

Castlecroft News

Summer Edition!

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Good-Bye Year 6 Thank You and Good Luck!

Dear Year 6,

I wanted to say a big thank you for all your hard work this year. You've all grown so much and accomplished so many wonderful things. I'm incredibly proud of each and every one of you. As you move on to your new schools, I wish you the very best of luck. Keep being curious, kind, and always do your best. You'll do amazing things!

Best wishes,

Mr Beddall



Djembe Drums By Chloe and Freya

Year 4 had been practicing the djembe drums with Mr Craner for a few weeks before our concert on Thursday 11th April. When we entered the hall we had mixed feelings, excited but nervous. The grown-ups arrived and as soon as they were seated we started to play, some of us were playing the gathering drum. We played our first song which got a big round of applause from our parents. Our favourite songs were 'Doctor Knickerbocker' and 'Jake the Snake'. When we played 'Doctor Knickerbocker' we did a dance along with the beat, the grown-ups were laughing their heads off as the actions were very funny. We did more drumming and got lots more claps.

At the end of the concert we gave our parents massive hugs and got another round of applause. At the start of the concert we were shy but we soon got into the drumming and were very happy with our performance. We put the drums away when the parents had left.

We really enjoyed learning to play the djembe drums, as its good to learn new things and it was lots of fun learning the funny songs.



Bikeability Level 2

By Tommy and Billy



On Monday 15th, Wednesday 17th and Friday 19th April, Year 6 Bikeability training took place with our instructors Jon, Dan and Claire. At the start we had to check our bikes for safety. Many problems with people's bikes were found, such as Billy's brakes were back to front and not working and Ethan's bike chain fell off. There were also many other issues that appeared later on. After these checks, we did some cycling activities around the playground, such as: roundabout, junctions and following the instructors. After break-time we were allowed to ride on the roads, following the instructors around

Castlecroft, practicing our riding skills and turns. We practiced primary and secondary positioning. After we had learnt the basic fundamentals, we tried doing some U-turns, signaling and shoulder checks. The instructors made the circuits for us to ride around and it was our responsibility to follow them and use all the skills we had learnt.

After lunch, we rode further away from Castlecroft School and into the local area.

Unfortunately, we got caught in a heavy hailstorm and had to retreat to some large trees that provided us with cover. When the hailstorm was over, we carried on riding our bikes and continued doing the activity we were doing before. Soon, we had to return back to school with about 10 minutes to spare.

The session was a lot of fun and although some children did fall off, we all had a great time.

Year 4 Bikeability

By Nori-Rae and Darcey

On Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th April, Year 4 had their bikeability training. We all brought our bikes into school for a change and were very excited what we were going to learn.

The bikeability people came in and we started our course, they first looked at how confident and experienced we were at riding our bikes.

We checked our bikes to see if they were safe to ride, we got on our bikes and rode around the playground. We had a slow race without putting our feet on the ground and then next we had a race to see who was the fastest. It started raining,

we got soaked and had to finish the session a little bit early. But we all still had lots of fun.



Nursery Chicks

By Bella and Tommy

We were really excited when some eggs arrived in our Nursery, they looked like the yummy eggs we eat but we weren't going to eat these. We were going to put these in an incubator to keep them warm. The eggs started to crack soon after we had them and little chicks popped out. When they first hatched they looked weak and slimy but after drying out in the heat their feathers were fluffy yellow and brown with orange feet. The boy chicks were yellow and the girls were brown.

When the chicks got stronger they said, "cheep, cheep, cheep" a lot and they were play fighting with each other and flapping their wings.

We held a chick, they were really fluffy, we held them very softly so we didn't hurt them.

We loved having the chicks in Nursery, it was brilliant watching them hatch out of their eggs.



