



PRIORSLEE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Issue 8

Friday 14th February 2014

Principal's News

What a wet half term this has been! With a water logged field and a playground covered in puddles, Mr Holloway has started to research the possibility of securing an all-weather pitch for multi-purpose use. This would allow the footballers to play in a 'caged' environment, with all other pupils playing outside, free from flying balls!

There have been the usual trips and events which have been reported upon within this issue, including participation by the Choir in the 'Young Voices' event in Birmingham, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. There will be a trip to France for some of the Year 6 pupils after half term, as well as visitors into school for other year groups.

It has been some time since we have asked you to complete a parental questionnaire, affording an opportunity to share with staff an honest overview of our Academy. I am therefore attaching a copy of a questionnaire for all parents to complete and would urge that this is returned by Friday 28th February for analysis - results will be shared with parents during the following week.

I trust that the half term will be enjoyed by all and look forward to better weather on our return.

Regards
Wendy Moore

Closing the Spring 1st Half Term

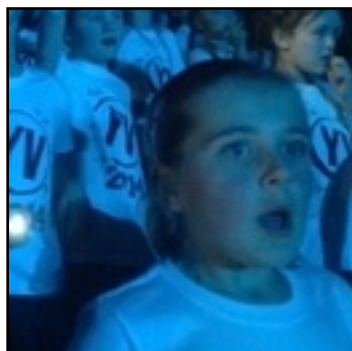


The opening of 2014 got Priorslee Academy off to a very exciting start with the national performance of Young Voices 2014.

What an amazing first time experience for our Priorslee Primary Academy Choir! The choir, which consists of twenty-five children, ventured off with four members of staff to the LG Arena in Birmingham on Thursday 16th January. They have worked incredibly hard since early September giving up a lot of their free time during lunch to learn 12 songs as well as dance moves. Young Voices is the largest school choir organiser in the world and currently organises over 14 capacity concerts a year in the UK & Ireland's leading arenas. Each year over 2,500 schools, 90,000 children, 6,000 teachers and 120,000 family and friends come together to enjoy music and celebrate singing. This year's special guest was Stacey Solomon and the children were really excited to see and hear her.

The children (and staff!!) really enjoyed themselves and we hope that this will become an annual event. Thank you for all the support we received from everyone helping to contribute to its success.

We look forward to seeing you at future choir events.



Reception & Base 9



This half term Reception and Base 9 have enjoyed lots of pets in school. We've had Fritz the cat, Sidney the snake, Crusty Pie the tortoise and Spike and Rhino the guinea pigs. Many thanks to Mrs Barraclough, Mrs Ashworth and Mr Davies for lending us your pets.

We also celebrated Chinese New Year in style last week. We made our own Chinese lanterns, decorated paper plates in a willow styled fashion and cooked a vegetable stir fry.



Base 7 & 8 - Year 1

This half term Base 7 & 8 have been exploring toys. The children have used a variety of mediums to create teddy bears of all kinds of different sizes and shapes.

The children have also used a brand new set of Bee-Bots to aid instructional writing. The children have really enjoyed investigating movement and direction with these programmable toys.



Cross Country

On Tuesday 11th February, Ruby Hancox, Joe Timmins and Dylan Harley were selected to represent the school in cross-country at the Winter Sports Festival, which was held at Lilleshall Sports Centre.

It was an extremely cold day with snowfall jeopardising the event – the original cross country route had to be changed as a result of the bad conditions.

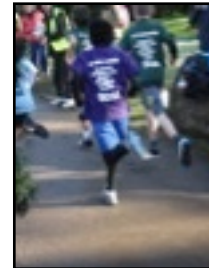
There were 36 runners in each race, and although cold and blustery, the children battled the elements and managed to complete their races and earned valuable points for their team.

Ruby Hancox – 7th

Joe Timmins – 9th

Dylan Harley – 14th

A fantastic display of effort and determination shown – well done to all involved.



Children were provided with the opportunity to plant a daffodil for this very good cause. The total raised was £362.80. A huge thank you to all those who took part.

Diary Dates 2014

6th March - World Book Day
 11th April – Easter Egg Bingo
 15th May - Priorslee's Got Talent
 21st June – Summer Fayre
 17th July – Y6 PROM

Dates are provisional and may be subject to change



The children have been asked to raised money by completing 50 challenges over the half term break.

Chinese New Year

Mrs Yip, along with Leo and Isobel Yip, kindly delivered a short assembly on Chinese New Year. The children were fortunate enough to try on some traditional Chinese outfits and got to see a range of lanterns and fans. Leo showed the children his impressive Kung-Fu routine and Isobel taught the children a simple Chinese song.



A big thank you to the Yip family – it was thoroughly enjoyable.

Ethan and Jay Yu contributed to Mrs Kennard's Chinese New Year Celebration Assembly. The boys enthralled the children with their explanation of the decorations that are used and what they mean.

