

# Windmill Whispers



Issue 3 – December 2016

Here we are...the end of 2016 is in sight and already, here at Windmill, we are absolutely looking forward to 2017! What a year it has been! Amazing school trips out, visitors in, learning-focused every step of the way. It would be impossible to review everything that has happened in the past year! What I will say is that I am so proud to be Principal of such a great school with wonderful children, parents and staff. I love coming to work every day and that is because the whole Windmill community is so awesome! Have a great Christmas everybody and we'll see you all in 2017. Mr C

## **Year 1 Marvellous Middle**

In Year 1 our marvellous middle was all about the 5 senses. We had lots of fun investigating the different senses. We had to identify by taste different foods including lemon curd and marmite! We also used our sense of smell to identify different ones in smell pots which included coffee and garlic. For our sense of touch, we had lots of fun feeling inside the feely boxes although some of us found it hard not to peep! Finally, we investigated our sense of hearing and carefully sorted sounds and our sense of sight by looking for objects. As always it was great to receive such great support and fun was had by all! *Miss Ridsdale*

## **Sanders Class Assembly**

Sanders class assembly was a magnificent event. They told the whole school about their learning based on the book Skellig. Their horrific creations of monsters terrified the audience and we were impressed by their silk painting, which we know they'd worked so hard on. All the children showed great enthusiasm and confidence to share their leaning with the whole community! Well done Sanders class! *Mrs Durrheim*

## **Children In Need 2016**

WOW! Our community certainly showed massive amounts of respect and compassion by raising £385 for Children In Need. Well done to everyone for wearing mufti, bringing cakes for the cake sale and donating. *Mrs Tracey*

## **Christmas Science**

An assembly on Science Enquiry Day on the 2nd December posed the question...'Can the magic of Christmas mix with Science?' The children had an amazing day developing their Science skills and investigating a whole range of activities linked to this question! Children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 designed and tested packaging to send a snack to Santa, in Year 3/4 children developed their knowledge of the polymer in Magic Snow to test nappies and in Year 5/6 children investigated a range of Christmassy themes including catapulting Snowmen! All in all another fantastic Science Enquiry Day! *Mrs Brett*

## **Sportshall Athletics**

Wow! An amazing event, where Windmill performed brilliantly! It was a tense afternoon with a lot of tough competition. Our athletics team worked hard and managed to win almost all of their races... Sprinting, hurdles, perlauf, relay... You name it, we did it! The girls team won every one of their races, working hard as a team and cheering one another on. The boys came 1st in most, one 2nd and one 3rd. All of the children represented Windmill fantastically, showing great unity and sportsmanship throughout the whole competition. With track and field events combined, Windmill came in 4th overall; a fantastic time was had by all! Go Team Windmill! *Mrs Durrheim*

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all of us at Windmill Primary School.*

### **Reception Stay and Play**

Reception hosted their first Stay and Play session last week for parents and what a super turn out we had! The children were buzzing showing parents all the activities they could do in the classrooms, as well as showing off our amazing outdoor area! It was fantastic to see so many people attend and the atmosphere in the classrooms was in the words of Mr Coleman 'awesome!' Look out for our next date for Stay and Play which will be announced early in the New Year. Thank you for coming! *Mrs Frost*

### **Knighton Class Assembly**

Knighton Class took us on a wonderful journey through our solar system last week. As I said at the end of the assembly, it was like taking part in a massively focused science lesson. The depth of knowledge and understanding that the children displayed was exceptional. Well done guys!

*Mr Coleman*

### **Church Visit**

On Monday 12th December the children in Reception walked to the local church St Peter's. There we learned how the church gets ready for Christmas. We looked at the Advent crown and found out what each of the five candles represented. We looked at the crib and heard the Christmas story and how Christmas is a celebration of Jesus's birthday and finally we talked about the Christingle and what each of the parts represented. The children really enjoyed their visit and were able to both ask and answer lots of questions using what they had learned from performing their own Nativity. *Miss King*



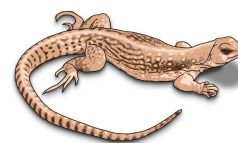
### **Christmas Counts!**

Well...Christmas wouldn't be the same without a nativity play. And what a play it was! Full of energy, enthusiasm, courage and confidence! The children sang beautifully, spoke confidently and most importantly loved every minute of the performance. I don't think I have smiled for half an hour solid like that before! Amazing stuff...well done to all of our reception children and big thanks to all of the early years team who made it happen! *Mr Coleman*



### **Raptorxotics visit**

On 15<sup>th</sup> December in Year 1 we had a visit from Raptorxotics. This linked greatly with our theme 'It's getting dark outside' as this term we have been learning all about nocturnal animals. The children absolutely loved being visited by an Owl, Lizard, Scorpion, Hissing Cockroach and Madagascan hedgehog. They were even allowed to touch the animals and see them up close. It was great to see the children so enthusiastic and engaged in their learning. A great way to end a fabulous term! *Miss Catling*



### **Year 5/6**

Our End-of-Term experiences were fabulous in Years 5/6. We were visited by a Planetarium (kindly paid for by the RWSA) on Wednesday. We learned so much more about Space, with a focus on constellations. The children loved it so much that they couldn't stop talking about it the following day! During alien day, we all enjoyed dressing up as aliens, completing Alien inspired maths codes and being very creative! Knighton Class made a 3D solar system and Gravestock and Coggins classes began their War of the Worlds inspired collage. A brilliant end to a brilliant term! *Mrs Durrheim*

### **Fab Finale**

Year 2 had a royal time at their Fabulous Finale. They made tea party treats and then were set the challenge of drawing a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II with their families, who came in to join us. We had some fantastic results which can be seen in the Year 2 cloakroom in January. *Mrs Bashford*

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec saw children and staff come to school in their Christmas jumpers. We raised £230.80 for Save the Children, well done everyone!

Kiarna Wills in Nichols Class would like to say a big thank you to all those who purchased her homemade trinkets, she raised a massive £65 for JDRF supporting type 1 diabetes. THANK YOU! Well done Kiarna.

**Dates for your Diary – This is subject to change and will be updated in every issue so please keep checking!!**

Term ends Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**Term 3 Spring 1**

Training Day for staff Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Term starts Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Year 6 Swimming Lessons Start Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Year 6 SATs Evening Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

Term ends Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Term 4 Spring 2**

Term starts Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Year 6 to Frontier Centre Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Year 6 Yearbook Photos Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Term ends Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

**Term 5 Summer 1**

Training Day for staff Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Term starts Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Bank Holiday Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Year 6 SATs week W/C 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Term ends Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Term 6 Summer 2**

Term starts Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Year 1 Phonic Screening week W/C 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Year 5/6 Production 6pm Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Year 5/6 Production 6pm Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2pm Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Term ends Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017