A Football Win!
Castlecroft v Dunstall Hill
By Lola

On Thursday 18th April, the girls' football team had an away match against Dunstall Hill. When we first arrived, we headed straight onto the pitch. We were also told that I (Lola) was the team captain. The rest of the team was: Isla, Victory, Kyra, Ameliah, Lucille, Rosleen, Aurora, Raynor and Erin. We played a really good game with Kyra scoring our 2 goals which won us our first match. We were so excited and happy with our performance, we worked so well as a team.

We are so grateful to all the parents and staff that helped and supported us.



Football Report
Quarter Finals
Castlecroft v St Anthony's
By Mr Morgan

Our mixed football team played an away match at St Anthony's on Monday 22nd April. A fantastic team performance resulted in us sadly being beaten on penalties after extra time. Castlecroft led 1-0 and then fought back from being 2-1 down.

In 18 years at Castlecroft we have never had a team get this far, getting to the quarter finals is an amazing achievement. Every single player gave everything on a big, big pitch. Our players were extremely tired but can hold their heads up high. Mr Dyall and myself are incredibly proud of all of them.

Well done everyone!

Dunfield House
By Alfie

On Wednesday 24th April, I was so excited to be going to Dunfield House with my class, I really wanted to sleep over and play football.

Year 4 left school about 10am, we got onto a coach and went to the Safari Park, we saw all the big animals and then we went to the mini zoo and saw bats, fish and watched the sea lion show. We ate our lunch at the Safari Park and then got back on the coach to go to Dunfield House. It was thrilling to be on our way.

When we arrived at Dunfield, we unpacked and had our dinner which was very tasty. We then went upstairs, put our pyjamas on and had hot chocolate or squash. After that we went to bed to read our books and settle down. There was a lot of talking at first but it soon stopped because everyone went to sleep as we were all very tired from the travelling and excited for the next day of activities.

Thursday 25th April
By Sophie

On Thursday I woke up at 6:15am and had to wait until 8am to go for breakfast. After our breakfast we went on a really long walk to Stanner Rocks. We had lunch and then split into groups. Our group went swimming first which was a lot of fun. We had a shower and then went to the gift shop to spend our money. Then we went into the Wreck Room with Mr Dyall to play a very fast game of hockey. Before our pizza and chips, we painted a picture of Dunfield House in watercolours.

We finished the evening by going to a disco which was great. Finally, we went to bed really tired.

Friday 26th April
By Anya

Today was amazing! First, we went downstairs for breakfast before going back upstairs to continue our packing. After we'd finished our packing, we got on the coach and travelled to Carding Mill Valley for a long walk. We had our lunch outside, looking at the beautiful scenery. We got back on the coach to return to school. I was exhausted, I couldn't wait to get home and see my parents but I was really sad to leave Dunfield House as I'd had the best time ever!



Emma's Travels

By Grace

On Tuesday 14th May, Mrs Jones's sister-in-law (Emma) came into Year 3 to talk to us about volcanoes. She has travelled around the world and climbed up many volcanoes. In Japan Emma saw pools of greenish, blue water in the volcano. The Japanese people cook eggs in the volcanic water and the whites of the eggs turn black. They believe that if you eat the black egg, you will live for an extra 10 years.

Emma actually brought in her backpack which she took on her travels and she showed us her hiking poles. At the top of some of the mountains the stones are quite crumbly and when you walk on them you slip backwards, so she used her hiking poles to get more grip.

She also brought with her an actual volcanic rock which we could hold. The rock had lots of holes in it which made it quite light. It was black and grey in colour and had ash on it which came off in our hands.

One volcano that Emma climbed had a traffic light system for safety. Blue is for 'all clear,' Yellow is for 'it may erupt' and Red is for 'we can see lava and we have to evacuate the area.' You can also hear a siren to make sure you know the danger. The staff all have walkie talkies to alert the visitors and guide them to safety quickly. The visitors all have to reverse their cars into the car park spaces, so it is quicker for them to drive out.

Emma showed us some photos of volcanoes above the clouds and some people get nose bleeds as it is so high or they have difficulty breathing because there is less oxygen up there.

