

Robert Wilkinson Round-Up

*A half-termly round up of events and activities
at Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy*



Foreword from Sarah Wright, Principal



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all! This newsletter aims to share with you some of the exciting curriculum news and community events that have happened across school last half term. Our day to day communication will continue to be provided by our ParentPay system.

As you can see, it was a very exciting and busy half term! Each year group are sharing their particular highlights with you yet I would like to give a very special mention to our School Council, Team Captains and Choir. Last half term all three groups were fantastic ambassadors for our school; attending local commemoration events for Remembrance Day and organising and running a very well attended Pensioners' Tea.

The term finished with another brilliant Xmas Factor day, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. In my opinion, it was better than the TV version! The children, both audience and performers were amazing! We finished off with a very moving, whole school, flash mob performance of 'A Million Dreams' from the Greatest Showman. We performed this as a wedding present for Mr and Mrs Carrigan (Miss Whitford).

The new term has started well and we all enjoyed an excellent Snow White Pantomime to blow away the Christmas cobwebs.

Welcome to Mrs Foster, Mrs Sessford and Mrs Hunt. Mrs Foster will be supporting Miss Tunley on the reception desk and with first aid. Mrs Sessford is joining the play worker and SEN support team. Mrs Hunt is joining us as a play worker.

We hope you enjoy reading our curriculum news.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Sarah Wright

Key Dates

JANUARY		
31 st	WHOLE SCHOOL	Clothes to School Collection (clothes recycling)
FEBRUARY		
12 th	FS2, Years 1 & 2 KS2, Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	KS1 Open Doors 2.20 – 3.50 KS2 Open Doors 2.20 – 3.50
15 th	FS2, Years 1, 2, & 3	Valentines Disco 4.30-5.30
15 th	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Valentines Disco 6.00-7.15
w/c 18 th	WHOLE SCHOOL	Parent Consultations Week
19 th	Madrid Parents	Pre-exchange parents' meeting 3:15
19 th	Pupil Concert - Orchestra	Invitation Only – More Information to Follow
22 nd	WHOLE SCHOOL	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

Pre-School

Pre-School had a really busy Autumn term! We now have a record breaking 63 children on roll and are welcoming 10 new starters in January.

We have loved going to Forest Schools in the Autumn. We enjoyed looking at the changes in leaf colours, we enjoyed jumping in the leaves and listening to them rustle as we gathered them in our hands. We read the story of “Leaf Man” and collected leaves to make our own Leaf Men. We then made up stories about our new characters.

Our favourite part of the term was a visit from Father Christmas at our Christmas party! He brought us presents and was very impressed at our singing of Christmas songs!



We have also enjoyed visiting Cook School with Mrs Seabourne where we had great fun making biscuits – and taking them home to eat!



EYFS – The Nativity

The children in FS2 worked incredibly hard to put on a fantastic performance of 'The Nativity'! We certainly gave the John Lewis advert a run for its money....We were so proud of how confident the children were when on stage after less than a term in school, whether they were narrating, singing, acting or dancing.

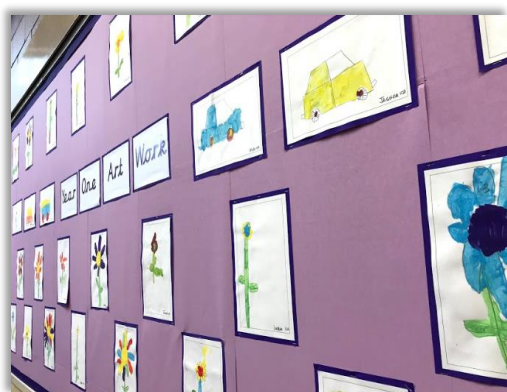
A big 'Thank you' goes to all the parents for providing/making costumes, helping the children to learn lines and songs, and for purchasing tickets, biscuits and photos. The money raised has gone towards buying lots of lovely new guided reading books for the children to read and enjoy.

The children definitely left everyone with that magical Christmas feeling after the performances so a big 'well done' to everyone!



Year 1

Last term, we really enjoyed learning about primary and secondary colours. Mrs Brooke taught us how to mix two primary colours to make a secondary colour. We recorded our learning in zig-zig books that are on the washing lines in our classrooms. Then we learnt how to sketch an object, we decided to sketch cars and flowers. After that, we studied Paul Klee's work; we focused on how he painted in block colours. Therefore, we painted our objects in block colours and painted by number to ensure we used primary and secondary colours. We are very proud of our final pieces of work; they are now in the brown hall on display!



Year 2 – Great Fire of London

In year 2, we explored the Great Fire of London in our learning challenge. As part of this, we designed and made our own fire engines whilst learning design and technology skills.



We also created our own home project, which showcased the Great Fire of London in a creative way.

We also had a Science day where we explored the properties of materials. We attempted to beat the Guinness World Record for stretching a curly wurly (unfortunately, we did not beat it, but we made a good effort!)



Year 3

Full steam ahead in Year 3!

What a busy half term, the children were certainly ready for a restful Christmas celebration!

During the Autumn term we continued with our theme of 'Full Steam Ahead' which really seemed to tune into their interests. As part of the topic the children explored seaside holidays and produced some super seaside advertising pictures. The children used printing as part of their art with Mrs Brooke to create pictures in the style of Victorian posters. It was great to see that some children had a go at creating some of their own at home, 'Visit Beautiful Bridlington, how could you not be tempted?'

As part of our conclusion to the topic, and with much excitement, we all headed to the National Railway Museum. During the day we excitedly located the replica Rocket train, Mallard and Royal train. We had two very interactive workshops exploring speed, steam and pressure which saw Mrs Leigh and Mrs Keaney going head to head in a battle! The children represented the school brilliantly, showing plenty of enthusiasm and knowledge. We may even have the next George Stephenson in our year group!

