

# Castlecroft News

## Spring Edition!

April 2024

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Hi everyone and welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of Castlecroft News!

Despite Spring term being short – only 10 weeks in fact - we still managed to squeeze in many exciting events and opportunities for the children, most of which are celebrated in the following reports.

We have had a number of projects completed to enhance the appearance of the school and would like to thank the local authority for their generous support. Work has been completed on replacing all soffits and fascias and windows to the school entrances and along the path to Nursery.

The corridors have all been freshly painted and new carpets fitted in the administration wing of the school. Outside work has been completed on the tower to repair a leaking roof and to replace the windows with the school logo and branding.

We are still awaiting an OFSTED visit. School was last inspected in October 2018 and we are expecting an inspection during the next term. Senior leaders and subject leaders have been working closely with advisors and colleagues in other schools to review and strengthen the curriculum. This is a continuous process of assessing and monitoring curriculum delivery and impact, planning improvements and implementing change.

Exciting news! Mrs Jones is busily planning a local history week during the Summer term. The purpose being to celebrate the fantastic local history on our doorstep that is missed in delivering the statutory national curriculum history subject content. More information will follow shortly.

Finally, please can I remind all parents of the importance of regular attendance. Please make every effort to get your child to school on time every day unless they are really ill. If you have any concerns or difficulty in getting your child to attend school, please contact us so we can explore what support can be put in place to help.

**Mr Dyall**

### **Polyphones** **By Annie and Izzy**

On 11<sup>th</sup> January, Year 5 did polyphones in the hall with Mr Clark. There were 4 tubes on each set and 8 on the massive one. Each tube made a different sound, the shorter the tube, the higher the pitch. We were split into three groups, a large group, medium and small group. Year 5 had three sections to learn, set A, set B and a solo.

In set A, the groups played different parts while set B, all played the same parts. We all did a solo too. We played the same tune as each other and then when we played quietly, the solo player who was standing at the massive polyphone played whatever they wanted to and went crazy. We worked with partners and ran the sequence two times before swapping.

In the afternoon we played what we had learnt to the rest of the school. Learning to play the polyphones was a lot of hard work but we still enjoyed it and had so much fun.





## Polyphones By Isabella and Oliver

Today we had a little play outside before our Reception class played on the polyphones. Mr Clark gave all the pipes a number, we played 1,2,3,4, then we played them backwards 4,3,2,1. We hit the pipes with a bat to make different sounds, some were low and some were high. The larger pipes played the low sound and the smaller ones made the high sound.

We loved playing the polyphones because we had so much fun and they made a nice sound.

## Stone Age and Iron Age Day By Justin

Year 3 were really excited when we came into school on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, as we were having a whole day learning lots about the Stone and Iron Ages. We went into the hall and we started the day by learning about how people lived in the Stone Age. They didn't have fancy clothes like us, they made their clothes out of animal skins which kept them very warm. We pretended to be Stone Age people by dressing up and acting like they did. We played simple games which were very old fashioned. We also made flour by grinding some grains between two flat stones for a long time.

We went back to our classroom and made some felt by putting bits of sheep's wool on top of each other, we put soapy water on it and then pushed the wool to make it thinner. Finally, we had to roll the felt 50 times to get it really flat and dry.

After that, we went back into the hall where everything had changed to the Iron Age. The clothes were more fancy and all the tools were made of iron instead of stone. We dressed up in armour and helmets to make us feel like real soldiers. The helmets and chainmail were very heavy.

It was really good learning about the Stone Age and Iron Age but I preferred the Stone Age as I found it more interesting. I enjoyed the whole day, pre- fun



## Our Trip to See The Nutcracker By Albert

Year 1 and Year 2 went on a trip to the theatre to see 'The Nutcracker' on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January. My favourite part was when the Mouse Queen took the Nutcracker's powers. I sat next to Bobby and we both loved the show.