I certainly had a good experience listening to Emma and I learnt lots about volcanoes and found the information very interesting.

Emma let me pick up her backpack at the end, it was very heavy and I wouldn't like to carry it for more than 4 miles.



My Kingswood Diary-Wednesday

By Stanley

On Wednesday 15th May, Year 2 got on the coach to Kingswood, I sat by Kameel, it wasn't far away. When we got to Kingswood, we met Carla and went to our rooms to unpack. All the rooms were named after birds; I was in Sparrow. Then we went on the Adventure Ropes, my favourite part was the zip line because it was so fast. After that we went on a Mini-Beast Safari. I found a big slug.

At half past 12, we had a roast dinner. I liked the potatoes which were yummy. After lunch we went to shake a tree, I found a yellow and black caterpillar. Before long, we went pond dipping, I found a water slug which was black. We had a story called 'The Giraffe, Pelly and Me' and then had a picnic with all the class which was really tasty.

Then we played in the big hall, the soft play was fun. Finally, we had a story in the big hall followed by hot chocolate. We got into our pyjamas and went to sleep.



My Kingswood Diary-Thursday

By Archie

First, we woke up and stripped our beds, I had a good night's sleep. Next we had breakfast, I had crispy toast and a crumpet. After breakfast, we made our beds, Eduard helped me make mine. Then we went on a Kingswood Common walk, I saw a peacock and we ate a biscuit on a log. At half past 12 we had sausages and mash, I liked the iced cake which was delicious. After lunch we met the pets. I stroked a guinea pig, it was so soft. Soon after, we fed the sheep, they licked my hand, it was slimy. We then washed the tortoises. Finally, we got on the coach to come back to school. I had a great time at Kingswood and want to go back.

Computer Workshop

By Keaton

On Thursday 16th May, Mr Ashton came into Year 3 to do a computer workshop on the iPads. First we made a book on 'Book Creation' about volcanoes. We found pictures of volcanoes and information off the internet. Mr Ashton showed us how to shape our words and make a video book with words being spoken.

After lunch, we went onto 'Abode' and changed our iPads to portrait mode and he taught us how to angle our words on the screen and change the font and colours of the words.

At the end of the session, Mr Ashton said we could make a poster and he showed us how to change the background for something cool.

I really enjoyed the workshop because I was praised for my good work and being really fast at typing and finishing the work. I learnt so many different techniques on the iPad that I didn't know before.



The Pioneer Centre By Ibrahim, Pavan and Oliver T

The anticipation was noticeable as we gathered at Castlecroft at 10:30 AM for our journey to The Pioneer Centre. Excited chatter filled the coach as Year 6 embarked on our much-awaited adventure. Parents waved us off as we indulged in sweets and snacks, laughter echoing through the bus.

Upon arrival, Pioneer Centre instructors led us to Treetops Lodge where we gathered for essential safety guidelines. A comprehensive tour followed, taking us through the facilities, from the pool and table tennis area to the dining hall and emergency exits.

After settling into our rooms, we refuelled with a satisfying lunch before diving into our first set of activities. Group 1, with their determination and teamwork, conquered the climbing wall. Group 2, inspired by their peers, joined in, while Group 3, with their adventurous spirit, opted for the fan jump. Post-tea, we ventured into caving, a testament to our resilience and trust in each other. We returned to our rooms for showers and downtime, spending our evening bonding over games and conversation before bedtime.

Day 2 began with an early wake-up call and a hearty breakfast offering cooked meals and cereals. Energised, we geared up for laser tag, climbing challenges, and overcoming our fear of heights. Lunch was followed by more thrilling activities like inflatables and a visit to the snacks and drinks shop, where we used our spending money wisely.

After a relaxed break with friends, we gathered again for evening activities, eventually winding down in preparation for bed.

