**Woodnewton – a learning community**

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20 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

**Well Being Day**

The first day back after the holiday, November 5th, was a ‘Well Being Day’. This is exactly what it says – a day when the timetable is ignored and the whole school takes part in activities designed to promote positive feelings in the children. There will be a ‘Well Being Day’ at the beginning of each term.

**Flu Vaccines**

These were available to all children in school, KS1 on the 6th and KS2 on the 7th and aim to provide the children with a flu free winter.

**Messy Mixtures**

On November 7th Year 2 had a Muck, Mess and Mixtures Day. Children were encouraged to wear old clothes and spent the day experiencing messy activities. They printed using Lego bricks, leaves, potatoes, stones etc; painted using screwed up paper, cotton wool, bubbles and cotton buds; mixed paints and experimented using the primary colours to make a picture of a rainbow and finally had a sensory experience which involved squeezing, feeling and general playing with a variety of materials including shaving foam, sand, rice, hay, flour, water, pasta, beans and porridge oats. You can only imagine! I am assured it was a truly wonderful day and a great way to start a topic, if a little messy!

**Science Boffins**

Y1 and Y2 joined forces to host ‘Science Boffins’. After an assembly featuring magic tricks and scientific experiments, the children learned about how scientists work. The year groups then split up and each had a workshop. Year 1 children made slime – how good was that!?? and Y2 learned about ‘illusion’ and how our brain and senses can be tricked or confused. This was a really, really exciting day and one to be remembered – learning really can be fun!

**M&M Productions**

This year’s offering was ‘Sleeping Beauty’. This was a lively and energetic rendition of the popular fairy tale and the children were thoroughly engaged and had a great time participating vocally.

**Parents’ Consultation Evenings**

These were held on 19th and 21st November and as usual were very well attended. These are very important events and it is good that you, the parents, can spend time discussing the progress of your child. For those parents/carers who unfortunately missed out with Beth Makra being unwell, a date will be sent out in January – Thank you for your understanding. We are delighted to let you know that baby Makra was born on 9th December. Baby boy and mum are doing well and we look forward to them visiting in the new year.

**Sealife**

On 26th and 28th November Y4 children visited ‘The Sealife Centre’ in Birmingham where they enjoyed a guided tour, saw penguins, dolphins, sea lions etc., and experienced a ‘4D’ film of Polar Express. They were extremely well behaved and really enjoyed the day.

**Stardome**

The Stardome visited school on 27th November as part of the Y5 topic on Space. The Stardome is a portable, inflatable planetarium which really brings to life our Solar System and the position and importance of Stars and Planets. The children produced artwork and were told stories about space. It was a very informative and exciting event.

**Silver Band Club**

Y6 children went to the Silver Band Club and sang Christmas songs to a group of Seniors. It was a lovely occasion.

**KS2 Christmas Production**

KS2 children performed for parents between 10th and 13th December. The theme was ‘The Real Meaning of Christmas’ and this was demonstrated with the use of song, dance and story telling, each year group having its own performance as part of the whole. This was extremely well attended and was very enjoyable.

**KS1 Christmas Production**

This was entitled ‘Woodnewton Does the West End’ and involved music from West End musicals. This was a great success and played to full houses. The children loved it and the staff were extremely proud of the effort and behaviour of the children and the quality of their performance.

The Silver Collection was for the ‘Little Princess Trust’ which supports children with cancer. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

**Christmas Jumper Day**

Children were invited to wear a Christmas Jumper in return for a donation to the Food Bank. The response was overwhelming. Once again the generosity of Corby people was brilliant. Thank you – the largest donation yet from us!

**Miss Aston’s Christmas Competition**

This was open to all children in KS2 and 101 entries were submitted. The children were invited to design a Christmas Plate and a Christmas Bottle. There was a prize presented in each year group. Each winner received a plate and a bottle with their design painted on. How appropriate and something to treasure. Well done.

**Visit to St. Columba’s Church**

Children from TYOP and FS1, escorted by staff and their parents went to St. Columba’s church to sing carols and Christmas songs. This was a super evening enjoyed by all of the children and their families in lovely surroundings at Christmas time. Thanks to all who made this so special. A special thanks to Reverend Ian Pullinger for his ongoing support.

**Ice Skating**

Thanks to a parent of a child in Y3CM, the whole class was invited to the ice rink in the town centre. This was completely free of charge and the children had the rink to themselves. The ice rink staff were fantastic and the children were extremely well behaved and had a brilliant time. Many thanks to the parent who won the prize for us and to the staff who made it a memorable experience.

And finally…

School re-opens on 6th January. Have a lovely Christmas with your children, enjoy the festivities, survive New Year’s Eve and don’t make too many ‘impossible’ New Year’s Resolutions and look forward to welcoming everyone back safe, well and rested on Monday 6 January 2020.

Yours sincerely



Glyn Rushton - Principal