## The Nutcracker By Archie

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, Year 2 went to see 'The Nutcracker'. I was really excited when we arrived at the theatre. On the stage there was a Christmas tree with pretty lights. It was an amazing show. There was lots of dancing and I liked the Sugar Plum Fairy doing her ballet dancing. There were some magic tricks and it also snowed on the stage.

My favourite part when the Nutcracker and Marie went to the land of sweets.

**We all had a wonderful time.**





## Football Match Report Castlecroft v Claregate By Stanley

Our football team went to Claregate Primary School on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. The game got underway with Claregate kicking off. I was in defence, Billy and Rupert were left and right back, Niall and Pavan played in centre mid. James was right wing, Kylan was left wing and our captain for the match, Tommy and Cameron were our strikers, Oliver T was goal-keeper and our subs were Ryan and Jakob.

The game got underway with Castlecroft looking a very strong team. Our first counter-attack, James shot but it went wide. I was defending when Claregate had their first counter-attack, we nearly took possession but their player managed to get past me and pass the ball to their winger who took a shot but Oliver T made a great save.

Oliver booted the ball to Kylan who passed it to Tommy who had a shot at goal and placed it in the top left corner. Our next goal was scored again by Tommy after their goal-keeper saved it and he scored on the rebound.

The second half got underway with Castlecroft having most of the possession. Substitutions were made with Jakob and Ryan being brought on. Our next goal came from Cameron, placing the ball smack into the middle of the goal.

Then Claregate made a comeback, scoring 2 goals close together. Cameron scored another goal in the bottom left corner. Tommy got a well-deserved hat trick, placing the ball in the top right corner. It was getting close to the end of the match when Jakob took a shot, the ball looked like it was going in but just didn't manage to cross the line.

At the final whistle, Castlecroft had defeated Claregate with a score of 5-2. We all played really well and were very happy with the result.

## Art Week By Lola and Isla

This year, our picture for 'Art Week' was 'A Courtyard of a House in Delft' by Pieter de Hooch. At first glance we didn't think we were going to be as inspired by it as last year's painting, which we found exciting and interesting. This year nothing particularly popped out at us until, on closer inspection, there were many questions to be asked.

In Year 6 we made wire leaves, used charcoal to sketch arches and printing with leaves, we also got to be an art critic and critique the painting. Our favourite art activity was making the wire leaves, as it was a lot of fun but also a good challenge.

At the end of 'Art Week' we had an assembly where every class showed us what they had created. It was very interesting to see how the same painting can be interpreted in so many different ways. Other classes used clay to make hands and faces. Printing leaves, string patterns and on collages which looked really professional. Peg dolls and lolly-pop families were also made. We loved 'Art Week' because it is so inspiring and we had so much fun being creative and learning about different types of art.



## Football Report Castlecroft v Bhylls Acre By Tommy and Billy



On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, we went to Bhylls Acre to play an away football match. The game started off well, with Castlecroft securing an early lead from a great volley by the striker. But soon after, Bhylls Acre scored to make it 1-1. A few minutes later, we were 2-1 down. It was an intensive game. The whistle blew for half time.

The second half started with Owen winning us a penalty and then Tommy scored to make it 2-2. Our team's fitness seemed to be outlasting Bhylls Acre's, so Kylan took advantage and crossed the ball into the goal to take the lead 3-2. After we had taken the lead, we felt like we could win the match and continue our 3 match winning streak. We scored goal after goal, putting the score at 7-2. In the last 10 minutes we changed our formation to give everyone an opportunity to play. This gave Bhylls Acre the chance to start scoring and close the goal difference. The match ended 7-5 to us. A great win for us, with our next match being Palmers Cross.

## Football Report Castlecroft v Palmers Cross By Ibrahim



The first half started off with Palmers Cross having possession, we were very positive especially with us winning loads of tackles.

Our confidence was the highest it could be. 5 minutes into the match Tommy scored a banger, a good distance from the box right into the top left of the goal. About 5 minutes later, Kylan came running down the wing looking for someone to cross to, with a clean pass, Castlecroft scored another goal in the bottom right. The rest of the first half was full of good tackles and superb saves from both teams but our goalkeeper's, Oliver T, saves were unbelievable!

