

Gracefield news

Issue No: 409
Date: 23.1.2022

BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS!

It seems incredible that we are already at the end of week 3 of the Spring Term! We have adjusted to the new restrictions put in place at the beginning of term and are now looking forward to what looks like an new phase in the covid epidemic, where hopefully we can ease off a little and move on to a new normal.

I am very pleased with the way the children have adapted and simply got on with the job of learning. There is a general upbeat atmosphere in school and it is lovely to be planning activities where the children can join together again. We are looking forward to Storytelling Week when we traditionally mix up the groups so that our older children can spend time reading with the younger ones.

I am looking forward to what the rest of the Spring Term will bring and in the meantime this Newsletter will give you a snapshot of the activities we enjoyed across last term and the start of this one.

Mr Gunter
Headteacher

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD ASSEMBLY



Our Principal's Award Assembly is a very special occasion when staff nominate candidates who deserve recognition for outstanding achievements.



It was held on the last day of the Autumn Term and following the presentation, the children were rewarded with hot chocolate and cakes with Mrs Morgan in the Library, where they opened their prizes.

DIARY DATES 2022

Monday, 24th January

4.30pm-6.00pm

Parent/Teacher Conferences (Zoom)

Tuesday, 25th January

6.00pm-8.00pm

Parent/Teacher Conferences (Zoom)

Friday, 28th February

Reception and Year 1 Assembly
Flu Immunisations

28th-30th January

Big Schools' Birdwatch

Monday, 31st January

National Storytelling Week

Tuesday, 1st February

Chinese New Year

Wednesday, 2nd February

Years 5 and 6 Trip to Stonehenge

Friday, 4th February

Year 5 Assembly

Tuesday, 8th February

Safer Internet Day

Wednesday, 9th February

Years 3 and 4 Trip SS Great Britain

Friday, 11th February

Year 6 Assembly

14th-18th February

Random Acts of Kindness Week

Wednesday, 16th February

Creative Day

Friday, 18th February

TERM ENDS

YEAR 6 TURN DETECTIVE

Year 6 turned detective to complete a series of challenges at their 6@6 evening. They had to crack codes, solve clues and unlock the secrets of the rooms to compete to win the final prize. No puzzles at the end of the evening ... just pizza!



HELPING THE HOMELESS

Parents were so generous with donations of items for the homeless, we had to split them between two charities. The Wild Goose charity were delighted to receive their bundle, delivered by one of our Year 5 pupils.

A huge well done to all of Year 5 for organising the campaign, designing the posters, and for encouraging everyone to donate.



CAN WE FIX IT?



Reception children tried their hands at being mechanics, fixing the cars and scooters with their tool kit.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you all for donating to our Children in Need non-uniform day. We raised over £100 for this worthwhile cause.



3-2-1 BLAST OFF!

KS2 had a fantastic day out at the Aerospace museum in Bristol. The children learnt about aviation, from the earliest aeroplanes to space technology and were able to step on board the famous supersonic aircraft, Concorde.



Years 5 and 6 explored the physics of rocketry before designing and testing their own rockets - just like the engineers of Filton's Dynamics and Space Division.



Years 3 and 4 looked at aviation design and made paper aeroplanes, whilst exploring the history of flight.

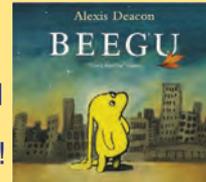


BEFRIENDING BEEGU

Reception recreated Beegu, a character from a book they read, who is from another planet and lost in our world.



Fantastic pictures and model making Reception!



CONNECTING CIRCUITS



Year 4 have been looking at circuits and switches in Science, connecting them together to make these battery operated lights work.



VISITING THE RNLI RESCUE HEROES

The children had a fantastic day out visiting Portishead Lifeboat Station. The volunteers gave each year group a different, informative presentation about water safety and the work of the lifeboats.



Our younger children were treated to a puppet show and also visited the beach to collect a pebble memento of their trip.



Years 3 and 4 learnt about the history of the RNLI and re-enacted the infamous rescue made by light house keeper's daughter Grace Darling, She became one of the Victorian era's most celebrated heroines as in September 1838, she risked her life to rescue the stranded survivors of the wrecked steamship Forfarshire in little more than a rowing boat!



The children had fun dressing up as Lifeguards and Lifeboat personnel.

The older year groups learnt about the gravitational pull of the tides according to the moon's position.



They learnt what to do and how to float, if stranded in deep water. The RNLI is entirely funded by donations and the children were shown the kit used on the boats and how expensive it is.



NETBALL TEAM ARE READY!

Our netball team are practising hard in readiness for competing in an upcoming Festival hosted by Colston's School. They are very lucky to be coached by Miss Evans who trains with Bristol Academy Netball.



EXPLORING THE FOREST

Reception and Year 1 took a trip to the forest, armed with collecting bags, to explore the woods and see what they could find on a nature scavenger hunt.



The morning was finished with a visit to the park and hot chocolate on their return to school.



DIWALI LANTERNS

Reception and Year 1 made these colourful lanterns for Diwali, the festival of light celebrating victory of good over evil, marked by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains.



