

Castlecroft News

Autumn Edition!

November 2022

Phone: 01902 556606
Email: office@castlecroftprimaryschool.co.uk
Website: castlecroftprimaryschool.co.uk



Headteacher's Report

Welcome everyone to the Autumn edition of Castlecroft News. The articles as always have been written by the children about the exciting things that have taken place during the first half of the Autumn term. Overall we have made a very good start to the term and particular praise should go to the children for their excellent behaviour both in lessons and whilst on the playground.

We are rapidly approaching the festive season. Christmas is such an exciting time in a primary school. This year there will be 3 different performances. The stage is already up and the KS2 children are working hard to prepare their performance of 'The Rats of Wolverhampton' for you. The infant children will be performing 'Hey Ewe' and our nursery will be performing the Christmas Nativity. I can't wait.

Attendance

We are looking to reintroduce our weekly class attendance award. Understandably, this stopped during the pandemic but with all restrictions now being lifted it is important to encourage good attendance as a way of helping pupils catch up.

I am going to meet with the school council to decide how best to run the attendance award and what the prizes might be. More information will follow once decisions have been made and we will look to start the award in the Spring term.

On a slightly different note, I am receiving an increasing number of requests from parents to take children out of school for family holidays. I understand that spiralling rises in the cost of living make cheaper term time holidays really attractive, however I am only able to authorise a leave of absence (holiday in term time) if circumstances are exceptional.

Kingswood

Lyla Chetta and Charlie Hickman

Year 2 went on a coach to Kingswood Activity Centre on Thursday 22nd September. When we first got there the staff told us all about our stay at Kingswood and what we were going to do. After that we took our bags into our bedrooms and unpacked. Then we went outside to do tree climbing, we climbed really high. Then we did 'Leaf I-Spy', it is amazing how many different types of leaves there are at Kingswood.

After we had eaten our really tasty roast dinner for lunch, we went on a 'Habitat Trail' where we had to find cards with pictures of animals on them. Then we played outside before coming in for a little play in the soft play area. After dinner we went back to the soft play until it was dark.

Excitedly we went back to our bedrooms to get changed into our pyjamas and had hot chocolate and a biscuit. Then we brushed our teeth and washed our face before going to bed. Most of us went to sleep straight away as we were so tired.

Next morning, we got changed and brushed our teeth after breakfast. We played on the ropes, parallel bars and the zip-wire which was a lot of fun as it went very fast.

We went to visit the pets in the pet corner, we brushed the rabbit and guinea pigs and fed the sheep with special pellets.

We had sausages and mash for lunch and then went on a 'Blind Trail' where we guided our blind-folded friends around a trail. They had to hold on to ropes to feel their way around.

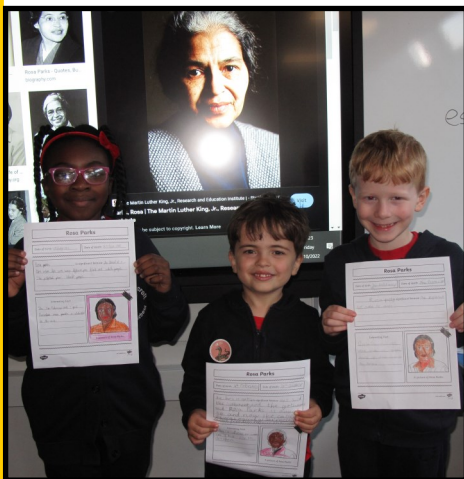
After another brilliant day, we got our bags and went back to school on the coach.

We were all really tired after our trip to Kingswood because we had done so many wonderful things.



Black History Month

By Millie McDougall



Our school studied 'Black History Month' which started off with a school assembly and talked about the names and achievements of Black people in history.

Then over the month each class studied a different Black person who had made a difference to people's lives all over the world. Year 5 looked at Nelson Mandela who wanted Black and white people in South Africa to have equal rights. He spent 27 years in prison fighting for what he believed. He became so important in our history that there is a song written about him, 'Free Nelson Mandela,' along with lots of books.

After being freed from prison, Mandela became South Africa's first Black president and managed to change the rights of Black people and then continued to help people around the world.

Nelson Mandela died in 2013 having changed many Black people's lives for the better.

Other classes studied people like Rosa Parks, Marcus Rashford, Martin Luther King and John Kent.

Aladdin!

By Harley Jones

Year 2 went into the hall on Tuesday 11th October where the scenery for Aladdin was set up. The people who were going to do the pantomime told us all about how pantomime started and about the different characters in a pantomime. It was very interesting and funny, especially when they were singing a song and nearly hitting each other.

When the rest of the infants came into the hall, we watched the whole pantomime of Aladdin. Aladdin's mom was very funny as she was a man dressed up in very bright clothes and funny hats. I enjoyed the performance as it made me and my friends laugh so much. We sang a song at the end which had a very, very long name in it. We sang really LOUD! I liked all the characters in the pantomime, they were lots fun.



Aladdin **By Elijah Webb**

Year 6 went into the school hall on Thursday 13th October where the panto people had set up ready for the pantomime, Aladdin. The actors told us all about the history of pantomime, it started with a group of people in Italy performing the first pantomime, which involved music, dance and mischievous characters, many years later words were added.

