



Cumber Craic

December 2014

A Christmas Show (Or Two)



At the start of December Key Stage 1 and the Foundation Stage put on a wonderful Christmas play. This year was a little different because instead of one long play they put on two short plays.

One play was by P1 and 2 and it was about the real meaning of Christmas, Jesus' birth. P3 and 4 performed a play about getting all the presents and Father Christmas, set to Clement Moore's poem 'A Visit from St. Nicolas'.

After much practicing they unveiled their performance to the rest of the school for their dress rehearsal. We loved it, especially the song in the KS1 called 'Ooh, what's out in the snow?'.

The evening performance went ahead to a packed house. All the children enjoyed putting on these performances and were very tired by Friday, so their teachers gave them double homework over the weekend.

By Elle Robinson



Literacy Week

In November the whole school was involved in our Literacy week. Every class took time out to focus on Literacy of all kinds.

P6 debated on whether woman should fight wars or should they not. P6 voted five times with much discussion in between. After the final debate they voted that woman should not fight in wars.

P5 researched witches and wrote some reports about Ruby red. They said she was an old evil hag.

The whole school got to meet Liz Weir, an author, and she took us through how to set up and plan a story. We had a visit from the library service who came out and read to us as well.

On the final day of the week the foundation stage came to school in their pyjamas and danced!

By Rachael Connell

Christmas Fayre

On the 6th of December we had our annual Christmas Fayre. We had lots of different stalls, craft stalls, food stalls, jewellery stalls and even a chocolate fountain!

Some of the primary 7's had their own stalls, some of the boys had a calendar and poster stall, some had a sweet stall and the girls had a jewellery stall and a hand craft stall. All together the school made £2,280.

All the P.7's in total made £257.18.

There was also the bran tub, a colouring competition and a visit from Santa and Mrs Clause, in the morning the children had a chance to have breakfast with them! There was also a chance for the parents to have a cuppa!

We had another great school fayre and everyone enjoyed it.

By Lydia Hibbert & Molly McCorkell
P7

Accelerated reader!

By Robyn Buchanan

Accelerated reader started in April this year. Since then we all enjoy reading much more. We read books then we take online tests on them. You are put on a level that isn't too hard and not too easy for you. P.3 have recently joined in October and started off on green level and as they progress to orange then blue, yellow, red and black. When you take a test you are given a percentage and if you get three 100% in a row you can go to Mrs Smyth's office for a prize. At ever half term we see how many points for taking tests you have. For each level you need a certain amount of points for a big prize.

One hard worker has read over one million words since September.

Congratulations to Vitoria Haggan for becoming our first millionaire.



Here are our first prize winners.

Nature Walk



In October P5 and 6 went to Roe Valley country park. The walk was led by Mick Conway, an expert on woods and wildlife.

We met him in his cabin in the woods and he explained all that we would be doing on the day and then off we went. The first thing we noticed was an apple tree. We were looking for seeds as we went, we found acorns, fir cones (slightly eaten by squirrels), and helicopters.

We also looked at leaves of the trees to help us identify them. Mick called ash leaves the two times tables leaves as they go up in pairs. We went on a minibeast hunt and found lots of millipedes and spiders.

We moved along a trail where Mick told us to look for mushrooms. We found lots. One of the mushrooms shot out powder when you squeezed it.

We had a great day and really enjoyed learning about nature.

By Ryan McSparron



Planting Trees

In November P5 and P6 went on a trip to Brackfield forest. We went on a trail hunt, looking for clues and tracks to identify which animals were in the wood. We saw a horse running free around us.

We went down to the planting site and saw that some other schools had already started planting trees. Together P5 and P6 planted 200 trees. The plan is to plant thousands and turn the field into a forest.

Then we went to Cumber House and had our well earned lunch. WE were told a story about Paddy Oak Tree and Johnny Apple Seed and how they planted so many trees in their life that they changed mountain tops and counties. Finally, we got to plant our own acorns and took them home. P6 had already planted some at school so we were allowed to take them home. After a cold, hard days work we came back to school.



Forest School



In Primary 7, we participate in a scheme called Forest Schools, where we go outside into our top quality forest.

We do different lessons and create different things. We do Forest Schools on a Tuesday. One time we made potions for Halloween. We collected materials that were lying on the forest's ground, and mixed them together with water. In another lesson we made mini Forests. We made things for bugs in another lesson.

We also made Forest shops.

Our lessons were well prepared by our teacher Mrs Campbell and Mark.

We had a chance at the end of each lesson to say if we enjoyed it or not.

By Adam Eakin and
Matthew Haslett P7