

Castlecroft News

Winter Edition!

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Wishing you and your family
a very special Christmas
and a Happy New Year.
Thank you for your
continued support.
Best Wishes from
all the staff at Castlecroft.

Bhangra Dancing **By Wynter and Megan**

On Monday 4th November, Vjay came into our school to teach every class how to dance Bhangra. When it was our turn, Year 3 went into the hall to learn our dance, Vjay played his drum to help us keep in time. We learnt the 'click, click and clap' movement and we also turned around, keeping the beat with our clapping and stamping our feet. We tried our hardest to dance together and stay in time. We learnt some really good moves.

On the Tuesday afternoon we had a Bhangra assembly and each class showed the rest of the school what we had learnt. We all did our best dancing even though it was a bit embarrassing, but we did have a lot of fun.



Girls' Football Match Report

Castlecroft v Grammar

By Ava and Erin



We warmed up by passing the ball in a circle and one player practised with the goalie until we were ready and warmed up. We started the match at around 3:45. The captains went into the middle of the pitch to determine which team kicked off. Our captain was Ava and the Grammar school kicked off first. They were a tough team to play against. By the end of the first half, we were losing by 5 goals. In the second half, Aurora scored a goal from a free kick for Castlecroft. The game ended with an 8-1 defeat. Our team stayed strong throughout the match.

Well done girls!

Nature Competition

By Isabelle, Reuben DH, Giovanna

We entered a 'Nature Competition' with everyone from Year 1 to Year 6. We had to draw a picture inspired by nature to be spray painted onto a water box at the back of our school. The graffiti artist, Steve Edwards, was then going to choose some of our drawings to paint. The winners were, Isabelle C, Reuben DH, Giovanna, Molly S, Erin M and Erica in Year 6. We were really surprised that our drawings had been chosen, but we were extremely happy. All six of us went to meet Steve and see our drawings on the water box. Seeing our designs on the box was very exciting and we felt so special and talented to be the winners.



Girls' Football Report

Castlecroft v Springdale

By Willow and Harlee

We had a home match against Springdale School on Thursday 7th November. At first we started on the right side of the pitch. To warm up, we kicked the ball to each other. Harlee was right midfielder, Willow was middle defence, Erin M was our goalie with Willow, Kya, Roxy and Erin playing and Nori-Rae, Ava, Freya K, Erica, Aurora and Lucille making up the rest of the team.



It was a very challenging match because all the chanting was making it hard to concentrate on the game. Harlee nearly scored but, unfortunately, a Springdale player stole the ball, hit the ball very hard and scored the first goal of the match. At the final whistle the score was 3-0 to Springdale.

Throughout the match we stayed positive and had tried our hardest.

Year 2 Kingswood Visit

By Bobby

We went to Kingswood on a coach, we took our lunchboxes and had to wear wellies.

First, we made storyboards about the story Stickman using sticks and mud. We also made stickman figures using clay, sticks and googly-eyes.

We ate our lunch in a big hall, then put our wellies back on and went outside to make wands and fishing rods. We went to look at the sheep, they were very quiet. Outside in the mud, we put pieces of bread on a stick and toasted it on a real fire.

My favourite part was making the storyboard. The coach drove us back to school and we had a little play before home-time.



German Market Trip

By Archie and James

Year 6 went to the German Market in Birmingham on Thursday 14th November. We arrived at the market at 10.30am and split into groups. As soon as we were in our groups, we started to walk around the market. We went straight to a food stall. The food was so tasty, probably the best stall there. After eating the food, we looked at the other Christmas stalls, full of lots of different smells and colours. We didn't buy much as things were so expensive. We did buy presents for our parents though and also got more food like chocolate and sweets for ourselves.

Once we had finished looking at the stalls, we ate our lunch outside, as the weather was good. With any money we had left over, we went on the carousel which was a lot of fun.

After that, we went into the art gallery which was very interesting. The paintings were good. Each picture told a story and were painted in the 1800's. There was glass art on the wall which was lit up, showing all the bright colours. There were also war objects, like shields, medals, statues, Egyptian tombs and an ancient chest.

Before getting back on the coach, we went to the gift shop where we could buy miniature paintings.

We got back to school for 3.30pm after having a fabulous, fun-packed day.



Children in Need

By Lola and Megan

We came into school on Friday 15th November in our own clothes and spotty clothes because it was Children in Need Day. We all gave £1 to the Pudsey charity and had 2 cakes each.

In Year 3 we did some colouring in. We coloured in a bandana and then cut it out to wear, just like Pudsey. We had a Children in Need quiz where we learnt a lot about Pudsey. He was created in 1985 and was brown but in 1986 he was changed to yellow. We also went on a Find Pudsey Hunt in the playground. Our class won! We found 11 Pudseys. It was a lot of fun.

We raised the money to help children in need, which is a really good thing to do. We have loads of love from our families and lots of nice things given to us, but a lot of children don't, so it is good to help the children who need it.



We raised an amazing £363.34, which is BRILLIANT!

