



The Windmills News

Issue 4: 14th December 2018

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Just a few more sleeps until the term comes to an end. What a lot we have managed to fit in: space nights and lantern making workshops; Choir concerts and carol performances; competitions and tournaments; charity events and the brilliant FOWs Christmas Fayre. The newsletter captures some of these key events.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for doing such a brilliant job to ensure that the experience that the children have, each and every day, is a great one. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team who work so hard. Your work is really valued and much appreciated. Thank you also to our parents for all your support.



I hope you have a great break and enjoy family time together I wish you all a very:



Year 4 Christmas production of 'What does Christmas mean to me?'

Year 4 have been working very hard to put together the most brilliant Christmas production!

Our musical contained elements of Christmas that every child and adult recognises. With songs and scenes that make you laugh out loud and others that allow you to reflect on the deeper meaning behind all the sparkle and fun, 'What Christmas Means To Me' is a joyful yet moving celebration of what is most certainly everyone's favourite time of year!

It begins in a school classroom where the children are about to embark on a writing assignment about what Christmas means. Each scene then visits the craziness of Christmas shopping, an ageing pop star trying to make No 1, sneaky children trying to open their presents early, having fun with Christmas crackers and then the reason why we celebrate Christmas – the nativity. It is all rounded off with the most spectacular finale.

The children sung, danced, acted and organised their way through December to put on this play for their parents.



It took a huge amount of courage and perseverance for the children to perform to the best of their ability and we are all very proud of them. It was great to see children being brave and trying to push themselves outside of their comfort zone. The result has been outstanding and the children have learnt so much about themselves.

Year 4 worked together as a big team: from the actors and staff to the prop team and technicians as well as the brilliant stage hands. Without this collaboration, the play would not have been so successful.

Kim Wright, from JK Theatre Arts, supported the dancing and choreography and put together the exhilarating finale which the children loved. They positively beamed during it.





"It's been a pleasure being in the Year 4 play and I love that I've been chosen to do my favourite thing being with my friends and that's how I like to spend Christmas." Jack



"I like the part I was given because it makes people laugh and I love the line I was given." Bruno



"It's been very enjoyable to be working with people that you don't really know and making new friends." Carolyn

"It's been a wonderful experience being in the play and I love my part. Also, I've enjoyed it so much I feel like I want to do it every year." Ewan

"I've really enjoyed working with new people and making new friends. I wish I could do a Christmas play every year." Romey

"I've enjoyed making props." Beau

"I've enjoyed working with Kim again and learning the dances." Dylan

"It has been quite stressful being in charge of the computer but it is also very fun." George

Eva S and Ava – Octopus "It has been really enjoyable and really fun having Kim around. It has been helpful to have good and bad feedback to help us get better."





On Friday 16th of November The Windmills took part in raising money for Children in Need. This yearly event helps the school to think about and to consider others. We talked about the key message of “Do your thing and change children’s lives across the UK”.

This year the School Council supported the event by collecting the donations on the gates. It was a truly spottacular event.

Together we managed to raise £442.41—WELL DONE ALL.





Light up Hassocks Workshop & Parade

On Monday 26th November 30 children gathered in the art room to create lanterns for our annual involvement in the Light Up Hassocks Parade. This is a wonderful event where the community comes together to mark the start of the festive period.

The children had to make a commitment to take part in the parade in order to be selected for the workshop. The lantern making is fiddly and sticky and requires an awful lot of perseverance and independence to follow the instructions to succeed in making a withy lantern. You can see this from the looks of concentration on the children's faces.

Although these lanterns are incredibly delicate during the making stage when the glue dries they are surprisingly strong.

They looked absolutely fantastic lit up during the parade.

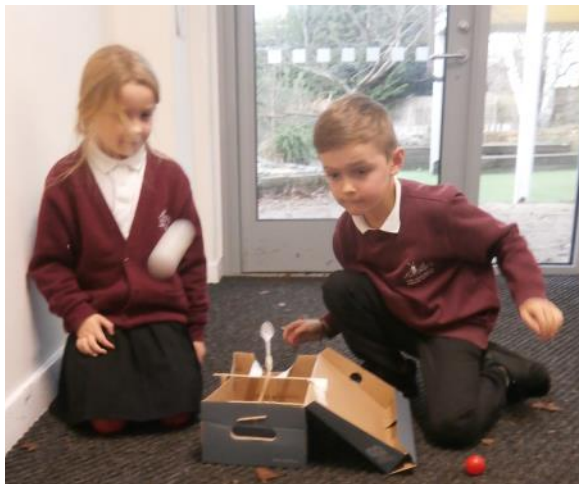
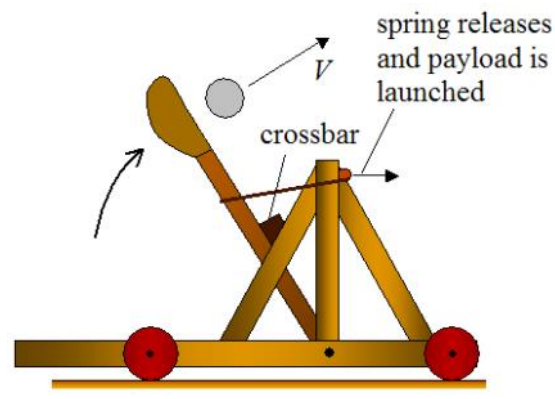


The choir also performed on the evening of the parade, singing a selection of traditional carols. This was brilliantly attended by friends and family and it was wonderful that so many of our children could take part in these two aspects of Light up Hassocks.