On Day 3, after breakfast, we embarked on our final activity and visited the gift shop for souvenirs. As we packed our belongings, certificates were awarded, with special recognition for the tidiest room, outstanding team player, effort, commitment, and enthusiasm.

Throughout our stay, The Pioneer Centre provided us with unforgettable experiences, bonding moments, and lessons in teamwork and adventure.



Reception's Trip to Hoo Zoo By Thomas

We went to Hoo Zoo on a coach on Tuesday 21st May. I saw lots of dinosaurs which weren't real, they were robots, they moved and roared. There was a dinosaur that ROARED really loud at the entrance, it made my ears hurt and made Corey and Mason jump.

I saw lots of sheep and stroked a goat which felt very fluffy but, when I touched his hard horns he didn't like it. I liked seeing the otters, they were cute and funny, one was hiding in the cave. We went through the wallaby walk, some had a baby in their pouches. The wallabies bounced around like kangaroos.

Before we got back on the coach, we played on the playground. I really liked the zip-wire, I went very fast on it but Miss Rose went slow. I liked hanging on the monkey bars and bouncing on the giant pillow with all my friends.

It was my first time on a coach so I really liked that and also seeing all the different animals.

The Halls of Wolverhampton

By Jensen and Ben

Year 3 went to The Halls of Wolverhampton on Tuesday 21st May for a music festival. We joined 22 other schools in the big hall, it was full. The singers and band were introduced to us. We had already practised some of the songs at school so we could sing along. We sang our hearts out and danced 'old school' which is basically a lot of arm movements. Some of the songs we sang were 'We will Rock You', 'One Love, One Heart' and 'Hall of Fame'. When we sang 'We Will Rock You', it was like being at a Wolves game, we all stood up and went wild. We really enjoyed going to the music festival because the atmosphere was electric and the band leader got everyone involved and made us laugh.



Whole School Music Assembly

By Harleen and Erin



Some people from the music school came into our school on Wednesday 22nd May to perform a music assembly for us. We watched the people play musical instruments, they played the drums, piano, flute, saxophone and the violin. Everyone really enjoyed 'Love Story' by Taylor Swift and 'Waterloo' by Abba. They also played the music from the film Jurassic Park and the theme song from Harry Potter which were very good. We enjoyed the assembly because it was wonderful to see how talented the music school teachers were and hopefully it will inspire some children to play musical instruments. It really amazed us just how good they played their instruments, they must practice a lot.

Olympic Torch

By Isla, Niall and Oliver T

As soon as we left school, we knew it would be a long and hard run. Niall and Isla started off holding the torch. After a quarter of the way, they handed the torch to Oliver T. As we ran further, we grew increasingly tired, but we still had a long way to go. We took a brief rest by the shops but continued with a gentle jog. Eventually, we encountered a very steep hill, and we all pushed as hard as possible. Once we conquered the hill, we took another short break.

Oliver T then gave the torch back to Niall. Continuing our journey, we reached a zebra crossing where Isla took her turn holding the torch. As we got closer to our destination, we had a quick rest by the chestnut tree before resuming our run. Gradually, we began to hear music, prompting Niall, Oliver T, and Isla to sprint faster towards Uplands.

When we reached Uplands, we walked in with one hand on the torch and the other ready for high-fives. Everyone put their hands out, eagerly waiting to high-five the Uplands children. As we got closer, we could hear people chanting our names: Isla, Oliver T and Niall!

As we walked through their playground, we handed the torch over to Uplands School. At the end, we signed autographs on bags, lunchboxes, and even some books. We danced to the music but eventually had to leave.

We departed with a gentle jog, and at our first zebra crossing, we knew this would be a day to never forget. As we ran a bit further, we saw the hill, but since we were going down, it was much easier.

When we passed the shops, we all begged Mr. Morgan to get us an ice-cream, and he said yes. We jumped with joy and picked our ice-creams. After finishing our ice-creams, we sprinted all the way back to school.



This is a day we will always remember!



