

## Our News

### **Dame Catherine's presents Ticknall Village Fête.**

I think everyone was absolutely astounded by the amount of people who came along to the village fête organised by Dame Catherine's. There was much-appreciated support on the day, but a very special thank you needs to go to Bria, Claire, Rose and Laura, who put an incredible amount of planning time over several months into making the day such a big success. The dog show was definitely a big hit, and the café too. This was certainly no ordinary school fete, but an incredibly professionally planned event which we hope the village enjoyed as much as our children and families. We were pleased to see such a positive coverage in the Village Voice newspaper and have had some much-appreciated feedback from the Parish Council.



**We asked our children for their highlights and this is what they said:**



**“It was so busy. I couldn’t believe it. I thought it was going to be tiny but there was so much to do there”**

**Mia, class 2**

**“ I enjoyed the face painting and Macey-Rose’s tombola. I won a little puzzle with wooden balls.”**

**Abbie, our May Queen, class 1**

The final amount is still to be calculated but we believe it’s in the region of £3,400, which is astounding. Far from having a rest, the fundraising team have already met to discuss some new ideas for Autumn term. So watch this space.

We have been offered a fundraising opportunity from the Dragon at Willington, the Boot at Repton and Harpur’s at Melbourne. You will get an application form in pigeon holes to apply for a loyalty card. When used you will receive 4% of your total bill in loyalty points and the school will receive 4% donation of your total bill. Please support us by filling in your application and return to either Bria or one of the pubs.

## **What’s been happening in school?**

Thank you to all parents who joined us on the last day of the spring term for our first Easter hat parade around our garden. There were some stunning creations. It was nice to create some new traditions and have a go at Eierpecken (knocking eggs together) and well done to Amber and Eden whose eggs survived the longest! But as every year, the most popular with the children was their egg hunt in our beautiful garden – and look at what we hid for them!





### **Class 1 are learning lots about the village.**

It's been a term to celebrate the local area and community with class 1 spending some quality time learning about Ticknall. They had a trip out to explore the village a couple of weeks ago, accompanied by nursery children. They looked at the green taps and lock up and what the children remember from the stories is that sometimes they let people without homes sleep in there – but there were no beds!



Class 1's office has proven popular. The children are enjoying making notes and posting letters. Sophia says that they are waiting for the postman to come.

### **Nursery**



Over the past few weeks our nursery children have experienced what it's like to be a seed. To their surprise they even got watered by Fay (incase you wondered why any of them have shot up!) They've also been pretending to be thermometers, acting frozen by being still on the ground and boiling by shooting high in the air. In their outdoor learning sessions they have been exploring what it might be like to be a bird sitting on a nest.



## Class 2

### Our visit to Stratford on Avon



Class 2 had an exciting start to the half term with their visit to Stratford upon Avon. We are exploring Tudor buildings (and keen to make some Wattle and Daub) and had an informative visit to the Shakespeare's Schoolroom and Guildhall where we learnt about how houses were built and then had the strictest lesson of the year by a Tudor schoolmaster. I'm not sure we were quite there with our Latin skills but we did like the school's motto of 'Manners maketh the man' and Bria seemed to fancy herself as a Tudor school master!

As a contrast we spent the afternoon at the MAD museum (the only mechanical art and design museum in the UK.) We had a fantastic e-mail from them afterwards which said 'pupils and teachers were a credit to your school and that the pupils were really polite, engaging and perfectly behaved.' All true as class 2 were absolutely superb. Their thoughts on the day were:

Amber said (about the MAD museum)

"There were tonnes of buttons to press and I went round the museum pressing all of the them. After 10 minutes, discovered a clap machine. When you clapped loudly, then the machine clapped."



And in school we've been perfecting our advertising techniques. Our TV adverts for our island were produced, although I think their imagination ran away with them when they discovered that wearing green would make parts of their body invisible. We've helped Henry VIII by advertising for a new wife for him using our pretty impressive extended noun phrases with prepositional phrases. Our latest, if rather ambitious project, is to try and create a video presentation of the school to go with our new school leaflet.

And one day we turned the classroom into a marble run.

## Our School Vision

It was great to be able to share some of our priorities at our recent AGM and thank you for such positivity from our parents. Our new school leaflet is out with our latest information about the vision and values of the school and giving a flavour for our exciting curriculum. We've worked hard over the past few months to develop how we were going to share what is special about our school with our wide community. Our leaflet begins with the phrase 'There is another way,' before highlighting how well we:

**Include** – we value children as individuals and the diversity of our community.

**Ignite** – creativity is what we do best and our curriculum ignites possibilities and raises aspirations

**Innovate** – our curriculum and teaching methods celebrate and encourage innovation. We model this as a school where we develop excellent practice using educational ideas from a wide range of other settings. However because we have the child's best interests at heart at all times we also challenge unnecessary conventional notions and offer broad and flexible alternatives to educating children.

## Reminders and requests

- Dinners from after the half term holiday will be as follows:  
Tuesdays : jacket potatoes (£1.00)  
Wednesdays : pasta bolognese (vegetarian) (£3.00)  
Thursdays : sausage, roast potatoes and beans (£3.00)
- Please can you make sure that your child has pumps or trainers with them for their PE sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays (especially Wednesdays, where the coach has asked us to remind parents.)
- With several visits being organised this term, please read the latest information regarding how we plan and organise school visits.
- Fay says can nursery children please bring in learning journeys including observations, a baby photo and a photo from a past birthday for their scrapbook.

## INSET days

Our next INSET day is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. We will also be having 2 flexi-INSET days on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Please see the letter to parents for further information about these days.

## Dates for the coming weeks

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** : INSET day. School closed to children.

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> June – Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> June** : Theme week : What good ideas have come out of Egypt? (if you have any resources of information please send it in.)

*There is quite a lot planned for our final half term (and some activities still in the planning) so we will send an up to date calendar out by the first day back after the holiday.*

