

THE WREN



Tenth Edition

Your school's favourite newspaper

December 2023

Welcome back to our tenth edition of *The Wren*, all the latest news brought to you by the Reporter Team of Wren Park Primary!

MAGICAL MUSIC

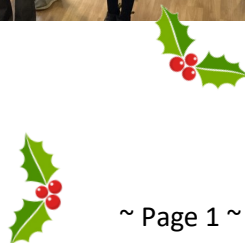
December has been a month of music here at Wren Park...

On 4th and 5th December, Year 3 visited Derby Royal Hospital and sang Christmas songs to different wards. On Monday 11th December, Sing Squad also went to the hospital to sing carols to the Macmillan ward. They even met Santa and his reindeer!

We had our annual visit from Mr Hudson and his team on Monday 18th December. He taught us about the true meaning of Christmas and we all enjoyed watching a role play about the importance of peace. We enjoyed singing some old favourites, such as 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' and 'Feliz Navidad'.

On Tuesday 19th December, Year 5 and the choir performed their concert to parents and some residents of Derby Heights Care Home. The children have been practicing for the past few weeks. They sang several songs, including, 'That's Christmas to Me', 'Rocking Around the Shops', 'Old Man Winter', and 'Feliz Navidad'. On Wednesday 20th December, the choir also performed songs and carols to the residents of Derby Heights Care Home.

What a lot of musical talent we have here at Wren Park!



FESTIVE FUN!



Monday 18th and Wednesday 20th December, all children enjoyed taking part in another fantastically festive fair! Everyone enjoyed activities such as Pin the Nose on the Reindeer, Rabbit Race, Feed Santa, Splat-a-Rat, the Prize Wheel, Beat the Wire 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!



DERBY HEIGHTS



During this half term, we have been rekindling a very special partnership with nearby Derby Heights Care Home in Littleover.

Groups of children were invited to visit and took part in activities with the residents, such as games, quizzes and crafts. They learnt about St Andrew from an elderly Scottish resident and even celebrated King Charles' birthday! They sat in the 'Wren's Café' (named after our school) and talked to familiar faces such as Ray and Valerie (to name a few!) Mr Buckley said, "It was a joy to see the children communicating and sharing stories with our elderly community. Their behaviour was exemplary and they showed great resilience walking to and from the home. We look ahead to furthering our relationship with Derby Heights, celebrating our elderly community and sharing stories of our real life, inspirational role models."



SPARKLE & SHINE

On Wednesday 13th December, Reception children performed their retelling of the Nativity. It was a brilliant play with plenty of singing and dancing! Everyone joined in with some favourites, such as 'Bumping Up and Down on a Camel', 'When Santa Got Stuck up a Chimney' and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas.'

On Tuesday 6th 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 animals in the barn (including guinea pigs, reindeer and a huge horse!) The



children enjoyed playing in the soft play area and outside on the bouncy pillow. And of course they got to see Santa and received gifts!

BRILLIANT BLUEBELL FARM



On Tuesday 12th December, some children were invited to visit Bluebell's Dairy Farm in Spondon.

They had a fantastic time, feeding the farm animals such as goats, pigs and chickens. They had fun playing in the sandpit, making reindeer food and enjoyed a tasty picnic lunch with Bluebell's ice cream!



It was a memorable experience for everyone and the staff were very proud of all the children who represented Wren Park.



AUTUMN DAYS

Year 1 have enjoyed doing some drama this term, reenacting the story of Rama and Sita for Diwali, as well as the Christmas story for their learning about Christianity. Chris and Ruda from Littleover Methodist church also visited our school to talk to us about Advent and explained that it is a time for waiting and being patient.

In 1B, children have also enjoyed making vehicles in their Design Technology lessons, including axels and wheels. 1R have learnt about Digital Drawing, making beautiful Autumn pictures using a variety of shapes and colours. Well done Year 1!

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

Year 2 have been learning about the disaster known as the Great Fire of London. Aarav in Year 2 told us that it all started in a bakery on Pudding Lane in 1666. Everyone was asleep when the fire began and it spread extremely quickly because houses were built next to each other. It was so big that it burnt more than 300 homes, leaving 1,300 people homeless.

It sounds like Year 2 have learnt a lot about this time in British History!



