



Autumn 2 2021

# Newsletter

## Christmas Events



Although we were unable to invite family members into school again this year, we ensured that the children had a range of opportunities to enjoy and celebrate the magic of the season.

Christmas Dinner day was, as always, a brilliant affair with children tucking into a traditional Christmas meal. Decorations, crackers and music made the time special, which was clear in the faces of all the children.

We all know how much the children enjoy their Christmas Party Day, and this year was no exception! Although this is a day in which the usual curriculum is put to one side, this does not make the time any less valuable. Children socialising and accessing varied activities is a great chance to enhance their personal skills as well as supporting their emotional well-being. In addition to the party, the children were able to watch a virtual pantomime which, like with Christmas dinner, is another British tradition that we all love to share in.

This time of year always brings the opportunity of supporting the artist in every child. Over the last few weeks, children have created Christmas cards, calendars and even a special Harlow Green decoration for the tree to keep forever!

It is very important that we spend time in school supporting children to have a sense of awe and wonder about the festive period. This can be done through activities as described above but also through simple everyday conversations that staff have with children who love to talk about what they are doing outside of school. We hope that children are ready to have a fantastic time with their families and enjoy a hugely deserved Christmas break where everyone can have fun and spend time with those they love.

## In Memory of Vi Symons



As people may remember, we shared the sad news that Mrs Vi Symons, ex Head Teacher of Harlow Green Infant School, had passed away this year. In commemoration of the impact Mrs Symons had on our school community, governors agreed to make small change to the school.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, Vi's husband and son were invited into school where representatives from the governors, along with children from our Rights Respect Group, unveiled a plaque underneath a new 'Symons Street' sign which renames the activity street corridor on the ground floor.

It was important for the school to recognise the contribution that had been made by Vi over a long period of time and, through an assembly shared with classes, it was clear that the children had clear empathy with this as all showed a tremendous amount of respect.

Mr Symons was greatly appreciative of how the school had wished to remember his wife and how there will be a lasting reminder of her within the school building.

## Children in Need



On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November, Harlow Green participated in Children in Need. On the day, the children came dressed in their spots, costumes or Pudsey accessories to raise money for the 2021 Appeal Show. Through our class assembly time, we all learned why Children in Need was created and how it originated. This gave everyone a chance to recognise and understand where our donations go and the kind of support it will offer to many children across the UK and worldwide.

During the day, children were involved in a range of activities such as completing Pudsey colourings, making cakes, having a teddy bears' picnic, and joining in physical challenges at lunchtime. However, the best was saved for last when the children had the opportunity to take part in *Splat the Teacher*, during Platinum Play. This involved numerous wet sponges being thrown at a brave set of teachers. Miss Nelson, Mrs Lewis, Mr Hollingworth, Mr Allen and Miss Hamilton all braved the sponge! These staff were soaked but were in high spirits as they knew they were helping to raise vital funds.

After all of the fun, the important outcome of the money raised was what everyone was waiting in anticipation for and, when it came, it did not disappoint with a whopping total of £791.38! We would like to thank everyone for their generosity which is always amazing, especially at a time when there are pressures on everyone.

**UNICEF Article 6: We all have the right to be alive and to develop in the best possible way.**

## Art Project

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we officially announced to our children that an exciting art project was being undertaken with the aim of producing work for school, which would represent our school community.

Leanne Billingham, who is a parent of children at Harlow Green but also a professional artist, had discussed with Mr Malik the possibility of volunteering to paint portraits of some of our children which could then be presented in school. After some discussion about how brilliant this could be, it was decided that Leanne could paint the portrait of an individual child from each of our year groups which, when finished, would be displayed as a gallery in our main entrance.

During an afternoon, each class had the fantastic opportunity to come into the hall and spend time with Leanne where they heard about the artistic process, saw some of the portraits so far and were able to ask questions to find out more. However, the most amazing aspect was that they were all able to see Leanne paint in real-time! It is not very often that you would get a chance to see a professional artist paint in real life, so the children were suitably excited. One of Year 6 children stated that this was 'a privilege' whilst a Year 1 pupil said that they wanted to be a professional artist themselves.

**UNICEF Article 29: We all have the right to develop our personalities, talents and abilities.**

## Nursery – Dentist Visit



The children in Nursery have enjoyed learning about hygiene, the importance of staying clean, and how we can all do this. This discussion was supported by the story, 'Whiffy Wilson'.

