

THE BELFORD BULLETIN

Belford First Schools Termly Newspaper



BEAMISH

When we first arrived at Beamish, we went on a slow, yellow tram. On the top of the tram we got to see all around the museum, however it was an icy day so we all got very cold.

Our first activity was to solve the mystery of James White's death. It was our mission to ask people around the Pit village what they knew about James. Ryan liked questioning the deputy best of all, as he denied that it was his fault that the accident at the mine had happened. In the end we all agreed the deputy of the mine was to blame, as he should have been looking out for James, who was only 12 years old. We went inside an old farmhouse to experience an old fashioned Christmas.

We played parlour games, baked cinnamon biscuits and made pretty peg dolls. Our favourite part was when we played hide the thimble, it was tricky but so much fun!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

We had a lovely afternoon with our parents, when we made our Christmas crafts together.



FIREWORKS SAFETY

Reg came to talk to us about firework safety. The children learnt about how dangerous bonfires can be and how to handle sparklers.



HALLOWEEN

What a frightful lot we had at Belford this year's Halloween disco (and that's not including the teachers of course!).

The children made a fantastic effort again this year with some super scary costumes and make up and enjoyed dancing to George's music.

E-SAFETY ASSEMBLY

In our E-safety assembly we learnt how to stay safe on the internet and shared this information with the rest of the school.

We demonstrated how unsafe it is speaking to people over the internet, because you never know who they are and why they really want to talk to you. McKenzie who was a narrator claimed, "I liked when I spoke on stage, even though I was embarrassed."

S Stay safe, don't give out personal information.

M Never meet anyone from the internet.

A Do not accept emails from people or companies you do not know.

R Are they reliable? Beware of people you meet on the internet.

T Tell an adult if you are worried about anything you have seen or heard.



ROAD SAFETY

Our local police officers came to chat with us about road safety. We learnt how to cross the road safely and to move further up the road if there are cars parked where we want to cross. Hopefully this will make the children and parents more aware of crossing the roads around the school.

HO HO HO

Class 1 have been busy making Santa's sleigh. The children designed an engine for it and then added some bearings.



DATES

January

24th Class 3 The Sill Resource Centre, Hexham

25th Burn Dinner

Class 1 Stay and Play

February

1st Barnabus RE day

9th Whole school parent celebration assembly

9th Break up for half term

19th Return to school

21st - 23rd Robinwood residential KS2

March

1st Design and make a sandwich with Warburtons

6th Class 2 and 3 visit a Jewish Synagogue in Newcastle

9th Mother's day assembly

29th Break up for Easter

16th April return to school

SPORT AT BELFORD



This term, the children were lucky enough to be taught tennis and gymnastic sessions led by professional coaches.

The children worked on developing their skills in both sports, improving their hand eye coordination and balance work on the apparatus. Children were also very supportive and could evaluate each other's performances.

Who knows...Belford may have the next Andy Murray and Max Whitlock!

THE BIG CITY

Class 1 and 2 enjoyed a fun filled day visiting Newcastle.

Our day began at the Discovery Museum where we explored the science maze and found out about inventions and machinery from the past. From there, we walked the busy streets of Newcastle to China Town for a delicious Chinese feast. When arriving, children had built up a huge appetite and were more than willing to try many new flavours. After all tummies were filled, we made our way to visit Paddington Bear at Fenwick's window. The children enjoyed seeing all of the mischief Paddington had been getting up to.

Finally, we made our way down the beautiful Quayside, looking at the impressive bridges of Newcastle. Children walked across the Millennium Bridge to The Baltic, where we travelled up to the view point to look out onto the River Tyne. The children had a fantastic day experiencing the busy City life!



VISIT TO BERWICK POLICE STATION

We learnt about the role of a policeman and why they had to wear different uniforms. We tried on some uniforms and got to explore the riot van! We know how to protect ourselves from strangers and got to explore the cells.

CLASS 1 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

All our hard work had paid off! We were all confident and sang beautifully. There were a lot of tissues needed in the audience!



TITANIC

Cheryl Stewart and Peter Brown came into school to perform part of the story of the Titanic. Callum enjoyed watching the play because even though there were only two performers they played lots of different characters, by changing their voices. We all had a chance to join in with acting.

Robyn's favourite part of the morning was when she got to be a servant, "You had to serve people soup and champagne." Amena's favourite character from the Titanic performance was the Italian chef called Louigi, because the man who was acting had a very realistic accent. The actors showed us different techniques that they would have used to carry people off the Titanic, and then in groups of five we were able to try them out for our self.



Dear Parents

Welcome back after the Christmas break. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are ready for another busy term.

We would like to thank you all for supporting our attendance policy. As you know one of the reasons we were graded Requires Improvement by Ofsted in the last inspection was because our attendance had dropped to 94%. For the academic year 2016-17 we achieved 95.9% in line with the national average of 96% and are currently running at 96.5%. Only six children, in the whole school, are on the persistent absentee register with attendance less than 90%. This increase in attendance just shows how happy children are at Belford First School and how engaged they are in their learning.

For the last two years our end of year data in early years, year 1 and year 2 has exceeded national expectations. **Last year Belford First School was in the top 10% of schools across the country for writing and maths. We are very proud of the progress we have made and look forward to Ofsted returning later this term where I'm sure they will be impressed by our achievements.**

The high number of educational visits, visitors to school and projects such as numeracy in the workplace help us to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our children. Last year we did some amazing work with the Peregrini Landscape Partnership which was displayed in a workshop on Holy Island. This week we have visited the Aln Valley Railway, RNLI and Grace Darling museum, and next week we will visit The Sill Education Centre in Hexham. This year we want to further raise the children's aspirations by making links with local industry and linking the skills they learn now, in school, with those they will need in the future at work. Research tells us that when children see the bigger picture and have a 'dream' there is more chance of achieving the unachievable.

As you know the statutory consultation to become a Primary School ended on Friday and the decision on whether we can become a primary school will be made by Northumberland County Council early in February. Once that decision is made we hopefully will be able to plan for September by holding a meeting to hear your views and listen to your expectations for a Primary School.

As you already know my door is always open (unless it is very cold and windy) if you would like to have a chat or discuss any of the points that have been raised in this newsletter. If you have a minute please complete the Ofsted survey on line at <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> Your feedback is always appreciated and will help shape Ofsted opinion of us when they next visit.

With regards,

Janet Robinson



CHILDREN IN NEED

On Children in Need day we came to school dressed in our pyjamas, onesies and spotty clothes.

This year we took part in a sponsored maths challenge. We went outside and had to find all of the Pudsey bears, and find the answers to times table questions to solve the mystery message 'Help other children'. After all the children had found the secret message we did Pudsey bear colour by number, using our maths skills again.



PETER BAKARE

The children of Belford have been inspired this term by Peter Bakare, a British Volley Ball player, who represented Great Britain in the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Peter came into school to share his success story of making it to the top and also to educate the children on how to have a healthy, balanced diet.