When the rest of juniors joined us in the hall we watched the pantomime Aladdin. Everyone really enjoyed the performance, they made us laugh a lot with all their silly jokes and humour.

Near the end of the pantomime we were split into two groups and sang 'Sweet Caroline' but we changed the words to 'Sweet Pantomime'. The actors judged our singing and said it was a draw.

I was so glad that the pantomime came to our school as it was so much fun.

Fiction Fortnight **By Mya Rai**

We do Fiction Fortnight every year in school, it is where each class chooses a different book to read. We do lots of writing about the book. In Year 5, our book was called 'Bronze and Sunflower.' It is about a boy called Bronze and a girl called Sunflower. The story is set in China where Sunflower travels with her father who is a famous artist, he makes sculptures of sunflowers. Sunflower is very shy but eventually she makes friends with Bronze. It is a lovely story about friendship but it also has some sad moments too.

Nursery read 'Supertato', Reception did 'The Leaf Thief', Year 1 read 'The Gruffalo', Year 2 did 'Hal the Highway Man', Year 3, 'Stig of the Dump', Year 4 did 'The Firemaker's Daughter' and Year 6 read the book 'Cloudbusting'.

Our Hunt for Evil Pea! **By Isabella Dowdeswell and Reid Stanley**

Nursery went looking for Evil Pea because he had tied up Supertato with string and Supertato had put a sign on the ceiling to get us to find him.

Evil Pea had also trapped a pear on a stack of cans and put the carrots in the middle of toilet rolls. We rescued these veggies along with a watermelon.

With our superhero masks on we were superheroes and went to rescue Supertato and find Evil Pea. If we find him, we are going to put a cup over him and then a piece of paper to trap him in the cup. We might have to put a heavy book on the piece of paper to stop him escaping out of the window.

We liked reading Supertato because it is really exciting!



Poetry Competition **By Billy Madden**

Six children were chosen to represent Castlecroft in a poetry competition at Woodfield Primary school on Monday 17th October. The children were Elijah, Lola, Lola-Rae, Freya, Ben and me (Billy). We travelled to Woodfield School in Mr Dyll's car and some children were taken in their parent's cars.

We had practiced our poems so much that we knew our poems off by heart. When we got to Woodfield we sat on benches waiting for the competition to start. I felt very nervous to start with but when I was actually saying my poem I started to relax and enjoyed being in the competition.

My poem was called 'The Night Mail' which was about an old steam train delivering mail. I chose this poem because it is my Grandad's favourite poem. He came to see me in the competition along with my Mom, Dad and brother. My Dad said I read my poem perfectly and my Grandad was very happy.

We were all given medals for being in the competition. I enjoyed taking part as it was a lot of fun and learning a poem was a whole new experience for me.



Harvest Festival

By Lucas Astley and Erin Morgan



On Wednesday 19th October Year 3 did a Harvest Festival assembly for our parents and the rest of the school.

After Mr Dyall had introduced our assembly to our parents we sang 'Autumn Days'. Then we all said a bit about what harvest is. Harvest is a time for us to share and give things to people who need it more than we do.

We also sang 'Paint a Perfect Picture' and 'Sharing Days'.

We had practiced singing our songs with Mr Dimmock on the piano. We had to work

on our voices as we were too quiet to start with, so we practiced until we sang loud enough for everyone to hear, especially our parents who were at the back of the hall.

Most of the school donated food and toiletries so that the people from the Church of the Good Shepherd could come and collect the donations and deliver them to people who really need them.

Cookery Club

By Eddie, Alexa, Ethan and Lola

Cookery Club is AWESOME and we would totally recommend it! We have so much fun preparing and tasting the food from all around the world. Cookery club was for 5 weeks and we learnt safety in the kitchen before we did any cooking. We learnt how to handle kitchen equipment, cook, wash up and how to organise a fridge and store the food correctly.

The first week we made cupcakes which were delicious and they made the kitchen smell really nice. We also made healthy oat cookies, quiche, pizza and sponge cake, and delicious smoothies.

We enjoyed every bit of Cookery Club and were always excited to go.



My Trip to a Cross Country Race with School

By Isla Myatt

Seven of our cross country team went to a cross country race at Fordhouses Cricket Club, after school on Wednesday 19th October. There was Isla, Saskia, Tommy, Oliver T, Niall, Elijah and Evie M. We all ran 1000m, which was such a long way but we all finished, not one of us stopped once.

It was so much fun and we all tried really hard. I personally came 4th. I'm not sure where Castlecroft finished as our score wasn't announced. We all had an amazing time and I would recommend everyone to join the cross country team.

Ukulele

By Shanaya Fearon

Year 3 have been learning to play the ukulele this term with Mrs Larkin on Tuesday afternoons. The ukulele has 4 strings A, C, E and G, each string plays a different sound. We have learnt how to strum the strings with our thumb. We can already play a funny song called 'Doctor Knickerbocker' to the rhythm of 9 counts. We do actions to this song, which helps us to remember the tune easier. We also play another song and we have to use all of the strings.

It is really good to learn the ukulele because it is an easy instrument to learn and is quite small to carry. I play the guitar at home and would love to learn to play the violin and drums.