Writing, letters, instructions and story writing all formed part of English during the Autumn half term. We wrote a set of instructions for how to wash a woolly mammoth which helped us to use descriptive language and use of imperative verbs. We also used our best persuasive language to persuade hunters to stop hunting polar bears, a topical and emotive issue.

As usual we continued to embed our key characteristics of independence, problem solving, collaboration and resilience. We will continue to revisit this and already the children are showing greater understanding and are demonstrating them in their learning and at play.

Keep up the great work Team 3!



Year 4

Year 4 had an enjoyable first term, taking part in lots of fun learning. Our rugby sessions were led by York Knights and we took part in some competitive games using all the skills we had learnt.

We had an unexpected intruder in our school grounds - the dragon! From this, we created some fantastic fiction writing.

After lots of practice threading our needles, we created some Christmas tree decorations which we hoped you all admired over the festive period.



Year 5

Last half-term, in year 5, we looked at fairgrounds as part of our Victorian topic. The children combined their skills within art, DT and science to create their own working models. The children had to be collaborative and work together and be resilient as they overcame the challenge of failing mechanisms! The end products were amazing and unique, well done year 5!



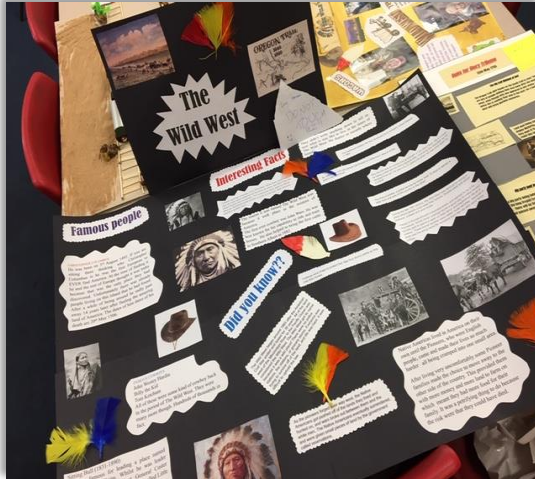
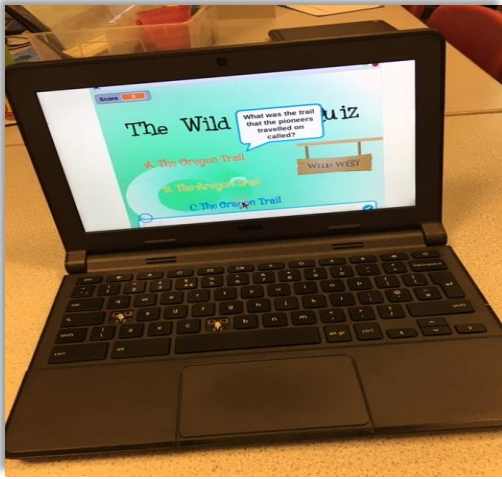
Year 6

Last term in Year 6, our topic was 'The Wild West'.

As part of this topic, we looked at several aspects such as who the Pioneers were, their reasons for moving to The Great Plains, how their lives changed and the impact their migration had on the Native American community.

The children carried out research around the topic, created silhouette art work, prepared a cowboy dinner in Cook School and also made their own personal 'Dream-Catcher'.

At the end of the topic, the children were given the opportunity to share and celebrate their homework challenge where each classroom was turned into a museum.



Cook School

Cook School is always very busy in the run up to Christmas.

We had the School Council making mince pies for the Pensioners Tea and FS2 were also very busy when they all helped make and decorate biscuits for their Nativity.

Year 3 had a great time making pork pies, which they were very proud to take home to share.

FS2 enjoyed making their fruit kebabs and we thought about how we could try to eat our '5-a-day' portions of fruit and vegetables every single day.

The Principal's Afternoon Tea party is always a lovely afternoon. The children all come in beforehand to bake for the tea and then enjoy it together with Mrs Wright. There were some amazing outfits too!



SCHOOL COUNCIL – Pensioners’ Tea Party

After weeks of careful planning, School Council welcomed elderly relatives and residents from local care homes into school for the annual pensioners' tea party. As always, the children were fantastic hosts, serving our guests tea, coffee and delicious homemade mince pies. Top quality entertainment was provided by our wonderful choir and musicians followed by a festive quiz. Well done, School Council!



Music Team

Last term was a busy one for the choir - they sang at Harvest Festivals and Remembrance Services in school as well as joining other school choirs at the University of York for an event called 100 Years 1000 Voices. The choir (35 KS2 children) sang beautifully and were a credit to the school. It was an amazing experience to part of such a large choir.



The choir also sang at the start of the Regimental Dinner at QE Barracks. Standing on the stairs, every word could be heard.



We then had four weeks to prepare three carols for Christmas. The choir were amazing - a rehearsal and three services on one day. They thoroughly deserved their choir party!

We enjoyed two after school concerts, which featured over 30 instrumental players from all KS2 years. Some played solos, others were in small groups. The concert in December was very festive and included groups of violinists, recorders and brass players.

The orchestra rehearses weekly, and numbers are growing as children become more proficient on their instruments. Playing in an orchestra is demanding and involves counting rests and note lengths precisely, following both the music and the conductor and remembering key signatures.

We are very proud of all our musicians.

Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy

West End, Strensall, York, YO32 5UH



robertwilkinsonacademy@robwilk.co.uk



01904 555160



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www.robertwilkinson.ebor.academy