



Upton Westlea Primary School Parents' Newsletter January 2023



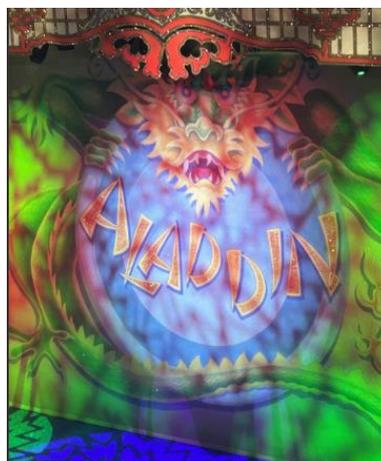
Happy New Year to you all! We hope you all had a lovely break.

A very warm welcome to the fifth newsletter of the academic year for the parents and families of Upton Westlea Primary School. The staff and I would also like to thank you for all your generous gifts and cards at Christmas it was very thoughtful- Thank you!

DECEMBER/JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Panto trip to Rhyl Pavilion

On Wednesday 14th December, children from Year 1 to Year 6 had an amazing time watching Aladdin at Rhyl Pavilion Theatre. Oh yes they did!!! We all had a real giggle at the jokes and enjoyed a good sing along to some of the songs, who knew the Music Man song could be so fun!! The children were a real credit to the school and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience of going to a theatre. Well done to all the children who attended!



Poetry Day – Thursday 19th January



For poetry day, Apple class listened to a selection of Nursery rhymes. We also listened for the rhyming words in our book, The Gruffalo. We listened to the Gruffalo song too. At the end of the day we listened to a funny poem by Colin McNaughton called 'A pound of Jelly Babies'. The children laughed and laughed.

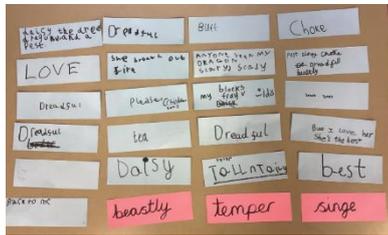


Year 1 learnt the poem At the Zoo by William Makepeace Thackeray We painted animal masks and performed the poem in groups.

Year 2 did an amazing job exploring the poem "Anyone Seen My Dragon?" by James Carter! We hunted for interesting words, picked out our favourite, talked about words

that we didn't know and of course- made up some actions to our poem! We rehearsed and prepared and in the afternoon we performed it to the school!

See if your child can still remember the chorus...



Year 3 delved into Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes, comparing Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf to the 'usual' story. Who knew that sweet little Red Riding Hood had a pistol in her knickers?! Who knew that she would turn the wolf into a lovely, furry wolfskin coat?! Year 3 worked hard on reading and understanding the poem before practising, memorising and performing their parts. They practised varying their pitch (high/low), intonation (rising/ falling) as well as their pace (fast/slow) and performance formation (solos/ choral speaking/ pairs).



Year 4 had an amazing day learning the poem The Listeners written by Walter de la Mare. The poem was written in 1912 and we spent some of our time investigating the language within the poem as they were words we hadn't heard before. We learnt that 'smote' means to bang or strike something hard. The poem had great description which described the scene of the poem. We used the poem to help us to draw what we thought the setting of the poem would look like. We all decided that the place was potentially a castle as it had a turret and it was old and possibly haunted by phantoms! In the afternoon, we spent time reciting the poem and enjoyed working with our friends to learn different sections of the poem. Our final task was to write our own personal response to the poem in our ghostly character. Well done Year 4, you all worked extremely hard!

For poetry day, Year 5 looked at the Highway Man. We looked at part one and broke it down section by section to really help the children understand that language and get a feel for how life may have been in those times. This was using images and pictures/videos. Children completed a task to infer how the lady may have been feeling in the first part of

the poem. Children were then allocated a section of the poem to recite and create actions for.

Year 6 had a fantastic poetry day working on personification, metaphor and imagery used in the poem 'Wind' by Ted Hughes. Impressed that every single child performed the poem in our assembly using freeze frames and actions to help us understand the words.



Special Lunches

During January, we were lucky enough to have two special celebration lunches. On Thursday 19th January we all enjoyed Pizza to celebrate our Poetry Day in school. To celebrate Chinese New Year, the year of the Rabbit. We all enjoyed a special lunch menu including Chow Mein and Noodles.

Year 6 trip

Year 6 had a fantastic morning in Chester city centre as part of their geography fieldwork. They were trying to find out who uses Chester and for what reasons. The children were excellent at approaching people politely to take part in their survey. Also, Jacob gave us a wonderful tour of Storyhouse and we learnt about how it has become such an important part of our city.



Year 1 Animal encounter



As part of our science topic, we have been learning about the different animal groups. We were very lucky to have a visit from Animal Encounters. The children had a chance to hold and touch a snake, owl, bearded dragon, rabbit, hedgehog, tree frog and mice.

Amasing

In January, Lola from Year 5 was selected to be an ambassador for our school at a composing workshop day for AmaSing. Children from 50 Cheshire Primary Schools came together and spent the day with one of the AmaSing professional composer music specialists, to write a brand new song that is going to be sung by thousands of young people and performed at the 'AmaSing' shows in the Chester FC Stadium later this year. Lola thoroughly enjoyed the day and we were so proud how well she represented our school.



Year 1 Lunch box pals with Health Box

An exciting day in Year 1 with Healthbox. The children had a chance to learn about healthy food and then designed our own lunchbox. The children enjoyed making their own rainbow couscous, they all did a great job stirring.



What's been happening in Club?

This term in The Treehouse we have enjoyed making biscuits and decorating them. We have also enjoyed painting and drawing pictures for our winter display. We ended the term celebrating Chinese New Year- the year of the rabbit we had lots of fun playing traditional Chinese games and food tasting, we ended the week looking up the year we were all born and seeing what animal we were.



February dates at a glance:

Date	Class	Event
3 rd February 2023	Reception	The Smartest Giant at Floral Pavilion
6 th February – 10 th February 2023	All classes	Children's Health and Wellbeing Week
8 th February 2023	All classes	Individual photographs
10 th February 2023	All classes	Dress to express day
13 th February 2023	Some Yr 5 and Yr 6 children	National League Trust U11s Cup
17 th February 2023	All classes	Finish for half term
27 th February 2023	All classes	School reopens after half term break

Thank you for your continued support.

V Field

To: Upton Westlea Primary School

I am in receipt of the January Newsletter. We value your comments:

Although the school is not able to respond to every comment, all comments are read. Please feel free to comment on any aspect with regards to school life.

Signed:

Child's Name: Class:

Comments:

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