

THE WREN



December 2024

Your school's favourite newspaper



Welcome back to our exciting Christmas edition of *The Wren*! All the latest news brought to you by the Reporter Team of Wren Park Primary.

MARVELLOUS MUSIC

The festive season at Wren Park began on 9th December, when our Sing Squad visited the Macmillan ward at Derby Royal Hospital and sang Christmas songs. Classic carols included *It Was on a Starry Night*, *Away in a Manger* and *Silent Night*.

Sing Squad even met Santa and his reindeer!



On 19th December, they also visited Middleton Lodge Care Home - what a busy time!

On Thursday 19th December we had our annual visit from Mr Hudson and his team. He taught us about the true meaning of Christmas and we enjoyed singing some old favourites, such as *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* and *Feliz Navidad*.

FAREWELL MRS EATON

We say goodbye to our wonderful teaching assistant, Mrs Eaton. She has worked at Wren Park for an impressive 27 years, supporting children and helping teachers. Everyone will remember her for being kind, gentle and so smiley! We hope she enjoys a well-deserved retirement and we look forward to hearing about all the exciting things she will do with her free time.

We will all miss you Mrs Eaton!

WINTER FAIR



Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th December, all children enjoyed taking part in our usual Winter Fair! Everyone enjoyed all the festive fun such as *Pin the Nose on the Reindeer*, *Rabbit Race*, *Splat-o-Rat*, the *Prize Wheel*, and *Play Your Cards Right*. There were many prizes to be won as well as lots of fun to be had! It certainly got us in the Christmas spirit!



NATIVITY

On Wednesday 11th December, Reception children performed their retelling of the Christmas story, 'Wriggly Nativity'. It was a brilliant play with everyone singing the songs such as *Donkey Plodding*, *Bumping Up and Down on a Camel* and our favourite, *Dancing About in the Straw*.

Mrs Melia said that her and Miss Young felt very proud of all the children.



"I was excited for the nativity and I was brave," Cleo, Reception.

"The Nativity is one of my favourite parts of the year, I love it!" Mrs Graham.

SPARKLE & SHINE

On Wednesday 11th December, Reception visited the Winter Wonderland at the Adventure Farm! They went on a double-decker bus which was very exciting! When they got there, the children saw lots of animals (including guinea pigs, reindeer and a huge horse!) The children enjoyed playing in the soft play area and riding on a tractor around the farm. But their favourite part was when they saw Santa!



AUTUMN DAYS

In Year 1 this term the children have been learning about the local area. In History this has involved finding out about Rolls Royce and some of their incredible and ambitious creations! In Science, Year 1 have investigated seasonal changes and even created their own rain cloud. They learnt from some real life events when the snow came to Wren Park at the end of Autumn!

WORLD AT WAR

This half term, all the children at Wren Park learnt about Britain at war. Each year chose a different theme, with younger children learning about the symbol of the poppy and what it means to remember, and older children learning about the Battle of Britain, the Blitz, evacuation and rationing and the Holocaust. Children created art work, wrote recounts, listened to music and studied maps of Europe. We finished our mini-topic with a remembrance service on the playground. We shared our class poppy wreaths and listened to 'The Last Post' on the bugle horn before a 2 minute silence. We finished the service by singing 'We'll Meet Again' by Vera Lynn.

"WW1 and WW2 are very important events in our British history that should never be forgotten. A great mini-topic for everyone to learn from,"
Mrs Towns, History Lead.

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

This half term Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London. It is a really interesting part of history because even though over 13,000 homes were destroyed, only six people died. It was fascinating to discover how Samuel Pepys wrote about it in his diary, including how he buried his precious wine and cheese in his garden!



"We learnt how some people escaped the fire by jumping in the River Thames!" Khadeejah, 2T.

"We learnt about Samuel Pepys and his diary. The fire started on Pudding Lane in a bakery," Allen and Aydin, 2BR.

STONE AGE TO IRON AGE

Year 3 have had a fabulous term learning all about the Stone Age to Iron Age. They completed a workshop with an archaeologist where the children excavated fossils and created a museum with artefacts from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Year 3 have also designed their own Stone Age settlements this term and found Stone Age landmarks in the Peak District. Year 3 also made their own cave paintings using natural colours—they loved lying underneath the tables to do this!



"I liked learning about the Bronze Age and how to make bronze," Ahyaan, 3D.

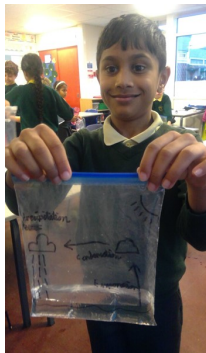
"I love the Stone Age. We made some fossils!" Clara, 3D.



