

# Castlecroft News

## Winter Edition!

**January 2022**

Phone: 01902 556606  
Email: [office@castlecroftprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:office@castlecroftprimaryschool.co.uk)  
Website: [castlecroftprimaryschool.co.uk](http://castlecroftprimaryschool.co.uk)



Welcome to the winter edition of Castlecroft News. In the long, cold month of January it is good to reflect on the excitement of Christmas and a busy autumn term in school. We continue to try and deliver the full breadth of opportunities to our children, despite the restrictions Covid places on us, and this newsletter looks to celebrate many of these things.

Before we get to the articles from the children, a quick round up from me.

Many thanks for your support throughout the Autumn term. School began to feel very normal with assemblies taking place daily, a normal timetable in operation and the children able to access clubs and trips once more.

Unfortunately, the rise of the new omicron variant meant that whole school assemblies had to stop in the last week of term and the infant Christmas performance could not be performed to a live audience. Currently, we are experiencing high levels of staff and pupil absence with more positive cases of Covid than at any other time during the pandemic.

However, I do feel optimistic that things will quickly improve and we are planning for a full programme of trips and visits. Already Year 1 and 2 have visited the New Vic Theatre in Newcastle under Lyme, to watch a performance of Beauty and the Beast and Year 6 have enjoyed learning about the Greeks on a Timezone Greek day. Even more exciting is the news that we are planning to resume residential visits for Year 6 and 4. Hooray! Year 6 will be going to the Brecon Beacons for a week with Acorn Adventure and plans are under way to take Year 4 on a trip to Kington in Herefordshire for 3 days.

As you can see there is much to look forward to as we journey towards Spring. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

### Multi-Skills

**By Kyra Bowers and Ameliah Samuels**

Year 4 walked to Smestow Academy with Mr Morgan to take part in a Multi-Skill competition against Bantock Park School. Smestow Year 7's helped with all the games, we knew some of the helpers from Castlecroft.

We played many games during the competition including basketball against Bantock Park School. Another game we played was to balance a ball on a tennis racket and another was where we had to put beanbags in a circle with our feet which wasn't as hard as we thought it would be.

We also played a game where we had to put magnets in the right coloured shapes. At the end of the session prizes were given out for good sportsmanship and honesty. Kyra, Poppy and Elliot were awarded a bag, Tommy, Lola and Oliver Tompkins won medals and Ameliah won a football.

We all enjoyed the Multi-Skills competition because it was good to be out of class doing lots of activities with all our friends.



## **Stone Age Day**

**By Stanley Fieldhouse and Rosleen Susch**

When Year 3 got into class on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November we met a lady called Katherine. We were given some sheep's wool and soapy water. We pulled the sheep's wool into little moustache shapes and soaked it with soapy water then we put another rag on top. While we were at break Katherine put warm water on the wool. We massaged the wool and rolled it and pulled it down while counting to 50. We had made a flat piece of felt; it was put into warm water and then left to dry ready for us to take home.

After that we went into the hall with Katherine who told us many facts about the Stone Age. On the floor were lots of Stone Age artefacts including a rabbit's and warthog's skin, weapons, tools, bones of animals and games. We were allowed to pick up the things and play the games after Katherine had explained what everything was and how to use them. We could hold the weapons which was really cool!

There was a campfire in the middle of the room; it was not lit as that would be dangerous in school. There was also a rock with some grains on it which you crushed with another rock to make flour for their food. In the Stone Age they used to get sticky glue out of trees to stick things together.

After lunch we went back into the hall to study the Iron Age, Katherine told us some very interesting facts about the Iron Age. Archie put on some chainmail armour and held an axe and had a pretend fight with Stanley who had a sword. Archie would probably have won because he had the armour on. We explored all the Iron Age artefacts; we did some rubbing of rocks. Barnaby, Silvester and Leo made the best real flour, grinding some grains.

We played a game which was like chess and made some bracelets by twisting wool.

The difference between the two ages is in the Stone Age most things were stone, animal bones and wood and in the Iron Age it was iron.

It was the best day ever as we got to dress up and learn some really interesting facts about the Stone and Iron Age.





## Cadbury's World By Tommy Chalstrey

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November Year 4 went to Cadbury's World. When we got to Cadbury's World we had an hour and half talk about the Mayans and learned how chocolate was made and where it was found. Next we smelt the coco beans and talked about how the Mayans lived and how they counted with their Mayan numerals.

On the way to the 4D cinema we saw a TV talking about news of the Cadbury's factory, coco beans were working on the machines in the factory which was really funny. When we got to the cinema, we were given special glasses and then the chairs started to move as the film played, it looked like the screen was moving and things were popping out like flying chocolate eggs and we were screaming because the chairs were shaking us so it felt like we were moving so fast. The whole experience was so exciting!!

Next, we went to see how chocolate was made, after we had washed our hands we wrote our names in runny, non-edible chocolate and we spun chocolate with some special tools.

Then we went to a special room where we could taste the chocolate, you could put on whatever toppings we wanted which was divine. Next we went over to a station where a woman showed us how to put melted chocolate into a mould to turn them into different shapes.