The children were fascinated by the boys' ability to identify the animal for the year in which the children were born.



Art News



In September Mrs Moore received an E-mail to take part in the 'Bike Helmet' competition organised by WD-40 and the Bike Safety Trust. The autumn term Art Club took part.

Katie Atkins beat over 2000 entries from the Midlands. The bike helmet trust came into school and did a bike helmet safety presentation with the KS2 children and to present Katie with her prize.

Art Club

KS1 have this term produced artwork using recycled objects to create a mural.



What have School Council been up to?

After the Christmas holidays, we asked our class mates about their opinions about school dinners. Children had lots of good things to say about school meals but also had ideas, including more salad options and a wider choice of vegetables. We also had more ideas for different theme days and bringing back some favourite dishes such as 'big breakfast' and 'BBQ chicken'.

On Tuesday the 27th January we spoke to Tina and Louise from Wolverhampton Catering and found out about where they get all of the ingredients from and how they have to think about nutrition and cost. We looked at all the upcoming theme days and shared all of our ideas for the future. We even tested some new Müller Light yogurts!

Artwork of the term



by
Luke Clayton

Choir

The choir will attend the 'Schools Celebration Concert' held over two nights at The Place in Oakengates on 9th April. Each night there will be 6 or 7 Primary Schools each providing 10 minutes of music and a big joint opening and closing number. Tickets are available to purchase from The Place in advance or they can be purchased on the evening. The choir are busy rehearsing every Thursday lunchtime.

Celebrating success!

Stars of the week KS1

Harry Zhou
 Monty Plant
 Zachary Alexander-Brewer
 Charlie Pryce
 Ruby Allday
 Nola Beamond
 Amnah Ejaz
 Faizaan Kaji
 Sophie Weston
 Harrison Griggs
 Krish Singh
 Lucy Hambler
 Georgie Lester
 Mansi Jassal
 Rebeka Aziriova
 Connor Shaughnessy
 Ben Goodwin
 James Siddall
 Evie Tearle
 Naryan Toor
 Priya Mehat
 Lara Williams
 Kaushi Uppal
 Jory Albariqi
 Amelie Morris
 Lewis Enever-Jones
 Lewis Parton
 Leah Whitehouse
 Corin Short
 Olivia Chapman

Stars of the week KS2

Marley Beckett
 Hayden Williams
 Jack Seagrave
 Georgia Williams
 Natalia Toms
 Kimmeron Matharu
 Arjan Mattu
 Gurjivan Mohan
 Thomas Goldie
 Amy Robinson
 Eve Leleux
 Isabelle Ensor
 Ryan Hatt
 Maddie Williams
 Isabella Clifton
 Caitlyn Ashmore
 Jada-Mia Lee
 Mohamed Hammam
 Isabelle Nesbitt
 Ben Rogers
 Kavi Jani
 George Clutton
 Ben Hambler
 Anna Welch
 Kirtan Sanghera
 Juwairiya Mulla
 Ryan Wootton
 Sophie Bramford
 Charlotte Bartley
 Jessica Ridgway
 Jack Annett
 Sean Ababio
 Ruudi Bates
 Archie Brewer
 Aryan Pothuraju

Base 1 and 2

Base 1 and 2 have been learning about all things 'Pirately'. We have been learning pirate dances, writing a non-chronological report and directing Bee-Bots around treasure maps. The children really enjoyed writing instructions for their friends to test out.



In science, we have been finding out about light. We used dark boxes to discover that you need light to see things. We also found a way to help merchant ships signal each other to send a

message that a pirate ship was coming. We thought about what we could try to do first. Here are some of our ideas:



Re-living history - Year 5/6

David Alton from Frontline Living History ran three World War One workshops for Year 5/6 on Monday 3rd February.

The children had already started to learn about some aspects of the Great War, were able to identify and explain several reasons why Britain declared war and how Government recruitment posters sought to encourage men to join up. It was particularly touching to hear the children's emotional response when David mentioned Harry Patch during his talk – some had recently been taking about about Harry in guided reading and his voice and words have clearly left a deep impression on them.

During the presentation, the children had the opportunity to see, try on and handle everything from a Princess Mary tin to shrapnel balls; from a corkscrew picket for barbed wire to a Dead Man's Penny; from a .303 round to a hard tack biscuit. Some intrepid volunteers also got to wear a range of gas protection equipment from Black Veil to Small Box Respirator. They all commented on how uncomfortable and impractical these contraptions would have been to wear when being attacked in the trenches.



Each workshop also included a trench lunch in messes of six, with one child appointed to divvy up equally the rations of cheese, bully beef, jam and crackers between everyone in their mess. This led to some interesting discussion about Tommy's rations during the First World War, and – even though the Bully Beef was described as “not too bad, actually” – whether they would want to eat it every day is another question!

To emphasise the relevance of the Great War to the children David worked with, he included some images of boy soldiers to bring home the fact that fighting on all sides were children the same age or little older than themselves.

