

Our News

Starting on 6th January we will have a new member of our team here at Dame Catherine's. Chris Wright will be starting with us as a teaching assistant. Many of the children were involved in the interviews back in October, when Tracey left. He amused the children by bringing in his chainmail. With him being a historian, I have a feeling we might have a few battle reenactments coming out way.

What's been happening in school?

Christmas performance

Let's start with last night and say just how stunning the children were! Some schools spend on rehearsing plays – not us. We have to do it our own way. Including everyone, from children that are with us every day to children who come once a week, is important to us. So is being flexible in enabling children the options of being a singing star on stage or supporting off stage with props. With so many other great things going on it was difficult to find time to practise until the last couple of days, which made the children's performance even more amazing. It's been a bit like a theme week this week, with all hands on deck getting ready for the performance. But this hasn't meant just rehearsing. The children have been involved in making props, as you could see. We had the idea of performing pantomime sketches a few weeks ago when we had some theme days and the children started making some costumes. So it really has been a lovely end to the term to focus on finishing our creations.



As you could see, nursery made some very special wands, and class 2 had a great time making their hats. This gave them the perfect opportunity to be original and to use spray paint, feathers and a shower head (where did that idea come from Thor?) Most of all it has been a great week for teamwork, with the older children also stepping up to help set up the village hall.

Our very own Christmas market

Our school in lights – it looked amazing, and a massive thanks to Mick for sorting all of the lighting out for us. The fundraising group did a stunning job. The children really enjoyed preparing for this on the day too, making signs, organising activities and setting up stalls. Being involved makes it so much more enjoyable for them. Thank you to Claire (Luci's mum) for coming in to make plaster of paris decorations with class 2. With the Christmas raffle, market and other Christmas activities we have raised over £1,000.



Iceskating

The children seemed to really enjoy the ice-skating visit on Wednesday. Thank you to the many families who managed to come along to this and to Bria for arranging the opportunity.



Gladstone Pottery Visit

All of class 2 went to Gladstone pottery on 3rd December to learn how it was for children working there in Victorian times and to make a clay mask. An added bonus was the collection of toilets and baths, which seemed to amuse some of them over lunchtime.



Bread making

Class 1 made the most delicious bread with the flour they brought back from their visit to Blists Hill Victorian Town. It tasted just like the bread from their bakery, thank to expert baker Claire (Luci's mum.)





The children were transfixed throughout a recent visit from the co-founders of the charity Shark Guardian which lead shark and marine conservation projects worldwide. Thank you to Sophie and Charlotte's parents, who are relatives of Liz and Brendon who did the presentation, for suggesting this. We feel very lucky to have them visit and are grateful that the family, who live in Thailand, had taken time out of their Christmas visit to the UK to come and share with us amazing facts, video clips and answers so many of our questions. It was fantastic to meet their whole family and we hope that we can keep in touch with their work in the future. We aim to continue our learning about Sharks and Oceans after Christmas.

A new member of Chris

Reminders and requests

- We are back on 6th January 9am.

Dates for the term

We will get these out to you in the New Year

Have a fantastic Christmas everybody!

See you in the New Year.

From the staff at Dame Catherine's.