Nursery has particularly been looking at oral hygiene, which the children have enjoyed acting out in our dentist role-play area. Everyone has looked at the different tools a dentist would use and the uniform they wear (to stay protected). The highlight was a visit from Julie, a local dentist. Julie came and spoke to the children about brushing their teeth and how to do it correctly. The children liked teaching Julie our toothbrushing song to remind us to clean our gums and tongue.

**UNICEF Article 24: We all have the right to information that keeps us safe and healthy.**

## Reception – One Kind Word



During Anti-bullying week, Reception joined in to kick off the week with the 'Odd Socks Day' campaign. This highlights the importance of being unique and that regardless of our differences, difficulties and disabilities, everyone needs to be treated equally! The children learned about bullying and what this means, during assembly. The children now know that if they are having yucky feelings or feel like someone is upsetting them, then they come to a trusted adult who will try and help.

Reception have read the story 'Rainbow Fish' as part of their literacy work. The story follows the journey of a fish and how he starts sharing his shimmering scales to make friends with the other fish through an act of kindness. The children used the concept of this year's theme – One Kind Word – to share kind words across Reception and spread smiles! The boys and girls also created their own rainbow fish in the junk modelling area using various cut and stick materials and made their own kindness crowns to wear during the day to promote kindness to friends and teachers.

**UNICEF Article 15: We all have the right to friends.**

## Year 1 – Where Do We Live?



During Year 1's Geography sessions, the classes have been focusing on where they live. Some children said that they lived in Gateshead whilst others were able to say their address. The children learned that we all live in a country called England, found it on a globe and realised that England is part of the United Kingdom. Independently, everyone coloured in the country of England on a map and labelled it.

**UNICEF Article 37: We have the right to a name and nationality.**

## Year 2 – Fetch the Engines!



In DT, Year 2 designed and built a toy fire engine. As part of their research, the children learned about an inventor called George William Manby who is famous for inventing the first fire extinguisher. They also looked at different toy fire engines and decided which they liked the best and why.

When designing their moving vehicle, the boys and girls learned that the base of a vehicle is called a 'chassis' and for the wheels to turn, they need to be attached to an 'axle'. They also had to design a winding mechanism to include in their final design.

When it came to making their toy fire engine, the children began by wrapping their cardboard box in red paper. Next, the children created their winding mechanism. The children had lots of fun testing whether this part of their product worked effectively.

## Year 3 – The Sacrament of Baptism



This half term, Year 3 have been learning about Christianity. The boys and girls learned about John the Baptist and were able to retell his story using visual prompts. As John the Baptist told people to repent their sins, the children wrote about something they wanted to say sorry for. These were written on raindrops to symbolise the importance of water to the lives of Christians.

The children have also been learning about Baptism. They watched a video to understand what happens during a Baptism ceremony and they created their own sacrament symbol for Baptism. Within these symbols, the children drew images of objects or symbols they had seen used during the Baptism ceremony.

**UNICEF Article 14: We all have the right to follow our own religion.**

## Year 4 – How Do Artists Use Pencils?



For their Art topic this term, Year 4 started by looking at the ways in which artists use pencils to create realistic drawings. Mark-making is the foundation to this, and the children have been learning about all the different ways pencils can be used to mark, shade, blend and sketch. The boys and girls were then able to look at how sketches are made more realistic through detail which was then applied by everyone drawing their own feathers, branches, rocks and even onions!

**UNICEF Article 29: We all have the right to develop our talents and abilities.**

## Year 5 – Vector Drawing



Year 5 have been studying vector drawing in Computing. To do this, the classes used drawing tools within PowerPoint. Firstly, the children were introduced to vector drawings and began to develop an understanding that they are made up of simple shapes and lines. Following this, each class discussed how vector drawings differ from paper-based ones. Next, everyone was given the opportunity to experiment with shape and line tools to create a picture. The children loved adding colour and texture to their drawings and produced some excellent results ranging from houses to mice!

## Year 6 – Rock Around the Clock



This term, Year 6 have been studying World War Two. As part of this, in PE lessons, the children have been learning different types of dances that came about during wartime. They have enjoyed practising the Jive to the song *Rock Around the Clock*, by Bill Haley – a song that they have also been learning to sing as part of their singing assemblies. It has been fantastic to see their impressive dance moves including 'Funny Feet' and 'The Elvis'!

**UNICEF Article 31: We all have the right to take part in creative activities.**

## Diary Dates

### January

Bank Holiday

INSET Day

First Day of Term

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>