German Café **By Anya and Sienna L**

We had a German Café set up in our hall on Thursday 13th June. Frau Bradbury was standing on a wooden lectern to stamp our fake passports which allowed us to have access to the food. The food included gherkins, German sauces, different types of meat and cheese, bread and jam. We selected our food and enjoyed the different tastes. We used the German phrases that we had learnt in class and while we ate, Frau Bradbury played some special German music just for us. We enjoyed every single bit of the café and would like to thank all the staff who helped make this wonderful experience possible, especially, Frau Bradbury.



Sponsored Walk **By Sienna L**

The whole school took part in our sponsored walk on Friday 14th June. We walked through the lovely nature reserve and looked at the beautiful flowers. There were teachers everywhere to keep an eye on us and to stamp our sponsor cards. From the nature reserve, we went through a little secret gate that lead back on to our school playing field. I did 5 laps but still felt very energetic and could have done another 27 laps before feeling really tired. We raised over £2,000 for our school funds so we can get more supplies for us, which is BRILLIANT

'Dino Dad' **By Hugo**

Today Andy Day came into our school and talked to us about dinosaurs, which I love. He sang us a song all about dinosaurs which was very funny. Then, he read us a story from his new book, 'Dino Dad' which is a story about a dinosaur family called POOPA. I really like dinosaurs because they are so good and it is fun finding out all about the different types and what they eat. I have read lots of books out of the library about dinosaurs and have more at home. I watch Andy on the telly in 'Andy's Dinosaur Adventures', he goes back in time and meets different dinosaurs, which I love seeing. I dressed up as Andy on the day and I think he liked seeing me. I liked meeting him because he loves dinosaurs as much as me.



Local History Week

Moseley Old Hall By Jasleen and Amelia

On Monday 24th June, Year 2 went to Moseley Old Hall. We looked round the Hall and got to act out the story of when King Charles II hid there. We got to see the bed he slept in and the priest hole he hid in when the soldiers came looking for him. It was really interesting. After lunch, we played in the maze, mud kitchen and the tree house. The maze was fun and made us very tired running round it. The tree house was very tall and we climbed all the way up to the top. We made a mud cake.

We all had a fun, long day at Moseley Old Hall.



Wightwick Manor By Aurora and Erin



Year 5 went to Wightwick Manor on Wednesday 26th June. We left school at around 9:30 and took a slow and steady walk down the canal to Wightwick. When we arrived, we went to the stables to store our bags. Then we were put into groups and set off to explore the Manor. Miss Cox and Miss Poiblanc's group started upstairs in the house. Miss Bishton, Miss Patrick and Mrs Howe's group started downstairs. The guides were called Margaret, Pam and Val, they were so lovely and helpful.

Our favourite room was the Day Nursery because it was full of loads of toys and we had fun in there. We finished looking at all the rooms, William Morris curtains, carpets, bedsheets and even wallpaper. There was a lot of

information to learn, so for a break we went outside into the beautiful gardens to get some fresh air. It was such a hot day; we were all sweating so we went inside to have our lunch, to cool down. We also learnt that the people who lived in Wightwick Manor were called the Mander family who started manufacturing paint in Wolverhampton. The Mander Centre in Wolverhampton is named after the family.

Our visit to Wightwick Manor was exciting and we learnt loads of interesting facts about our local history.

The Archaeological Dig By Harry

We had an archaeological dig at our school during 'Local History Week'. Some archaeologists dug a rectangular hole on our playing field. We each had a bucket and a garden sieve which we used to find hidden treasure from out of the ground.

In the top surface we found a lot of plastic but as we got further down, we found coal, iron and pottery. I found a purple coloured rock which looked really interesting. But my best and most exciting find was 2 pieces of a clay smoking pipe, which was maybe from the Victorian times.

The archaeologists took all our finds to analyse and record.

It was a very interesting activity and a lot of fun being involved with, especially when you found an item in your sieve.



