

Our News

Improvements, improvements! Our playground has had a bit of a make-over! Over summer the Parish Council and Ancient Trust kindly paid for new gates, our front garden was made beautiful with a variety of flowers and plants and now we have new playground markings, paid for by the Tesco's donation from last year. Our fantastic neighbours at Slade House were incredibly generous and paid for and fitted a new alarm system. So many improvements paid for by local people and local organisations!

What's been happening in school?

First of all we would like to officially welcome all of our new families and our new nursery children, who are certainly keeping Fay on her toes. We have been making the most of the last of the good weather and a big job has been clearing the pond area. A group of children have taken it upon themselves to create a new pond,



which they have enjoyed filling. We apologise that we have sent some of them home looking like drowned rats on some Fridays. The first was due to a massive downpour but the last was purely self-inflicted. Of course, a strength of our Friday afternoons is the ability for children to be innovative and develop their own ideas, which did result in the older children developing a mudslide for the younger ones on one Friday. It is



very special to see this happening. There aren't many schools either where a 3 year old girl is welcomed into the football game and the oldest boy in the school decides to let her score several goals. Go Ceci!



Blackberry picking: children made the most of picking as many blackberries as they could before they were chopped down from the church yard. Sorry they didn't make it home! They did manage to make some pies with the one bowl out of 5 they didn't eat!



Animal pencil pots : a new craze started by a Friday afternoon activity. When children saw the penguin pencil pots a group of children had made, we suddenly found a few other animals appearing – definitely a good use of wet play-time!



Grandparents day : We're not sure who was more emotional – the some of the grandparents or Fay! This was a very special experience. Children gained such a lot from being able to complete a questionnaire with their grandparents – and in one case even a great grandparent. We hope they all enjoyed being back at school and joining in with games and a story too. It was fantastic to see so many attend and will definitely be developing this idea and inviting them back!



Class 1 and 2 learning - bamboo crazy! : Class 1 and 2 began the term by exploring the theme of pandas and bamboo. The panda biscuits which children across the school decorated during our Friday afternoon session were cute!

Class 2 went off in a direction with this and decided they needed to see whether the adverts about bamboo products were telling the truth. We hope you all enjoyed taking part in their investigations and we were astounded by the depth and creativity of some of the children. And our conclusion? Whilst we were convinced by the absorbency and strength of bamboo kitchen roll, we were less convinced about its value for money (and a couple of families expressed concerns that maybe they wouldn't want to wash and reuse a cloth which had been used for some household jobs!)



Class 2 has moved on to learning about the industrial revolution and this included learning about how a steam engine works. We had a fun time collapsing coke cans too to demonstrate what happens when water changes from a liquid to a gas / steam and then back to a liquid.

Class 1 have been watching adverts from the past and considering how people in the past had a different shopping experience from today. Playing shops is always fun, whether using today's technology or doing it in the old fashioned way of shopping at the market and weighing out their own produce.

Nursery



Over the past few weeks our nursery children have been learning about different celebrations from nations such as Ethiopia and Jamaica. This has included making drums and listening to reggae music. They have also been painting fruit and making wellie prints.

Remember this?

It was quite some time ago now, but we've discovered a couple of photos to share from our end of year celebrations – sports day and camp which we thought you might like – so we can remember the warm days of summer. Deb's amazing costume design meant that sports day lots of fun. The year finished in the traditional way with families camping out (or in).



Reminders and requests

- Anyone arriving with a child after the start of school (9am) needs to come to the front door please, so that class 1 and nursery are not delayed in starting their day using the library area.
- Last chance for booking ice-skating tickets – this has been popular so please get your order in asap to secure tickets
- The fundraising team are highly organised and have put raffle tickets into pigeon-holes so that there is plenty of time to sell them before December. Thank you for all of your help in getting these sold.

Fundraising

The summer and the art show seem a world away now. Yet again it was an incredible success. The final amount raised was in the region of £8,000. We recognise just how much energy and commitment this takes so thank you to everyone who played a part in making this such an amazing event.

As ever, full of new ideas, our fundraising group are planning to hold our very own little Christmas market on our playground. Please save the date of Thursday 5th December (after school) so that you can join us, and hopefully some of the local villagers too. More details to follow, but we're hoping for a visit from Santa, some carols and some lights to show off our beautiful building.

Dates for the term

Friday 25th October : apple day (last day before half term holiday)

Saturday 26th October 2pm – 5pm : Halloween party

Tuesday 5th November : back from half term holiday

Friday 15th November : Children in Need

Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st November : parents evening for classes 1 and 2

Friday 29th November : INSET day (school and nursery closed to children)

Thursday 5th December : Christmas Market

Tuesday 10th December 12.30pm : Christmas meal (village hall)

Wednesday 18th December : Ice skating 4.45pm – 5.30pm. Bretby Garden Centre

Friday 20th December : last day of term. School finishes at 2pm