After that we got into some brightly coloured electric cars, in the cars we went around different scenes with lots of moving coco beans showing various Mayan historical times. We had four people in each car, we had so much fun and laughed all the way round.

When we got out of the cars we went downstairs where there were models of Mayan kings in a back-drop from Mayan times.

We went into another cinema which told us all about John Cadbury, how chocolate was developed and how he spent his life selling his chocolate, he opened his first shop in Birmingham in 1824. Next we saw the gorilla who played the drums in a Cadbury's TV advert, it made us chuckle.

Then we went through a tunnel to a place where we could play interactive games and finally we were given our money to spend on anything we wanted in the Cadbury's gift shop.

Unfortunately, our time was over at Cadbury's World and we had to get back on the coach to come back to school.

**We had the most amazing time at Cadbury's World.**



## Children in Need Lola Morgan and Darcy Quinn

It was Children in Need Day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November so we all came into school dressed in our Pudsey pyjamas or sports clothes, we gave £1 each to help children who are in need. Our class did Pudsey handwriting which was great fun to do, we also coloured in Pudseys and we wrote a Pudsey day acrostic poem, we drew Pudseys all over our paper. We exercised to a Joe Wicks workout in class, he made up a quiz and we had to move in the direction of the answer we thought was right. We got every question right!!

It was brilliant to go outside in our Pudsey pyjamas and play with our friends. We also put silver coins on a Pudsey to raise even more money.

Pudsey day was really good because we did a bunch of fun things and raised £349.70 for Children in Need.

## Scrooge and the Ghosts of Christmas

By Isla Keane and Ruby Uren

This year, Year 6 performed 'Scrooge and the Ghosts of Christmas' for our Christmas production. We did our play on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> November and a live performance in front of parents on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Josh Myatt played Scrooge, Kamai played Marley and the rest of Year 6 played all the other parts. We all performed our parts well and we enjoyed doing the play as it was fun doing something as a class and having the rest of the juniors take part too. We were very nervous performing in front of our parents on the Thursday but the atmosphere was electric and they laughed at most of our jokes and clapped a lot at the end which showed they must have liked it. We would like to give Mrs Birbeck-Simpson a big thank you for organising the whole performance for us, we know it was a lot of hard work to put the show on.



## Grand Theatre Trip

By Josh Wyke



Me, Isla, Anya and Sophie all went to the Grand Theatre on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December as we were winners of the story writing competition that 10 of us did in a workshop at school last term with Peter and James from the theatre. Our stories were chosen to be put on Cinderella's dress and the decorations for this year's pantomime. When we arrived at the theatre I read my story first in a room called 'The Encore' and then we listened to other winning stories from other schools. It was interesting to hear how different the other entries were from ours.

It was lovely to go to the Grand Theatre they made us feel very special and we felt so proud of what we had achieved.

We are looking forward to going to the Pantomime with our families.

## German Market

Milli Croft-Cook and Sophie Westgate

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, Year 6 went to the German Market in Birmingham. When we got there we were split into 5 groups and went with our member of staff to different parts of the market. At 12 o'clock we all met up to get a Bratwurst for our lunch, before returning to the market, lots of us bought crepes, doughnuts, different kinds of nuts and keyrings. Some of us brought Christmas presents for our families.

We really enjoyed the day and we would like to give a massive THANK YOU to Mrs Birbeck-Simpson and Frau Bradbury for organising it.





## Nursery Nativity

**By Kiera Paal and Lara Stephens**

We did a nativity in our nursery on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. The story we did was about a lady called Mary and a man called Joseph and Baby Jesus. There are no bad things in the nativity and no trees. You don't get trees in the nativity that would be so silly!

We remembered all our very tricky words and did our actions beautifully.

We loved doing the nativity especially for our Mums, Dads, Nans and Grandads. When they saw us they smiled at us. We also sang Christmas songs which made everyone happy and at the end there was a lot of clapping.

## Donkey for Sale

**By Chloe Silvester and Alfie Wedge**

Year 2, Year 1 and Reception did a Christmas play called 'Donkey for Sale'. It was about an old man who was selling a donkey which Joseph bought because Mary was having a baby. She rode it all the way to Bethlehem with Joseph walking by her side for the whole of the journey.

We did a lot of practicing because 'Practice makes Perfect.' Year 2 played all the main characters in the play, it was so exciting being told what parts we got but then nerve-wracking as we didn't know what we had to do.

Some Year 1 children did acting as well and the rest were in the choir wearing their Christmas jumpers. Reception played the 3 kings, giving gifts to the Baby Jesus, some angels that were smiling and some were shepherds and their animals. So all together we performed 'Donkey for Sale.' It was really good dressing up and watching the play come together and it was a lot of fun acting out our characters. The choir and the actors sang some songs which helped to tell the story, along with the 3 narrators.

We enjoyed doing 'Donkey for Sale' because we got to do it all together. We performed our play in front of the whole school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December and then it was filmed on the Tuesday, we were all a bit nervous to be filmed but it was also very exciting to make sure we did our best, remembering when to come on stage and what to do and when to say our lines at the right time.