It had been a busy week for the choir as they had also sung at the local garden centre on the Wednesday night—again doing a brilliant job and enjoying every moment of it. Huge thanks has to go to Mrs Sinclair and Mrs B for running the choir and organising and supporting these events. We are very lucky to have this level of commitment from volunteers who do it purely for the joy of providing these opportunities for the children.

YR 3 DT project—designing and making Mangonels

In the last fortnight, Year 3 has undertaken a very exciting Design Technology project! In class, we studied the history of mangonels and trebuchets and considered how and why they were used to attack castles during the medieval times. This linked to our projects on castles and how these were protected. The Mangonel was an invaluable Medieval siege attack weapon. Mangonels fired heavy projectiles from a bowl-shaped bucket at the end of its arm.



Inspired by what we had learnt and seen, the Y3 children set about making their very own mangonels! Using shoe boxes, elastic bands, plastic spoons and wooden doweling, the children worked in pairs to create a mangonel.

The Y3 teachers and teaching assistants were really impressed by how enthusiastic and responsible the children were, particularly when it came to using saws to cut the doweling..... (We all had our fingers intact at the end of the session!)

We then tested our mangonels and discussed ways in which we could improve them. The creativity, originality and perseverance of the children really shone through here and they all made truly fantastic, worthwhile improvements to their mangonels. For instance, some added an extra elastic band to increase the power of the mangonel, whilst others decided to strengthen the structure of the mangonel by adding extra cardboard.



Finally, we re-tested our mangonels and were all amazed by the results; they were much more powerful! We had a lot of fun testing them for the rest of the afternoon and seeing how far they could launch an array of ping pong balls, cotton wall balls and pompoms! This is what the children had to say about the experience:



"I liked our DT project because we get to use saws. This made me feel grown up." Ella C

"You get to do all sorts of different things – like measuring and designing and making it your own." Maisie S

"I am really enjoying our project – especially shooting the balls across the room. This is great fun." Dylan W

"I like the project because I like working out how to make things work. It is hard to saw using the hacksaws but I am getting better at it. I think I will be able to help my dad a bit more with his projects now." Jake W

"I really liked the fact that we got to use a saw as children don't normally get to use saws until they are much older." Leon R



On the 27th November, Year 5 returned to school at 5pm to share their amazing topic work with their parents. Each year 5 classroom was filled to bursting with science, art work, writing and maths related to our topic of Space. Model planets and rockets were displayed carefully and every child exhibited their best work.

"Space night was an experience to remember. It was weird to come to school at 5pm and see the library looking like a disco."

Ishraq



This term, the children explored both our solar system and invented planets of their own. They used their imagination to write guide books to advertise and convince you to visit their planet. Many of the planets were inhabited by strange and unusual creatures which were artistically brought to life with a pen and wash technique.

To inform the visitors about each planet, the children worked in pairs to create planet posters. Boldly illustrated and carefully researched, their work was eye catching and vibrant.

"At space evening, I enjoyed looking at the other classes' work because we hadn't seen it yet." Emily

"Me and my family spent lots of

time looking at all the amazing work and reading all the interesting facts on the moon posters." Erin

The evening culminated in a variety of performances from Year 5. The children showed a film that they had produced, a shadow dance, that they filmed to The Police – Walking on the Moon. After that, they sang Space Oddity, by David Bowie.

"I really enjoyed shadow dancing because we had to create images with our bodies to the lyrics of a song." Bea

"I really liked the part when we watched the shadow dancing and sang Ground Control to Major Tom. The actions were fun and it was just a great experience." Lily

Finally, our very own set of Astronomers from The Windmills School Observatory narrated a tour of the Solar System. We were all extremely impressed with the confident speakers who took on this challenge.

"It was wonderful to see everyone's amazed faces and hear the audience burst into a roaring applause when our stand-in astronomers finished their talk." Tab



The Friends of Windmills Christmas Fayre was a great success and involved the whole community. It was wonderful to see so many of you there. Our huge thanks goes to the FOWs for organising such a brilliant event. We really appreciate the enormous amount of work and planning that goes into this. Thank you to all the children who also contributed to making it such a triumph. The choir opened the fayre with some cheerful Christmas songs which were followed by the ukulele players from Yr 3 and then the Yr 4 Boom Whackers. A wonderful festive start. The year 6 ran a fantastic array of Christmas games—read on to find out about these:



We had the pleasure of running a Christmas game stall for the fair and we came up with a reindeer lucky dip. It turned out to be brilliant. We used lots of different materials: felt, paper, cardboard and decorations. We set up our stall and made sure everything was perfect before every one arrived. We made sure that there were good prizes (sweets, chocolate and advent calendars). We charged 50p for one go and £1 for 3 goes. To play, you put your hand into the red felt and rummaged around for a ball. If they got a red ball, they would get the ultimate prize: an advent calendar. But if they got an orange ball, that would mean they would either get a sweet or a chocolate of their choice. We raised £36.57. We were really happy with the amount and our game. By Lauren C, Milly D and Matilda C .