Our team was looking really strong with amazing clear passes from Rupert. Brilliant defending by Niall and whenever he had the chance he would do precision passes to Cameron, Tommy, but mainly Kylan as they were both on the left side. Pavan was the best at clearing the ball, if Palmers Cross saw Pavan with the ball, they knew that they had to sprint to whoever was in the box as his accuracy was fabulous. Cameron played a fantastic game, he was hard to tackle and his speed left the opposition for dust. During the first half, Ibrahim and Stanley were on the bench warming up, getting ready to come on for the second half.

During half time we had a team talk and discussed our game plan. Ibrahim and Stanley left the bench, running to their positions. Ibrahim was the right side of centre mid and Stanley was also midfield. Castlecroft kicked off the second half, Billy took charge. He was brilliant at passing and won a lot of tackles. The ball was passed to Kylan, who sprinted towards the corner flag and crossed it to Cameron who scored. Luckily for Castlecroft, Oliver T saved almost all Palmers Cross attempts to score. Kylan was a great winger, he assisted Ryan who scored in the bottom left. Ibrahim and Stanley played a good game with Ibrahim winning the ball from 3 defenders, he tackled them all with such skill but, unfortunately, the ball went out of play.

Ibrahim had the final touch of the ball when the whistle went. Mr Morgan gathered us round for an end of match review. He told us we all played amazing. The final score was 7-1 to Castlecroft. We played brilliantly, however, it wouldn't have been possible without our phenomenal coach, Mr Morgan and our enthusiastic cheerleader, Mr Dyall. Cross. He cheered for both teams.

## Orchestral Concert By Jakob

Year 5 were chosen to go to The Halls in Wolverhampton for an orchestral concert. The hall was humongous with really big speakers. The orchestra was made up of lots of different instruments, including the djembe drums, which we dance to at school when we are learning bhangra. We listened to music from 5BC, which the orchestra played very high pitched, it was quiet but had a fast beat. Then they played music from 54AD, it was slower with a deeper sound but very loud. It was like it was being played on the low keys of a piano.

We listened to lots of different music through the ages until we reached 2024. I preferred the 2024 music best as I recognised it and I really only like modern music. The drums were my favourite instruments as they made the loudest and the best sounds, especially through the massive speakers.

I did enjoy going to the orchestral concert as trips are always fun and our class felt very special being chosen to go.

## Grandparents Day

By Bella

My Nannie came into school to see me today. We went into the big hall to watch a film which we had made for our Nannies and Grandads, telling them how much we love them. I played with everything that was there and my Nannie helped me. I liked my Nannie coming into school as she is always really kind to me.

**I love my Nannie very much; she makes me very happy.**



## Cross Country

By Erica and Aurora

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, our cross country team went to Fordhouses Cricket Club to take part in a relay race against other Wolverhampton schools. Runners from Year 4, 5 and 6 participated in this race. We were all very excited to be chosen to represent Castlecroft. It was the girls race first and then the boys. Magda came first for our Year 4 girls, Lucas for the boys. In Year 5 it was Aurora and Stanley and Tommy for Year 6. Oak Meadows finished in first place, we finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place overall and was very happy.

We all enjoyed the experience and atmosphere of the whole event and are looking forward to our next race.



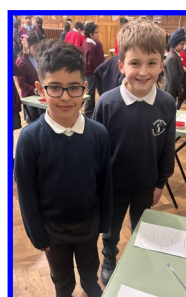
## Fire Safety

By Anaya and Marho

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, the fire service came into Year 4 to talk to us about fire safety and how to stay safe if there was a fire. First we watched a video which showed a fake room that was on fire so we could see how fast a room can catch on fire. The room was fake but it showed that it only took 6 minutes for the fire to fill the whole room. Then, we were asked by the fire service to pretend that there was a fire in the living room and we had to say which way we would go to escape. We all said we would go downstairs and through the front door. Then, we pretended the fire was in the kitchen. We said we would go downstairs and run through the back door.