St Peter's Church

By Alfie

On Tuesday 25th June, Year 4 went by coach into Wolverhampton to visit St Peter's Church. We went there because it was our 'Local History Week' in school and our class needed to find out what 'sacred' meant. So we went to the biggest church in Wolverhampton to find out the answer.

When we arrived at St Peter's, we were greeted by a lady who volunteers at St Peter's. She talked about the church and took us to look at the organ. The organist told us all about the organ, it had over 3,000 pipes which make a very loud sound. After seeing the organ, we split into groups to explore the church. The church is built in the shape of a cross and has a statue of the Lady Wulfrun outside. Some of the statues inside the church had their noses and feet cut off in one of the English Civil wars as statues weren't allowed.

At the back of the church you could go up really high to get a super good view of the whole church. The church was full of stained glass which told the story of St Peter and other Saints. The glass was very colourful and vibrant, lots of red and yellow glass. The trip was very interesting, we found out a lot about our local history. We also found out that 'sacred' means that something is very important (holy) and has a special connection with God.



Blist Hill

By Arya

Year 1 went to Blist Hill on Wednesday 26th June. It is a Victorian town, so everything is really old. We went into the bank to change our money for some old fashioned coins, so we could spend it in the shops.

We went into lots of different shops and found out all about them. In the chemist shop there was a dentist's chair and the dentist visited the shop every Friday to see rich people, as you had to pay to have your teeth looked at.

We went into a lady's cottage; she was making a quilt out of old clothes by the fire which she cooked on too. There was a rug on the floor which she had made out of rags. The toilet was outside and you put a chamber pot under the bed at night, so you didn't have to go out in the dark and cold.

At the post office we bought a pencil with our old money and a lollipop at the sweet shop. Mrs Sturmev bought a cone of chips which had been cooked in beef dripping. We all tried one, they were delicious.

After lunch, we went to the park and played in the black sand.

I had a lovely day at Blist Hill, I saw and learnt some very interesting things from the olden days. I don't think I would like to live like they did.



Wildside Activity Centre

By Charlie and Izabela

On Wednesday 26th June, Year 3 went to the Wildside Activity Centre. We were going to look at the canals and railways. We went there on a coach. When we arrived at the centre, we lined up next to the canal and saw some fish. We also looked at the canal from a bridge. We went on a canal boat, just to look at it, we didn't go on a trip on it. This was our favourite bit of the visit. We walked down a small slope to see a lock which was very interesting. We walked back to school in single file as there were a lot of bushes along the way.



Cosford Air Museum

By Ruke and Mya

On Thursday 27th June, Year 6 visited the Royal Air Force Museum, located in Cosford. We started off the day with everyone arriving at school with a packed lunch. When the coach arrived, everyone got on and we began our journey to the museum.

Once we approached the museum, we immediately spotted the huge planes that were scattered in and around the terrain. There were big planes, small planes and even planes that were used in wars to fight. When the coach finally parked up, we couldn't wait to see what was in store for us.

First, we went into a building where we saw miniature planes that were hanging from the ceiling, as if they were flying in the air prepared for battle. In another exhibit of planes, we were able to go under them and peek through the windows to see what they were like inside. The tour guide informed us that the planes were not replicas but were actually used in wars or for transport. They had been restored and maintained properly so were in good condition.

After that, we went into another building where there were soldier's uniforms and clothing that the workers wore during the war. We then went to see a video about people fighting in the war. We saw medals, that soldiers would have worn, displayed in glass cases.

Soon after that, we went into a different part of the museum that had the first plane to fight in WWI. We were escorted by the tour guide through this area and were told about the different planes and what they served as in the war. It was very interesting to learn about them.

Then we were split into two groups, one group got to sit in some of the fighter planes with all the buttons and levers that the soldiers would have to memorise. While the other looked at the first bomber plane used in WWI. We then went into another exhibit, where we looked at tanks and miniature replicas of submarines.