The Christmas fair was amazing. If you played the Year 6 games, you would definitely agree. Where should I start?

On Saturday the 8th of December, me, William and Josh ran a game at the Christmas fair. We had the idea of Football Bowling for our game. To play our game, you had to kick a ball and knock down old coke Bottles wrapped in wrapping paper (the skittles). If you got a strike, we would put your name in a box which we drew at the end of the fair. The winner of the draw would get a prize (a box of chocolates). It was great fun. Luca Oliva



The aim of our game was to roll a ball, a plastic one, down a slanted slope into a plastic cup. If you wanted more of a challenge, you could try to hit Rudolph's nose to win an extra sweet. Our game was a big challenge to build and it was gargantuan. We had many people in our group: Joe French, Noah Denby, Seb Carter Olivier, Benji Griffiths, Lucas Marsden and Jasper Welfare.

Though the preparation took a lot of effort, we had lots of fun while managing our game at the Christmas fayre. There was a bit of trial and error but overall there was a lot of laughter.

We had many sweets there. So many that we even used some to decorate the stall and shared out leftovers after the fayre. We also raised over £40 for the FOWs.



Well done to the year 6 team for their terrific contribution to the Christmas fayre with their inventive and creative games. They raised an impressive:

£588.60



Cross Country—Warden Park - Saturday 1st December 18



On a wet, cold, miserable morning The Windmills cross country team set out to take part in the local running competition. The children were absolutely brilliant. They had trained for weeks and were determined to do their best, and they did.

The boys team came 2nd and the girls team came 4th. We were delighted by these results. All of the children in the top 25, of both races, go through to the Sussex competition on the 16th January and get an opportunity to be picked to run for Sussex. I am proud to say that 7 of our children got through to the county finals and we wish them all the very best of luck.



The weather was absolutely dreadful. It had rained really hard all night and was still raining. The course was really muddy! At the start of the race there was lots of pushing and shoving as 150 boys tried to get the best starting position. Callum M



We had trained hard in order to be well prepared for the race. I actually found it easier to do well in the race because there was more people to try and catch and overtake. I was determined to get in the top ten. I was delighted to have come in 7th. I got through to the next round and I am already training for that.

Henry A

I did much better than I thought I would do. I had struggled in training the week before and I was worried that I would be nervous but on the day I just enjoyed the running. I came 16th and got through to the next round. I was amazed as I thought I would be in the bottom half. Jasper W





“During the race it didn’t feel like fun as you were concentrating so hard on doing your best. However, there was a sense of satisfaction once you had completed it. I was really proud to come 17 out of 120.” Katie L



“When we started I felt nervous until he said go. By the time I had completed my second lap I felt that I would be able to do it. I decided to sprint at the finishing line, to do the very best that I could. I came 57 out of 120 so ended in the top half which was my goal.” Rosie T



I was very excited to take part in the race. It was the first time that I had ever competed in a running race. It was really challenging and the weather made it even harder. I was really proud that I finished and I enjoyed the experience . Cee Cee

Dance Workshop

On Wednesday 5th December a group of Year 4s headed over to Downlands to take part in a dance workshop. The children were separated into three groups and worked with the Year 10 Sports Leaders on a Christmas dance to perform at the end of the morning. All children in each group worked very hard showing excellent perseverance and enthusiasm throughout. When rehearsals were complete, each group had their chance to shine on the stage and perform their festive routine. All performances were brilliant and it was really impressive to see what they had achieved in such a short space of time. Well done, Year 4s!



Sports Hall Athletics

On Tuesday 13th November, The Windmills participated in a Mid-Sussex Active sporting event, Sportshall Athletics, and competed against various schools. Everyone put a lot of effort in and contributed to the team. Everyone enjoyed it and we were all encouraging to each other.

There were many events in the different disciplines of field and track. The only difference to previous athletics events was that it was all inside in a hall. This changed some of the way things were done. For example, because we were in the hall, we had to run up and turn on a kick board for distance races .

Each child could do a maximum of 2 track events and 2 field events. The track events were mostly running, but different ways: under and over relay, 4 times 1 relay and many more. The other field events were a variety of jumping and throwing activities. The scores were very close between every team but we managed to come second out of seven schools. The team that won was only four points ahead of us which was very close. By Milly Dagleish and Katie Lawson.



Chess Competition—

Our fantastic team proudly represented the school in a local chess tournament hosted by Downlands. They did absolutely brilliantly. The concentration in the hall was intense and the team played each game well. Great Job!



Wishing all our families the very best over the festive period.

School starts back on Thursday 3rd of January for ALL, 8.55 prompt.

I look forward to hearing all about the Christmas festivities and the children's New Year resolutions.