WORLD WAR II



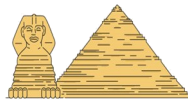
On Wednesday 13th December, Year 3 celebrated the end of their History topic with a World War 2 day. The children had an exciting day making carrot cookies from a rationing recipe, evacuee labels, suitcases and rationing books. They also designed World War 2 aircraft,

Anderson and Morrison shelters and they played traditional 1940's board games.



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. He died young, between 17-19 years old. The cause of death was unknown.



Year 4 have also explored the techniques of swimming, including front crawl, back crawl and breast stroke. In Design Technology, Year 4 have been making Christmas cookies! The children measured the ingredients, which included sugar, butter, egg yolk, plain flour, cinnamon and ginger. Some children created festive stars, santas, gingerbread men and love hearts!



GROOVY GREEKS

Year 5 have been learning about the Ancient Greeks. They have particularly enjoyed discovering myths, such as 'The Trojan Horse', 'Theseus and the Minotaur' and 'Pandora's Box'. The children then wrote their own myths in English. Year 5 have also been busy making their own Greek vases using paper mache. They then painted them with traditional Greek patterns and images.

Year 5 have finished the term off by making Christmas cakes. Ingredients included raisins, lemon, cherries, flour, butter, caster sugar and brown sugar, mixed spices, black treacle and eggs.



Robyn in 5P said, "I liked the Greeks topic and I thought the myths were interesting."

VICTORIAN DAY

On Tuesday 19th December they had a Victorian Day to celebrate the end of their topic 'The Industrial Revolution'. They began the morning with 'Holloway & Harvey's School for Boys & Girls'. There was a cleanliness inspection and the 3R's: Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic. There were a few 'dunces' and one unfortunate fellow received the cane! (well, almost...)



After a long, tiring morning of academia, the children had a visit from Master Buckley followed by hymn practice. Finally, it was time for luncheon and the children all ate a wholesome bowl of gruel cooked Madame Dilley.

In the afternoon (and back in the present day) everyone enjoyed some vintage Christmas crafting.

Everyone had a great time and it was a fun experience!



E-SAFETY

Thank you to all the parents who attended the online safety webinar with the NSPCC. Parents found it, "good and insightful, but also rather scary!" and, "well worth doing." If you missed it this time, a webinar (which you can watch on demand) will soon be available. A link for this will be sent out in our newsletter in the new year.



In the meantime, remember our school code for staying safe online:



SUPER SPORTS

On Monday 13th November, we had a very special visit from an athlete named Sam Khogali. He is the British Indoor Long Jump Champion of 2022. With over 10 national medals already won, we're sure Sam will be the 2024 Olympic Champion!

Sam told us about his hard work and determination to succeed in his sport. We can learn a lot from Sam about having ambitious dreams and being resilient in achieving them.



"Sam's circuit with the children really inspired them to work hard and be ambitious in sport," Miss Pitt.



SPORTS FESTIVAL

On Friday 15th December, some children attended a Sports Festival at Willows Sports Centre in Derby. There were many enjoyable events to take part in, and the children worked well together. It was a great morning and all children had lots of fun taking part in the activities!

"The children were amazing at the Christmas Festival! The staff there commented that they did our school proud," Miss Pitt



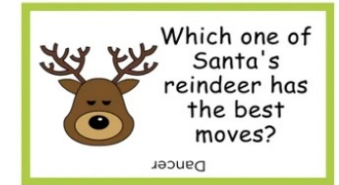
CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- Which day is Christmas celebrated?
- What did Mary travel on to get to Bethlehem?
- What did the Three Wise Men follow?
- What is Advent?
- What was the name of the angel who visited Mary in the Christmas story?
- Where was Jesus born?
- How many gifts did the Wise Men give to Jesus?
- What is the true meaning of Christmas for Christians?



- 25th December
- A donkey
- A star
- When Christians get ready for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.
- Angel Gabriel
- Bethlehem
- Three
- celebrates the birth of the son of God, Jesus Christ

CHRISTMAS JOKES



What's FREE this Christmas....

- ◆ **Elf Trail**
Follow the trail, collect clues and submit your entry for the prize draw! Follow the link below for the map...
 - ◆ **Festive Music & Entertainment**
Derby Market Place, December 24th
 - ◆ **Festive Winter Stories**
AVP Theatre, (in the festive tipis), until December 31st
 - ◆ **Tree of Light**
Derby Cathedral, until January 5th
- For more ideas, see below:**

<https://www.visitderby.co.uk/ideas-and-inspiration/articles/free-things-to-do-in-derby-this-christmas>

