

## Our News

- We've been celebrating so many events and special occasions recently. We try to put photos of these onto the school face book page as they happen (thanks to Bria) so please do remember to take a look.
- We have lots of new outdoors equipment to enjoy during our breaktimes. Bria has been busy sourcing skates, scooters and we had a fantastic donation of tractors and cars from a local family.



## What's been happening in school?

### Carnival Week (4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March)

This was a fantastic opportunity to learn about how other countries celebrate, to try some new food and to invite parents into school.



Monday started off with an 'umpah' as the whole school joined in with German Karneval festivities. It was lovely to see so many parents make time to join us for our short presentation and some cake at the end of the day.

Our pancake breakfast proved a popular event. Not many of the pancakes survived our races at the end of the day though!



World Book Day on the Thursday was amazing. We had such confident Spanish children helping us all to learn our book of the day in Spanish as well as English. I'm sure all of you who popped in at the end of the day to join us agree that it is such an advantage to have such diversity in our school and parents who are so willing to contribute. It was a special end to the day to have everyone together to read the story with the parents helping us.



Then on Friday our children ended the week with a professional Sushi making session – we hope you all enjoyed trying it for your tea! Thank you to Thor’s mum for preparing this and showing us how it is done, as well as telling us about some festivals in Japan.



**Tree Planting in Ratby:**

2 weeks ago class 1 and 2 children had the opportunity to visit Ratby to plant some trees and join in with a fun session to learn about the ancient forest habitat there. We found animals hidden in the forest and made some interesting shelters. Some of the children managed to find a lot of mud of course!



**Class 1 and nursery special learning days :**

**Happiness Day.** They celebrated the national happiness day with a focus on being kind to each other. We’re sure you’ve seen the Kindness Tree in our library area that Fay created with the children last week.

**Faith Day : Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March** Deb organised a day’s learning about some religious festivals such as Holi, the Hindu festival of colours. You might have seen the remains of the fun in the playground.



**Class 2**



Our island is complete, the creatures have settled in (although some need relocating) and the brochure and adverts should be out soon! Herbie is in charge of accommodation and is planning options for all budgets! Children put several motions to the class, one resulting in the Island has been renamed Pikachu Island after an ancient civilization. We have a flag, national anthems and a set of laws. After full consideration of all options the children chose a direct democracy which so far has worked well. The level of discussions throughout the past couple of months working on this has been **absolutely stunning** and it really has been Dame Catherine

children at their best, taking initiative, making decisions and creating. Anyone seeing this in action will realise straight away that we have some future leaders amongst us! Creating the island has enabled the children to write poems about it, descriptions of settings and a story about how we found the island and what happened next. You may or may not be pleased to hear that some of them decided to stay rather than return home (although a few returned for their pets!)

### Our visit to the Battle of Bosworth Heritage Centre

17 children and 9 adults took part in the visit yesterday to learn all about the Battle of Bosworth and the Tudors. The staff at the centre were incredibly informative and entertaining and the sessions very practical, with lots of opportunities to join in, dress up and of course ask questions (which we're always very good at.) The children got into character, as you will see from the photographs below (spot the child next to the model of a soldier.)



### Fundraising

Thank you for supporting our week of Red nose day fund raising by taking part in wearing different items every day. We managed to raise over £120.

Leaflets are now out for the Summer Fete which Dame Catherine's is hosting on behalf of the village on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May (Bank Holiday Monday.) We would be grateful for your support in advertising this event. Let us know if you are able to take some leaflets to deliver. We have just heard that we have secured a grant to support the costs of running the event, which will boost the fund-raising potential. Areas of greatest need are help setting up, packing away and help in the kitchen.



### Reminders and requests

- If anyone is able to spare some time helping with jobs such as sweeping leaves, a general tidy up outside or cleaning windows before open day, we always appreciate the help.
- **Contacting school** : could we please remind you that Jane Dawn does not work on Fridays and the 'office@' e-mail address will not be accessed on this day. Staff will answer the phone on this day, but should you need to e-mail the school on this day with an urgent message or to pass on information needed by staff, could you please e-mail [lorna.harvey@damecatherines.org](mailto:lorna.harvey@damecatherines.org).

- **Going to be absent?**

If your child's absence is a known one and longer than a few hours off to attend a medical appointment or due to illness, then could you please ensure that the absence consent form is completed in advance.

If your child is ill, please ring the school office before the start of the school day, stating the reason for absence and likely duration of absence. (Please consider that any e-mails regarding absence will not be picked up on Fridays, hence our request to phone.)

- **Easter holiday club** : please let us know asap if you would like to book places on any of the dates offered for Easter holiday club.

## Dates for your diary

**Mother's Day** : Mums or grandmas of children in nursery and class 1 – don't forget that you are invited into school this Wednesday at 3.20pm

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 12pm** : open morning. A chance for visitors and current families to visit the school, chat to staff ( and play in the garden.) Please pass on details to anyone you know who might be interested and take some leaflets to share.

## Parent – teacher meetings

There will be an opportunity to for parents to meet teachers at the end of this term on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Available time slots will be between 8.15am, 8.35am, 8.55am, 9.15am, 4.10pm, 4.30pm, 4.50pm and 5.10pm. Sign up sheets will be put in the library on Thursday this week.

## Dates for next half term and beyond

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 3pm – 4.30pm** : open afternoon A chance for visitors and current families to visit the school, chat to staff ( and play in the garden)

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup> April** : Easter bonnet parade / competition (details tbc)

**Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> April** : Easter egg hunt (details tbc)

**Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> April** : last day of term

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April** : school holidays

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April** : start of Summer term

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May** : Dame Catherine Harpur's School presents The Ticknall Village Fête.