AN ANCIENT DISCOVERY

Year 4 have been enjoying learning about the Ancient Egyptians, particularly the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb by Howard Carter. Tutankhamun was an Egyptian Pharaoh who was famously called the 'Boy King' due to his rise to power at the age of just 9 years. Year 4 learnt that the Ancient Egyptians were well-known for mummification. This was a process of preserving a body after it had died. The children practiced this by mummifying a tomato!

In Science, Year 4 have also been learning about the water cycle and even created one in a bag!



GROOVY GREEKS

Year 5 have had an exciting and busy half term filled with learning and fun activities! In History, they've been exploring the fascinating world of the Ancient Greeks, diving into myths, legends, and the legacy of the Olympic games.

"I've enjoyed learning about Greek myths, specifically Theseus and the Minotaur," Isaac, 5G

Year 5 also got creative in the kitchen, baking delicious Christmas cakes in baked bean tins – a unique and festive twist! To keep active, their PE lessons have been extra special, as they've been training with coaches from Derby County, improving their skills and teamwork. It's been a half term full of discovery, creativity, and energy!



VILE VICTORIANS

On Friday 6th December, Year 6 sewed waistcoats for Design Technology. All the children followed their designs carefully and showed great resilience as they perfected the running stitch. Our adult helpers were very impressed!



On Wednesday 18th December, Year 6 had a Victorian Day to celebrate the end of their topic, 'The Industrial Revolution'. At *Holloway & Harvey's School for Boys & Girls* there was a poetry recital, chanting of times tables, writing with an ink quill or on slates and a delicious sampling of gruel! Unfortunately, some little urchins needed chastising and Mr Buckley was furious to discover an apple thief amongst the class...



DINNER & DEBATE

Wren Park has formed a partnership with Repton Preparatory School and some children were invited to a 'Dinner and Debate' on Thursday 14th November. Teams were proposing: The *most important area to invest in is...* Our teams from Wren Park had education or environment as their topics to prepare a speech about.

On the night, it was the education team who won overall, with Eden from 6LH noted as a star debater! Back at school, the children presented their speeches to the juniors and we held a ballot. This time, our Environment team won!

It was a great opportunity for children to develop their oracy skills and respect the viewpoints of others. Well done everyone, you did brilliantly and we are so proud of you!

FOOTBALL FANATICS

This half term, we had a visit from some previous Wren Park pupils, Eliza and Florence, who left our school last year. Our girls were very excited to be presented with their brand new football kit, designed by Eliza and Flo who raised money last Summer to fund it. What a legacy they have left Wren Park!

The girls' team have won their mini-league meaning they will be playing in the top league after Christmas



alongside all of the best schools in Derbyshire. Well done girls!

On Monday 2nd December, some of our young footballers from Wren Park took part in the Utilita Kids Cup, hosted by Derby County Football Club. The children were a credit to our school and another team's manager commented on our fantastic attitude. Go Wrens!



GOING FOR GOLD!

In other sporting news, Kushi in 3RP won gold competing in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. It is a self-defense martial art and combat sport based on grappling, ground fighting, and submission holds. Congratulations Kushi. You have shown great ambition and strong determination to succeed. We are very proud of your achievements!



"This is my fourth competition and my first time coming first. I am so happy!" Kushi, 3RP.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

A	S	C	F	G	I	F	T	S
O	A	T	L	O	P	H	W	Y
H	N	Z	E	U	T	X	D	O
O	T	U	O	A	R	P	C	K
L	A	K	E	B	H	R	O	A
L	P	R	T	H	B	E	L	L
Y	W	E	K	C	O	S	P	H
B	Q	K	D	O	I	N	W	E
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S

SANTA
CHRISTMAS
WREATH
BELL
ELF
GIFTS
SOCK
HOLLY

↑ ↓ ← → ↘ ↙ ↗ ↖

What's FREE this Christmas....

- ◆ **Matlock Christmas Market**
Hall Leys Park, December 21st - 22nd, 9am-6pm
- ◆ **Museum of Curiosity**
The Quad, 16th Dec - 16th Feb 2025, Thursday and Friday: 5pm - Late, Saturday and Sunday: 12pm - Late
- ◆ **Derby Lantern Sculpture Trail**
Until December 31st, various locations and times (see link below for map and trail)
- ◆ **Festive Lighting Trail**
Cathedral Quarter/St Peters Quarter, 16th - 31st Dec
- ◆ **Cathedral Carol Service**
Derby Cathedral, 23rd - 24th December, 6pm
- ◆ **Family Nativity Service**
Derby Cathedral, 24th December, 3pm

For more ideas, see below:

<https://www.visitderby.co.uk/ideas-and-inspiration/articles/festive-derby>