After lunch, we went into the main part of the museum where various aircrafts like the Chinook helicopters and other planes were displayed. We were handed a quiz in which we had to find out different things about the aircrafts, like the name of it, where it was made and the serial number. After we had finished the quiz, we wandered around the area looking at screens and watching videos about what the war was like.

Our visit was full of so many interesting facts and seeing lots of things to do with the war made it more real and easier to remember.



Robotics Day

By Liv and Isla

On Monday 1st July, Year 6 class were excited to find out that they would be participating in a workshop where we would get the opportunity to work with robotics! We were all put into groups of three and we started to build a complicated Lego robot.

Isla and I were in a team together, I gathered the pieces while Isla constructed it. The instructions were very confusing to most people but were like an island breeze to us.

After we had finished building our robots, we started to code them so we could customise the features. We then went outside to see which vehicle could get the closest to the yellow line on the playground.

After break, we went out again to programme our construction to move around some tracks. We got a perfect turn! Then, after lunch, we went to the hall to battle our robots against each other's. After a long day of fun and games, we ended the session by packing up the robots, disassembling the bots and breaking up our work into the box it started off in.

City Athletics

By Ameliah and Niall



As we walked into Aldersley Stadium, we saw the track. It was MASSIVE! The 400m was called up. Tommy went to the starting line, he got ready, then ran as fast as he could all the way around the track. We were all cheering his name. Tommy came in 2nd place.

Niall's throwing event was next where he had to throw two rounder's balls as far as he could. Niall's longest length was 28.5m, giving him 6th place which Niall was very happy with. The furthest ball was thrown 38.35m.

After Niall's event, Isla took part in the long jump, she jumped 3.20m. She was proud of her

performance and was only 1cm off 3rd place. So Isla finished 4th out of 16 competitors.

It was then Niall's turn again to compete in the obstacle race. He had to get bean bags into a hoop, jump over a hurdle, then jump into a hula hoop and pull it over his head, then it was a quick sprint to the finish line. Niall

came in 3rd place but didn't make it into the finals.

Ameliah was next up to run the 80m race. Suddenly, the race started and Ameliah was leading, then some really fast girls sprinted ahead of her but she never gave up and raced the fastest she could. She finished in 2nd place.

Next was Ethan's long jump, he jumped an incredible 3.18m, 2cm away from 3rd place.

It was then Tommy's 400m finals race, he was shivering with cold and determination to win.

As soon as the whistle was blown, Tommy set off at a supersonic speed but, unfortunately, half way through the race Tommy pulled a muscle in his leg, so couldn't finish.

Ameliah was next with the final of the 80m race, she was so excited to be able to run in the finals. She walked to the starting line, quietly planning her race. The organiser blew the whistle and everyone sprinted off. Ameliah sprinted into 4th place, just pipped at the post by another competitor.

The girl's relay followed with Ruke, Ameliah and Isla making up the team. Castlecroft were number 3 so we ran in the second race. We were all very nervous while we waited on the grass for our race. We all ran our best and our time was recorded. Finally, it was the boy's relay, Niall, Tommy, Pavan and Ethan got ready. They were also in the second race. They finished in 3rd place in their race but overall were awarded 5th.

We all had a fabulous time and were very proud of all our performances and very happy to represent Castlecroft at the City Athletics.

Dance Festival By Freya K and Roseleen

A group of us Year 5 girls had been practising dance every Wednesday since May with Miss Harvey from Smestow. She had taught us Hip Hop, Street, Contemporary and Modern dance. We practised dancing to 'Come Alive' from the Greatest Showman for the festival. The festival was on Wednesday 3rd July at Dance Force Studio in Wolverhampton. When we arrived we were given 30 minutes, along with the 3 other schools, to create a new dance to celebrate the Olympics. Each school split into 4 groups and worked with coaches from Dance Force. We had to involve gymnastics, the ribbon, swimming and running into our routine. Then we performed it all together, incorporating 5 different coloured hoops to represent the Olympic rings. At the end of our dance we made medal podiums which were human pyramids. We then performed our 'Come Alive' routine. We all clapped everyone's performance. We were given medals and then two scholarships to the dance studio were awarded. Aurora was lucky enough to receive one of them. We had a fabulous time as it is wonderful to be given the opportunity to learn to dance and perform out of school. We appreciate all the time the staff have given to enable us to be able to do activities like this. We are looking forward to continuing dancing.