The fire service then told us about smoke detectors and how important they are. We should have one on the landing, in the bedroom, in the living room and if you have a spare detector, put it in another bedroom. If you are sleeping and the smoke detector goes off, the fire service told us how to tell if there is a fire or not. First, you wake up and then make your way to the door and feel the door handle with the back of your hand, because the back of your hand is more sensitive and will feel the heat. If you are not sure if it is hot or cold, crouch down and open the door. If you see a fire, shut the door immediately and then put a pillow and a blanket by the door to stop the smoke coming into your room. Then call 999, speak clearly and tell them in detail what is happening. If you don't have a phone, open the window and SHOUT for help! We finished off the day by playing 'Stop, Drop and Roll' because if you are on fire you should stop what you are doing, drop to the floor and roll on the ground to put the fire out.

**What an amazing day we had, we learnt so much!**



## Maths Challenge

**By Anaya, Raul, Alfie and Sam**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, we went in Miss Champion's car to the Girl's High School to compete in a maths challenge. It took us about 10 minutes to get there. When we got to the Girl's High we had our lunch. Then we were called to our challenge station, which was number 205.

Our first challenge was called 'Dicey, Dicey', there were 4 numbers in 4 boxes which we had to add up. Then we played 'What's Next' where we had to finish the pattern off. Next was 'Make 24', which was REALLY hard, we had to make 24 by adding, multiplying, dividing or subtracting. We had to include 9,3,4,7,6,5 and 2. After that, we played 3 challenges in 7 minutes, matching shapes, dominoes and fruit codes.

The last challenge was 5 random questions with the last one being SUPER hard. When we had completed all the challenges, we sat on the floor to watch a magic trick about ice-cream. Finally, the prizes were handed out and then we returned to school and went back into class with BIG smiles on our faces.

**What a great day we had!**

## Football Report

**Castlecroft v Woodthorne**

**By Kyra**

Our Girl's football team travelled to Woodthorne Primary School at 3.45pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We were really looking forward to our first match of the season. I was chosen as Captain for this match which made me feel very happy and proud.

Castlecroft kicked off the game with lots of passing from both teams and end to end play. We played well but didn't manage to get a goal. When the final whistle was blown, Woodthorne had won by 5 goals.

Even though we had been defeated, we were all very happy with our performance and enjoyed playing. I really like team games as I am very sporty.



## SpongeBob SquarePants

**By Chloe**

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, Year 4 were looking forward to see SpongeBob SquarePants, the musical at Highfields School. We went to Highfields on minibuses. When we got to the school, we headed up to the theatre, took our seats and then waited quietly while the other schools entered the theatre. They did a microphone check and then they started, we were so excited and completely surprised because the voices sounded just like the voices in the cartoon. There were some really funny bits and some really exciting bits. Some of the actors were children who used to come to Castlecroft. At the end we all sang the SpongeBob SquarePants

song and then gave them a massive clap, they were amazing actors. We enjoyed our trip to the Highfields theatre, it was a very professional performance and a lot of fun.

## Netball Report

**Castlecroft v Uplands**

**By Poppy**



On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, some Year 5 and 6 girls went to Uplands Primary School to play in a netball match. I was chosen as the Captain which made me feel very proud. When we arrived at Uplands, we practiced our goal shooting to warm up.

The match started and we were all very excited. As a team we played really well with some great passing but unfortunately, we didn't manage to score a goal even though we had some good attempts. The game finished with a win for Uplands, who played a very good game.

We were all really pleased to have been chosen to be in the Castlecroft netball team and enjoyed the whole experience.

I'm sure with more shooting practice we can win our next match.