Anti-Bullying Assembly

By Chloe and Magda

Our school had an Anti-Bullying Week starting on Monday 11th November. Then on Wednesday 13th, the Anti-Bullying team did an assembly on anti-bullying. Our Anti-Bullying team is Darcy, Arya, Ben, Lilly, Chloe S, Magda, Freya K and Erica. In our assembly, we talked about how bullying can upset people and hurt their feelings. We also did an acrostic poem about RESPECT. The poem was followed by a demonstration on how words can hurt. All of us said a quote about anti-bullying. Mrs Birbeck-Simpson told us that we were all going to sign our name on a paper heart to go around our anti-bullying pledge and the juniors were going to design their own emojis and the infants would colour in emoji designs.

Over the Anti-Bullying Week, activities were based on anti-bullying. We collected the emojis, they looked nice and colourful and the hearts were signed neatly with coloured pens.

The reason we have Anti-Bullying Week in our school is to show how much we care about the feelings of other people and to make them happy.

We had spent 2 weeks writing, planning and practicing our assembly because it meant a lot to us as it is our job to help stop bullying.

Spelling Bee

By Orla, Lyla, Keaton and Veeran

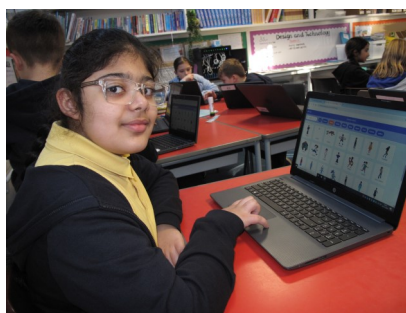
We left school just after 9 o'clock to go to Oak Meadow School to compete in a Spelling Bee. The journey took us about 45 minutes because there was a lot of snow on the roads and the traffic was bad. Oak Meadow School was very big. After we checked in, we went inside the hall where Mrs Bates introduced us to Oak Meadow and the other schools competing in the Spelling Bee. We had a drink and then started the 1st round. We each took turns writing the answers on the sheet. During the 3rd round, Veeran didn't seem to be concentrating and then we realised that he wasn't feeling very well, so he stayed with Miss Campion. After the 4th round we had some cookies, crisps and a drink. Eventually, we got the bonus round where we were bombarded with really hard words to spell. Out of the 8 schools, we finished in 3rd place and were given little awards. We were very proud of our performance.



Computing Day

By Thea and Erin M

On the 19th November, Year 5 had a computing day. We used the laptops to go on Google Chrome. When we were on 'Google' we went on a website called Scratch, we did debugging and coding. One of the things we used was 'Pong Starter'. On there we made a scoreboard to keep count of our score. Then we switched to a website called 'Pong', we did the same as we did on 'Pong Starter' but we also added sound and a timer. We also went on a website called 'Scoreboard'. On that we created a score background. Then we watched a video and each time someone scored we changed the score by one. Our school thinks computing is an important part of our curriculum and a child's education.



Christmas Fair

By Kiera and Savannah M.W

We came to our school Christmas Fair at night, on Friday 29th November. We were so excited because it felt like Christmas was really starting.

The hall was so colourful and beautiful with lots of different stalls. We didn't have a favourite stall as they were all really good. Decorating a biscuit was a lot of fun and we got to eat the yummy biscuit after. We won lots of presents and sweets and had a brilliant time at the fair. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone for all their hard work. The fair raised £1,900 for our school funds.



Snow White and the Eleven Dwarves

By Ishani and Freya

This year's junior Christmas production was 'Snow White and the Eleven Dwarves'. Year 6 went to a drama club after school on a Wednesday, starting in September. We practised the different parts of the play and then auditioned for the roles we wanted. Most of us were given the parts we wanted, but if not, we were all happy with the roles we got. When the roles were decided, we practised, practised and then PRACTISED some more until we no longer needed our scripts. We also rehearsed our stage positions and all the songs and dances. Finally, the dress rehearsal came where we were performing in front of the infant children. Everyone was really nervous. But we nailed it and the children loved it!

Our first performance in front of our parents was on the Wednesday afternoon. Because it was our first real performance we were a bit worried but also excited, knowing that the adults would react differently to the infant children. Yet again, we smashed it, we should never have doubted ourselves. The nannies always got the biggest laughs. The Thursday evening performance was being filmed, which was lucky as it seemed to be our best acting. We were quite emotional for Friday evening's performance as it was our last Christmas play at Castlecroft. We were sad when the play was over but we had all had a lot of fun and laughter together along the way.

Being the writer and director was an honour and we hope everyone loved playing their parts as much as we did.

It was an amazing experience to be on stage performing.

Thank you to all the staff who helped to make the show so memorable for us all.



Higgledy Piggledy

By Tommy

Reception and Nursery went to the church to do our play about baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph had to stay in a stable but the animals had made the stable all higgledy piggledy by knocking over the

buckets, brooms and the water trough was also turned over.

I was a cat in the play which was very exciting. When the baby Jesus was born, the shepherds and three kings came to visit Jesus and give him gifts.

We sang lots of songs, then at the end we sang 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' with all our Mums, Dads and Grandparents. Everyone clapped really hard, so they must have loved our play.

It's A Baby

By Lara

Year 1 and 2 did a nativity called 'It's A Baby' which was about baby Jesus being born. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem to try find somewhere to stay but all the inns were full, so they had to stay in a stable where Jesus was finally born.

We practised really hard before we performed in front of a real audience. I played the Inn Keeper which I loved doing as I liked having lines to say and singing my solos.

In the play there were lots of singing and dancing, we all tried our best and I think we all did because the play was BRILLIANT!