ROMAN INVASION

For a short time we were able to invite parents into school to watch performances in Class Assemblies. Year 3 brought us the story of the Roman's which they studied last term. Fantastic performance and singing Year 3. Well done!



CREATIVE CAVE PAINTINGS

Year 6 have been studying the Stone Age and produced some cave paintings using chalks.



REBUILDING THE COLOSSEUM

Build It Club recreated the Roman Colosseum. It was a very complicated design but with teamwork they finished it!



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Following our Remembrance Assembly, Years 2 and 6 went to lay a wreath at Fishponds Park and observed a minute's silence in memory of all those who lots their lives fighting for the country.



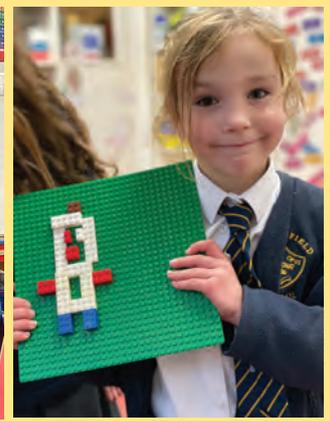
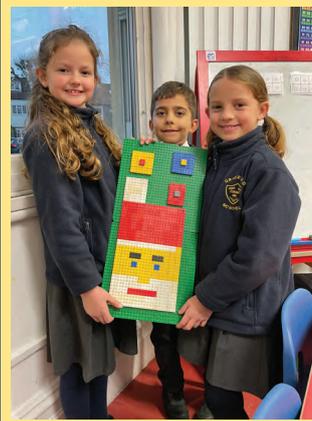
LONDON'S BURNING

Our other Class Assembly from last term came from Year 2 who brought us the story of the Great Fire of London. It was a fabulous performance with great costumes and singing. Well done Year 2!



BUILD IT DOES CHRISTMAS

Some very creative Lego models from Build-It Club.

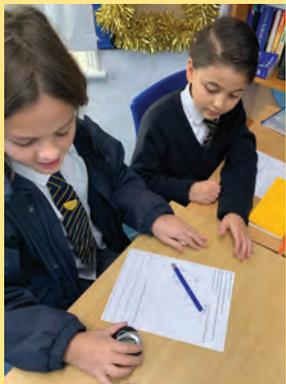


GIANT FRUIT!

We are fans of healthy snacks at Gracefield, and these giant strawberries certainly caused a stir in Reception!

YEAR 5 EXPERIMENTS WITH AIR AND WATER RESISTANCE

Year 5 have been studying forces and experimented using modelling clay to test which 3D shape creates the least water resistance. They also made parachutes to experiment with the affects of air resistance.



NEWTON'S FORCEFUL THEORY

Year 5 have been experimenting with force, measuring the relationship between weight and mass.



WHIZZ BANG!

Year 3 have enjoyed reading Philip Pullman's book, *The Firework Makers Daughter*. It tells of a brave young girl called Lila who has to go on an exciting adventure to fulfil her dream of becoming a Firework-Maker like her father.



The children received a mysterious letter, complete with burn marks, which came from the Firework Maker.



They designed some fireworks and learnt cross-hatching skills, drawing some excellent images. The children also investigated making shapes in the dark with glow sticks. They really enjoyed making edible sparklers, and learning all about reversible/irreversible changes.



TURNING CARTWHEELS

Year 4 have been practising cartwheels, ably demonstrated by Mr Ball!



IT'S IN THE POST!

Reception had a great time playing Post Office in their Home Corner. Weighing the parcels, filling their post bag, delivering the post and sometimes becoming the parcel itself!



LETTERS TO SANTA

It was a busy Christmas Season at Gracefield! KSI wrote letters to Santa and visited the local Post Office to post them and see how a real Post Office runs.



WE DID IT!



We reached our target of walking 2662 miles to the North Pole on the last day of term! Our final walk to the Christmas party as a whole school meant we reached our mile goal. We also raised over £2500 which means we will be able to purchase the life saving defibrillator which will be installed at Gracefield as soon as possible.

We want to say a HUGE thank you for all the support from our Gracefield families for both sponsorship and for helping us reach our mile goal. Some of the children reached extraordinary targets and we are very proud of their efforts.



We had a lot of fun along the way and some of our best times were when we were walking together as a group. Our Walk to School Wednesday with Santa and our Laps for Lapland playground

activity were both highlights. We will let you know our final total once all the paperwork is finalised and hopefully we will soon be installing the new equipment.



FESTIVE FUN AND GAMES

Reception and KSI's last music lesson of 2021 involved lots of Christmas singing and dressing up fun.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

We couldn't invite parents this year, but we were determined that the children would enjoy a Christmas Fair. It was a great event with lots of laughter echoing around the school. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Fair. As always, your donations are essential to its success and are very much appreciated.



STAR NATIVITY

The children gave a spectacular presentation at our school Nativity Concert. Thank you to everyone who came along to support them.



FESTIVE PE

Our end of term PE sessions for the children always contain some festive fun and craziness!



IT'S A PARTY!

The children had great fun at the Christmas Party. What a great way to end the term!