### **Dinosaur Egg** **By Olivia and Nancy**

We went to the office on Monday where there was a big box for us. There was a letter to Nursery from the University, asking us to look after the dinosaur egg. When we opened it, the egg was white and really **BIG!**



We put the egg in a safe place so the egg wouldn't get broken but when we came into school on Tuesday morning, the egg had cracked and the dinosaur had escaped. There were white footprints leading to the door. We followed them to the office where Mrs Jones showed us photographs of the dinosaur on the footpath that we walk on to go to Nursery. We still haven't found the dinosaur but we will keep looking for her, so we can look after her and play with her.

### **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea** **By Isabella**

Our class had practised our special words and songs for our Mother's Day assembly a lot of times.

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, our Moms came into school to watch our assembly. When Reception came into the hall, all our Mums were smiling and waving at us. First, we thanked our Mums for everything they do for us before we sang 'Mummy, Mummy, I love you'. Then we sang 'You are my Sunshine' and then we shouted 'HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!' and blew our Mums a kiss. We had all drawn lovely pictures of our Mums, mine had my Mummy, me, some flowers and love hearts on it. We gave our Mums the pictures with a daffodil and a great big hug. We then had cake and squash. After that, we danced while our Mums chatted and had tea and more cakes. My Mum came to dance with me which made me feel really happy. My Mum liked our assembly because I said my lines so clearly and because she loves me so much, just like I love her.



### **Library Visit** **By Dylan and Darcey**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Year 2 walked to Finchfield Library. When we arrived a lady called Elisabeth told us all about the library and where to find the different types of books. Then she read 'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson. We loved the story so much we could have exploded with happiness.

After Elisabeth had read the story, she said we could choose a book as we had a new library card, which let us take books home. After looking at all the books, we chose 'May the Panda Fairy' and 'A Triple Treat of Horrid Henry' which had 3 books in 1.

When we had chosen our books, Elisabeth showed us how to use the scanner. We scanned our library card and our book and the machine gave us a receipt, telling us what book we had got, the date to bring the book back and what library the book is from.

We loved visiting the library because it was so much fun choosing books with our friends and reading together. We walked back to school in the lovely sunshine to have a play and read our books in the playground.



## World Book Day By Orla and Phoebe

On World Book Day we could dress up as a character from a book. There were lots of fairies, princesses, Oompa Loompas, Horrid Henrys and Diary of a Wimpy Kids. There were also lots of Willy Wonkas, golden tickets and chocolate bars. One Willy Wonka was handing out golden tickets to everyone. Miss Champion and Mrs Bradbury were dressed as coloured crayons. We were dressed as Cruella devil from 101 Dalmatians and a gymnast.

There were lots of fun activities during the day, we entered a competition to design a book token to win a book token and some money. We also created a new book cover for our favourite book. We enjoyed the day as it was really fun to see lots of different books and book characters come to life and it is always fun coming to school dressed up.



## Football Match Report Castlecroft v Uplands By Isla

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, the Girls' football team headed out to Uplands Primary School to play our second friendly match of the season. Our team consisted of me, Lola, Alexa, Kyra and Ameliah, Victory from Year 6 and from Year 5 it was Aurora, Raynor, Georgia, Erica, Freya and Erin. The three players that didn't start the match were switched in and players were moved around. We all played in different positions, including, mid field, goal, striker, attack and defence.

Even though we lost, we still had so much fun and are very proud of our teamwork. The day ended with us shaking hands with the other players and then the captain (me) cheered for Uplands.





## Cross Country By Roxy and Ishrah

On the 11<sup>th</sup> March, we went to Highfields School field, to run in the Penn Area Cross Country Race. We took a boys' and a girls' team from Year 4 and 5 classes. When we first arrived we did some warm up exercises. The girls were first to line up on the start line and we followed the hare, called Finn. We finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, which we were really happy with.

Then the boys lined up and ran a very good race. We were all very excited to be invited to take part in the City Finals on the 20<sup>th</sup> March.