VIP Day! By Erin M

We had a VIP day on Monday 8th July. To be a VIP reader you have to make a full commitment to reading and regularly go to the library. Each time you visit the library you get a stamp on your rewards sheet and if you fill it you are invited to the VIP day. All the VIP's came to school in their own clothes and made certain that we had a spare set of clothes as hopefully we were going to get very wet. When the VIP afternoon started we all got together to have a group photo taken and Mrs Howe sprayed us with water. We then got into 3 teams and had an egg and spoon race, with water balloons instead of eggs. The winners could choose which water squirter they wanted first, which was a great privilege. We then went crazy getting each other as wet as possible, we also went on the slippery water slide which was really good fun, especially when there was lots of washing up liquid on it. After that we tipped water over each other until we were absolutely soaked. Finally, we got changed into our dry clothes and had a Tip-Top. I thought the afternoon was lots of fun and we all had a great time. I'm going to read regularly when I'm in Year 5 and hopefully be invited to be a VIP reader again.



The Drum Concert

By Jakob

All of the children who play drums at Castlecroft had been practicing with Mr Clark for many weeks to play in a drum concert with Mr Clark and other musicians on Thursday 11th July. Each drummer learnt a different song to play at the concert. I practiced 'Yellow' by Coldplay which I was very happy with. It was so exciting seeing the staging being put up for our concert, it looked so professional and it was for us.

We played to the whole school in the afternoon which gave us some much needed confidence to play on the evening for our parents. I played first which made me feel very nervous but, as soon as I started drumming with the band, I relaxed and began to enjoy performing like a real rock star.

The performances went really well and both audiences seemed to enjoy themselves, as the clapping was wild at the end of the concert. I enjoyed playing in both concerts but felt very proud to play in front of my family, who were very proud of me too.

I love playing the drums as I find it relaxes me and I like the loud sounds that I create.



Summer Fair

By Zarin

I came to our school's Summer Fair on Friday 12th July, with my older sister, after school. Luckily it was a dry day and the sun came out occasionally, so it was lovely to walk around our playing field and play on all the stalls.

My favourite stall at the fair was where we could throw wet sponges at Mr Dyall. I hit him right on the top of his head and then the water dripped down onto his face. That was really funny. Mr Dyall complained that I had hit him very hard but he was still smiling.

I bought 9 tickets on the Beauty Tombola and only won once but my prize was a good one.

My sister only bought 6 tickets and astonishingly won 4 prizes, she was very happy as she was giving them to our Mum for her birthday.

I enjoyed decorating my own digestive biscuit. First, I put pink icing all over the biscuit, sprinkled chocolate chips over the icing, then drizzled more pink icing over the whole biscuit. My creation was delicious!

I took part in the 'Beat the Goalie' stall. I was excited to score 2 out of 3 goals against an adult goalkeeper.

The food and drinks were lovely but, unfortunately we couldn't have a burger or hot dog, which smelt sooooo good, as we are vegetarians.

We spent all of our money at the fair and had a really great time. We are looking forward to the Christmas Fair now.



A lot of hard work goes into putting on an event like this for us, so I would like to thank all of the PTA, staff and anyone else who gave up their time to raise funds for our school. Also to everyone who came to the fair to spend their money and hopefully have as good a time as I did. Over £2,000 was raised from the fair and that's without the money from the raffle.

Which is absolutely

AMAZING!

