

WINDERMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter 9

27th February 2017

Learning Science Together

The second half of this term started with a whoosh and a bang. *Mad Science* launched our Science themed Learning Together Week with an assembly at which Kia used a strong blast of air to defeat gravity and hold a beach ball in mid-air and one of the mad scientists created a fiery explosion with icing sugar.

Mad Science continued their visit to us with a workshop for every class - from creepy crawlies to dry ice, there was some fascinating scientific discoveries being made in every corner of the school. Thank you to our PTA and your support for their activities, which funded these brilliant workshops.

Carousel Day

Day two was carousel day - the children were put into mixed groups and then spread out around the school to carry out different investigations. Every child got a chance to do two out of four activities: blue gloop, bouncing rubber balls, big bubbles and spaghetti structures.



Exploring 'blue gloop' and structural engineers using spaghetti and marshmallows.

Design a Flower

One of the biggest STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) challenges of the week was to create a flower or flowers from just four sheets of A4 recycling paper.

The catch? No glue, staples, sellotape or paper clips are allowed.

The children used scissors and simple folds and twists to create fascinating flowers. We will be choosing the best examples and enter them into a County competition.

"I made a bouncy ball by adding lemon juice to rubber liquid. It was really good."

- Joshua Year R



Some of the clever flower designs



Artsmark

As you know we are working towards our Artsmark award. Mrs Baskerville is spearheading the project, but everyone is doing their bit.

Our hall displays are always stunning and attract many compliments from our visitors. They are posted on Twitter so that you can see all of the displays there, but if you aren't a Twitter user, they are also on the website.

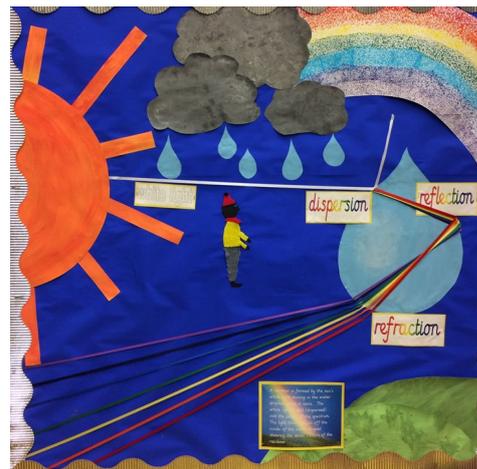
Art isn't the only aspect of our work that contributes to the Artsmark award. Our music assemblies and performances (O2, Alban Arena, Royal Albert Hall and the end of year/Christmas events) are also a key feature. Since we started our musical assemblies it is wonderful to see how much they have developed and the confidence our children show in performing for others.

To achieve the Artsmark, we are compiling a casestudy explaining what we have achieved in recent years. If you would like to comment on any aspect of the school's art culture i.e. music, drama and art, please drop us an email and let us know what you think.

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We're working towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts Council England



Some of our new science displays - check out the rest of the set on Twitter @WindermerePS

Windy City

On Thursday Storm Doris visited the school. We were fortunate that it did little more than break small branches off some of the trees. However it was decided that, despite being a dry and sunny day, with the strong gusts of wind at lunchtime and in the afternoon, it was safer to keep the children indoors rather than expose them to the risk of injury from flying debris.

It was also necessary to postpone the girls' football match on Thursday afternoon. There was a danger that the girls' themselves might have been blown away! This will be rescheduled and we will let you know when we have a date.

What a load of rubbish!

Year 4 have been looking at the impact of people on the environment and their particular focus on Friday was the amount of rubbish that has been left around the school. They found a shocking amount of sweet wrappers, bottles and other rubbish.

They ran their own assembly to encourage the rest of the school to not drop litter on the ground. Please make sure that you and your children don't drop

Parent Power

Whilst on the topic of rubbish, one of our parents, dismayed by the amount of dog poo left by the school gate, contacted the council and they have apparently agreed to come over and clean up on a daily basis, which is brilliant news.



Linking in the drainage systems

Concrete, Pipes and Bells

Over half term there has been a lot of work going on at school. Builders, plumbers and electricians all moved in on Monday and started work on three different projects!

Luckily the builders have set up a special compound so that they can work safely, which is just as well as we've had diggers, cement mixers and lorries moving around on the site.

So far the good weather (apart from when storm Doris put in an appearance) has meant that the work is on schedule. The foundations have been laid and hopefully this week we will see the steel uprights go in and the building will start to take shape.

Meanwhile a separate project to solve our water leak also got underway. A new above ground water system is being installed throughout the school. This should be completed over the next couple of weeks, which will be a great relief to us all!



The bells, the bells...

Well more specifically, *sirens*. Up until now the fire protection for the school has been the original 1950s mains electric alarm system. There were just four call points spread around the school and no smoke detectors or emergency lighting. Luckily because all of the classrooms open onto the field or playground we are able to evacuate the entire school within just a couple of minutes.

However now we have a brand new wireless alarm system with call points beside every exit. We used it to practise our evacuation procedures on Tuesday and it was very successful.

Some of the emergency lighting is still to be installed, but that is will be completed at Easter.



Pouring concrete for the foundations

Sporting Success

The football team played a fantastic game against How Wood just before half term and they were rewarded with a 6-2 win. Well done!

Miss Baldwin, who has set herself a personal challenge of getting the children fitter, has introduced a new fitness programme, *Fitter Future*, that can be done indoors or outside and which can be done at home too. Some classes have participated in a trial, but later this week there will be an assembly to show the children how much fun they can have whilst getting fitter. We will be sending out information on how to log in at home and gain extra credit for working out at weekends.

Give It A Go

One of our aims at school is to introduce children to different sports. Sometimes it can take a while for a child to find a sport that suits them. For some a team game with lots of running is great, but for others a more individual sport with different skills is the sport of choice.



This week Year 5 have been introduced to **lacrosse**. Originally a native American game played with 100 -1,000 players on a field that could be up to 3km in length, it is now a team of 10 players using special sticks with nets to catch, cradle and pass the ball.

Forthcoming Events ...

28th February - Boys football v St Bernadette's (away)

1st March - Netball v Aboyne Lodge (home)

2nd March - World Book Day - dress up as your favourite book character. Book vouchers will be coming out so that you can get a new book to read.

2nd March - Boys' football v Park Street (home)

3rd March - Year 2 Sharing Assembly at 9am

8th March - Cross Country at St Columba's

10th March - Year 1 Sharing Assembly at 9am

17th March - Year R Sharing Assembly at 9am

17th March - *RockSteady* workshops and parents' assembly at 2:30pm

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Active Kids

Don't forget that we are collecting the Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's. The collection box is in the dining room, so either drop the vouchers off at the office or give them to your child to hand in.

And finally...

Please park considerately. Whilst you may be 'only a few minutes', remember that some of our neighbours (on both sides of Windermere Avenue) have to put up with a constant stream of parents parking outside their homes.