

Castlecroft News

Autumn Edition!

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Headteacher's Report

Well they say that time flies by when you are having fun and that has certainly been the case so far this year. I cannot believe that we are already in November having completed a busy first half term and more recently two fantastic days of Bhangra with the amazing Vijay (a report will follow in the next edition of the newsletter). At the time of writing this report, the stage is up and we are beginning to prepare for our Christmas performances.

This year KS2 pupils will be performing their version of Robin Hood while KS1 pupils will be performing Everyone Loves a Baby. Our Reception and Nursery pupils will be going 'on tour' performing their Christmas nativity at St Columbus church. More information about these performances will be sent out shortly.

Since the pandemic attendance in schools nationally has fallen and this is also the case at Castlecroft. Attending school every day on time, unless your child is genuinely ill, is really important. Poor attendance often leads to gaps developing in children's understanding which makes it hard for them to keep up. Indeed, one of the best ways of helping your child to be successful at school, both academically and emotionally, is to encourage good attendance.

To encourage good attendance, we have a weekly class attendance competition where the class with the best attendance wins a pizza slice. The class with the most pizza slices at the end of term wins a pizza party. Currently year 2 are favourites having already collected 3 pizza slices. However, there are still 7 more slices to collect so it is all to play for!!

Please enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter which celebrates the many exciting events during the first half of the Autumn term.

Forensic Workshop

By Oliver T

Last week, Year 6 went to Smestow Academy to do a forensic workshop. Mrs Niesh explained all about DNA and a robbery that had happened to Mrs Robertson. We used all sorts of science to find out who our suspects were. The suspects were Mrs Gautam, Mr Davies, Mrs Niesh, Mr Morris, Mr Patel and Mrs Chahal.

The first thing we did was the chromatography, which is separating components of a mixture. We discovered it was Mrs Gautam and Mr Davies. Next, we used the microscope to magnify strands of hair and wool off a coat. The suspects were Mrs Niesh and Mrs Gautam. Finally, we used some special powder and a working fire. The powder was put above the fire and if it turned violet, we had our suspect. The suspects were Mrs Gautam and Mr Davies.

It was such a great day and we had so much fun.

The criminal was...



Forensic Day

Year 5

By Erica, Roxy and Mia-Grace

On the 15th September, we went to Smestow Academy for Year 5's Forensic day. As soon as we got there, we went straight up to the science laboratory to watch a powerpoint about the crime that had been committed in a room in the science block. Someone had stolen some money and it was our job to find out who. We started experimenting. Mrs Neish told us who the suspects were, they were all Smestow staff. We were determined to find out who had stolen the petty cash!!!!

Mrs Neish told us about two suspects who might have used the petty cash. How we figured it out was by using a water sampler. We were given a special piece of paper, a jug of water, a glass measuring jug, a paper clip and a coffee stirrer. We drew a line and then a dot on the line and poured some water into the measuring jug. We waited five minutes for the colour to set. From the results our suspects were Mr Morris, Mrs Neish and Mrs Gautam.

We looked at hair samples under the microscope, which was a bit freaky and difficult to see. Mrs Gautam was our suspect. Then we did a flame test by using a bunsen burner, comparing powder colours. We looked at all our results together and Mrs Gautam was a suspect that all the results matched.

Mrs Neish walked our class back to school, luckily for us she was not the criminal.

We all had a great time being detectives investigating a crime.



Cross Country Relay Race

By Erin and Harlee

On Wednesday 4th October, the Castlecroft Primary School cross country team went to Fordhouses cricket club for a relay race. We departed school at 3:15pm and travelled in different cars. It seemed to take so long as we were all very excited.

When we got there, we warmed up by running up to the pink line and back, twice, non-stop.

Mr Dyall then gave us our running number. A's went first, followed by the B's, the C's and last but not least the D's. Mr Morgan said when we finished our race we could have a Jaffa cake each. It was really nice!

Whoo! Went the whistle, Freya K sprinted off, she went really fast, finishing in 2nd place out of our girls, along with Aurora and Erin M.

There were approximately over 2,000 runners competing. We are not sure where we finished overall but we know we did very good.

We all had a fun time and we are looking forward to our next race in January or February next year.



Come Dine with Me

Year 6

By Isla and Lola

On Wednesday 4th October, Year 6 had the opportunity to eat our lunch with our parents/carers in the dining hall. We were given the choice of a delicious roast or a scrumptious jacket potato. We went up to the dining hall for an early lunch and we were given different tokens, depending on what food we were having.

We all stood in line with our parents and waited patiently to be served. Once we were served our meals, we all sat down and feasted on our delicious lunch. If you didn't like any of the options, you could have sandwiches.



This day was a great experience and if you hadn't got an adult coming there was always a place for you to sit by a friend.

Black History Month

By Sam

During our Black History Month, Year 4 learnt about Martin Luther King Jnr. We found out lots of interesting facts about him. Even though he went to jail about 20 times, he kept on protesting as he wanted to change things for the better. He wanted Black and White people to be equal and live happily together. If he hadn't continued fighting for Black Rights, our world still might be unchanged, which I think would be very sad.

I thought Black History Month was very interesting as we learnt in class and in our special assemblies about Black people who fought to change lives for the better.