## Football Report Castlecroft v Dunstall Hill By Rupert and Niall

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, the Boys' football team played against Dunstall Hill Primary School. The match started, Tommy got the ball and went for a shot at goal for Castlecroft but sadly he missed. This was followed by Dunstall taking a shot but Ollie threw himself on the ground and the ball bounced off his head. Niall got the ball and did an amazing

pass to Tommy who scored, making the score 1-0 to Castlecroft. This got our hopes up and we started scoring goal after goal. The score was 3-0 at half time.

We had our team talk and then started the second half with Stanley coming on for Ibrahim then our goalie, Ollie swapped with Tommy. We played really well and finished the match 7-0 to Castlecroft. We all lined up and shook hands with the Dunstall team and had a team photo. We said "Goodbye" to Mr Morgan and went home feeling very pleased with ourselves.

## Football Match Castlecroft v The Grammar By Erin

Our Girl's football team went to The Grammar school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, to play a match on one of their two pitches. We played on the smaller one as the other was water-logged.

The whistle blew for the start of the match and The Grammar School scored 3 goals very quickly, one was unfortunately an own goal. We played a good game and took advantage of the smaller pitch. Our defending was a lot better in the second half but again The Grammar School

scored another 3 goals, it could have been so many more but our defending was brilliant.

At the end of the game we lined up and shook hands with our opponents.

This was the best match we've played so far, next time we intend to go on the attack more and to get more possession of the ball and then hopefully we will score some amazing goals.



## Comic Relief By Harley

I came into school dressed as Spiderman on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, for 'Comic Relief Day'. We came into school in anything that was 'Funny for Money' and brought a pound coin in for the charity and some of us bought in extra change.

During the day we did a Pudsey word search and some colouring in. Then we had a talent show in our assembly, there were singers, dancers and some children telling jokes. Some were really funny!

I enjoyed our 'Comic Relief Day' as it was a good day to be in school as well as raising money for the children who need it more than we do. We raised a lot of money for 'Comic Relief'.



**COMIC RELIEF**

### Netball Match Castlecroft v Warstones By Ameliah

After school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, our netball team went to Warstones Primary School to play a match. I had been chosen as the captain for this game which made me feel really proud and happy. Warstones are an academy team with very tall players, so we were feeling at a disadvantage from the start. We played well but did struggle to defend as they were so tall and it was hard to get the ball off them. Our passing was good as a team and we had a lot of chances to score but, unfortunately, we were either too close or too far to get a goal. Even though we lost the match, as the captain I was very proud of the team for playing their hardest.



### Computer Day-Robotics By Sam



When Year 4 first got into class on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we started by making a Lego snail with a programming device. Mr Ashton told us what we needed to do, so we went on to iPads and programmed the snail to light up and flash bright colours. After break, we deconstructed our Lego snail and built a Lego windmill with special devices. We then programmed the windmills to spin round at a speed of our choice. After that, we made a spy robot, which was a high tech alarm. When we programmed it, we added a sound like, 'Boop,Boop,Boop!' We programmed it to send a message and light up at a certain time. After lunch, we made a Lego car and programmed it to move.

**We learnt so much and had a lot of fun on our 'Robotics Computing Day'.**

### Cross Country Finals Report By Ryan

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, some Year 4, 5 and 6 children ran in the Cross Country Finals at Aldersley Stadium. Firstly, Castlecroft met in the training building to make sure everyone was there. We went to the very big field where the race was taking place. We warmed up by stretching and jogging a bit. Mr Dyall told us where we were going to run. The girls ran first, setting off on the whistle at a very strong pace, then they disappeared behind the trees to a massive hill.



After a few minutes, they came back into view where they had to run on the outside of the field to the finish line. The girls did really well, the fastest girls came in the top 20 and all the others came a bit after. The boys' race followed and we sped off on the whistle. I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place the whole way round, it was quite a long race but the hill was the hardest bit of the whole run. The boys did really well, I received a medal for coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, I was tired but buzzing!

**It was a great experience and I enjoyed it so much.**