

Christmas 2022 mini newsletter

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From everyone at Dame Catherine's.



Around the World in Just One Day.

It certainly wasn't any old Christmas performance. It might have started out as an idea linked to Around the World in 80 Days, but very soon it included the World Cup, kangaroos, space and even Pokémon, thanks to the recent obsession in Wildcats. It was their request to put the theme tune into the show, and as usual, we showed them that anything is possible! Most rewarding for us all was to experience the huge steps children took when taking part in our show – whether being involved in the film sections or the live performance. We never know quite what to expect, given that we don't have everyone together in once place before the actual event. In that respect we, as well as the children, are trying new things and accepting whatever comes. Thank you to parents for so many positive comments about their own children's contributions and how much the project has meant to them. For some children being brave enough to go on stage for the first time is a huge achievement. For others it has been a longer journey and we can look back in absolute pride at how far they have come.



The children had a lot of fun along the way. We even managed a little impromptu disco for break time over in the village hall. There can be no greater proof of how much the children loved taking part than the few days after when they were still singing their way through the songs. Well done everybody and thank you again to Chris for his huge creativity.

Christmas market: thank you so much to those who managed to join us last week at our Christmas market. Last year our older children did an amazing job setting up, taking down and running the shop, so this year, we took it a step further and involved them in the whole thing. It made the last week of school fun but also focused and gave us the chance to work together to create our own games and a few things to sell.

Wildcats created posters to advertise the event and signs for the day. It was also a chance to practice some basic skills for some of the children - Lorna was impressed by the sewing when Wildcats made the reindeer bodies.



It was especially heartening to hear a comment from a parent about how impressed she was her child had had the confidence to run an activity on the night. What we, as staff, were even more impressed with was the fact that this wasn't pre-arranged – some of the older children just organised themselves to help out. That shows what we do so well at Dame Catherine's - we 'leave room' for children to have those sorts of ideas for themselves and to get on with it. When we don't ask them, they just take initiative and do it!

Our Christmas Tree at the church

We had just 1 day after our show to design and create decorations for our tree at the local church. Luckily the theme this year was animals, something we all love. As Wildcats had been exploring aboriginal art, the school decided to go for the Australia theme and made our own turtle, lizard, kangaroo and koala decorations. Thank you to all of the children in school on the Friday, who did such a good job of decorating the tree.



Our New Year

We look forward to welcoming children back on Thursday 5th January 2023!

Have a fantastic Christmas break everyone. We hope you keep well and can enjoy time with family and friends.

Everyone at Dame Catherine's