Djembe Drums

By Thea and Sisi

Year 4 have been learning to play the djembe drums. We were all very excited especially the children who had never played any type of drum before. We banged out words on the drums, we had to choose words with different syllables which changed the amount of times we beat it out on the drum. We learnt a song called 'Semway to Dende', which was a lot of fun. We put yellow clips on our drum bags so we knew they belonged to Castlecroft school. We like playing the djembe drums as they can make a very LOUD sound or a quiet one if you tap it gently and they are an easy instrument to learn.





Ukulele By Layla and Callum

In Year 3 we learnt how to play the ukulele. It was a surprise, unzipping the ukulele bag to see what colour we were given. There were so many different funky colours.

It was so much fun learning to play all the notes on the ukulele and putting them together to play some simple tunes.

We loved learning to play an instrument with all our class friends. The ukulele was amazing!

We would like to continue playing the ukulele and to learn more songs.

Fiction Fortnight By Hugo

My Mummy came into my class to read my favourite book to the children. The book is 'Dinosaurs Don't Have Bedtime!' It's about a boy who doesn't want to go to sleep because dinosaurs DON'T. They DON'T drink milk, brush their teeth and they DON'T wear pyjamas. I liked Mummy coming into Nursery and reading to all my friends. Everyone growled like a Dinosaur.

'Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!!'



Fiction Fortnight By Jaden

Fiction Fortnight in our school is a lot of fun, as each class reads a different book. Mrs Jones chose 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King for Year 3, which is about a boy called Barney who meets a caveman called Stig, who is living on a rubbish dump. They become friends and Barney helps Stig furnish his cave with lots of recycled rubbish.

Mrs Jones read the story to us and made it sound really exciting. We did some descriptive writing about the book. We also went outside where Mrs Jones had made a dark and damp cave. We studied the cave and then pinned words on it that we thought best described the cave.

My word was 'disgusting' because I thought the cave was smelly.

I enjoyed Fiction Fortnight because I really like reading and reading the same book as a class was fun because we could discuss it together.



Come Dine With Me

Year 5

By Ishani Jassal

As Mrs Finlayson-Palmer walked into our classroom on Wednesday 11th October, my face lit up in excitement because I knew it was Come Dine with Me and my Dad was coming to have lunch with me. I was so excited, just like all my friends!

We had to wait in line to get our lunch tokens or our lunch boxes. Then we joined our parents in the line. After a long wait we finally got our BIG breakfast, I loved my hash brown. I said, "Goodbye" to my Dad after we had had a lovely lunch together!



Snow White Pantomime

By Wynter

On Wednesday 11th October, we were all really excited because the Pantomime came to school. It was Snow White. My favourite character was Snow White because she was so kind to everyone and sang some lovely songs. The show was good and really funny. The best part was when Snow White and the prince sang and danced together. We all had a brilliant time and enjoyed the show.



Harvest Festival

By Lilly-Rae

Year 3 class did a Harvest Festival assembly for our families and the rest of the school on Wednesday 18th October. We were asked to bring in food that didn't go off quickly for 'The Well Food Bank'. We had a lot of food donated for the people who don't have enough food to eat. The story we told was 'The Little Red Hen', who wanted help from her friends to sow seeds in the field to grow wheat to make bread, but her friends were very lazy and wouldn't help her.

Finally, when she had done all the hard work and made the bread, her friends wanted to help her eat the bread but she said, "No!" Eventually, after they begged her a lot, she let them have some bread as long as they promised to help her next time.

I was a bit scared to perform in front of the audience but I actually did enjoy doing our assembly as it wasn't that scary.

All the adults were smiling so much because we had done a good job and at the end of our performance we were allowed to go and see our families.



Year 4 Come Dine with Me

By Louie and Sam

On Wednesday 18th October, it was Year 4's Come Dine with Me. At 11:30 we washed our hands and made our way up to the dining hall to wait in line for our parents to join us. We queued patiently for our food. When we had been served, we sat down with our parents and friends. We had lovely food and the pudding was the best. Then we went outside to play and our parents went home or back to work. Come Dine with Me was great as we got to see our parents in school.

IT WAS AMAZING!



Poetry Competition

By Darcy

I chose my poem which I was going to read to my class, it was called 'The Snowball'. I liked this poem because it was short and easier to remember. I did want to learn 'My Best Friend' but it was too long. I looked at my poem, then put it down and said the first line, then I looked at the poem again and said the next line. I did this until I knew the whole poem.

After a lot of practice, I read my poem to my class very well and so did everyone else.

I was chosen to read my poem in front of the whole school along with children from the Juniors. It was a bit scary but I was also very excited.

On Monday 23rd October, 5 of us represented Castlecroft in a poetry competition at St Barts School.

Mr Dyall took us in his car, we were really excited.

There were loads of different schools to read their poems. I loved reading my poem, even though I was petrified standing on the stage with all the mums, dads, grandads, nans and children watching. I enjoyed doing the poetry competition because I like doing new things.

Castlecroft didn't get a trophy but it's ok as it's the taking part that matters.



Year 3 Come Dine with Me

By Izabella

On Wednesday 25th October, Year 3 had their Come Dine with Me. My Dad came to school to have lunch with me which was such a treat as I don't normally see my Dad in the week. I had meatballs and my Dad had a roast dinner. We both really enjoyed our food very much. Come Dine with Me was really fun and exciting.

