so cars can see her more clearly when she wants to stop them on the zebra crossing.



Rosalind told us how to cross the road safely. We played a game, crossing the zebra crossing carefully.

We also sang a song called 'Stop, Look and Listen before you cross the street'. We sang it to 'Ten Green Bottles' which was fun and easy to remember.



Road Safety By Harriet

Today, Year 2 went into the hall to learn about road safety with a Lollipop Lady called Rosalind. Luca F.W. and Giovanna were chosen to cross the Zebra crossing. Rosalind had a lollipop sign to cross them over the road safely.

We played a game where some of us were trees and some were cars which had to stop when Rosalind put out her lollipop sign.

We had a lot of fun. I feel a lot safer crossing the road now as I know more dangers to look for.

VIP Day! By Zack

I GOT SOAKED on Tuesday 8th June! It was our VIP day. Lots of children from Year 2 to Year 6 had been awarded a VIP pass as we had completed our 'Library Reward' sheet by regularly visiting the library.

I tried to fill up the water shooters as quickly as possible, so I could soak as many children as possible. Trouble is, they soaked me too. So, we all got very wet which was brilliant. There was also a water slide, which was awesome, I felt like I was going really fast down it. We all got a Freeze Pop too, which was a lovely treat, as it was a very sunny day. I am going to go to the library as much as I can when I am in Year 5, so hopefully, I can take

part in the VIP Day again.



Matilda the Musical By Noah

On Thursday 10th July, Years 3 and 4 walked down to Smestow to watch a production of Matilda, performed by some students and staff from Smestow school. We were all very, deeply excited for the production to begin. We clapped after each song ended. The performance was very good and the singing was excellent. My favourite part of the musical was when Miss Trunchball wanted

to put a child in the chokey because she spelt a word wrong. So, all the other children spelt the word wrong, so she couldn't put all the children in the chokey.

I loved the performance a lot and hopefully we will get to see their next production.

Rock Concert By Barnaby and Jakob



We have been practicing drums with Mr Clark since Year 5. It has been great getting better and more confident with each lesson. Finally, on Thursday 10th July, we put on a proper concert with Mr Clark and his band. We played for the whole school in the day and on the evening we performed for our parents. Each drummer played a song with the band. We played a mixture of rock, metal, ballads and sad songs. Drumming with the band made it real, there was even a smoke machine to give more atmosphere, it felt very professional. During the concert, we could drum a lot louder than when we had our lessons. The evening was very exhilarating with all the flashing lights and loud music.

A fantastic experience that we wouldn't have wanted to miss!



Ny fiana Ta parin'i Casa 4 Ca



KwikFit Competition

Steve Edwards, a local graffiti artist was commissioned to paint a mural on the wall of the Stafford Road, KwikFit in Wolverhampton. He asked Castlecroft, along with some other local schools to create some colourful designs for the mural, inspired by transport. We are very proud to announce that we have two winners from Castlecroft, Insiyah and Anaya. The designs inspired Steve to create a fabulous mural, which hopefully you will go and take a look at.

Congratulations to Insiyah and Anaya!



Summer Fair By Darcey T

Me and my family went to the summer fair, after school on Friday $11^{\rm th}$ July. It was a boiling hot day.

The fair was on the field and looked really exciting with all the different stalls. My favourite stall was the 'Hook-a-Duck' because even though it was really hard to hook the ducks, it was a lot of fun. There were balloons in the pool which made it even harder.

My brother, Arthur won a coconut which we broke when we got home, only my Dad liked the coconut and the milk. I bought 5 loom bands for £1, my favourite one is bubble gum colours. We had the best time ever at the summer fair, but we didn't stay too long as it was toooooooo hot! The Fair raised a whopping £2,676.30 for our school funds. A lot of hard work goes into setting up school events. A huge THANK YOU to all the PTA and everyone who helped at the fair, as well as everyone who came to support our school.

