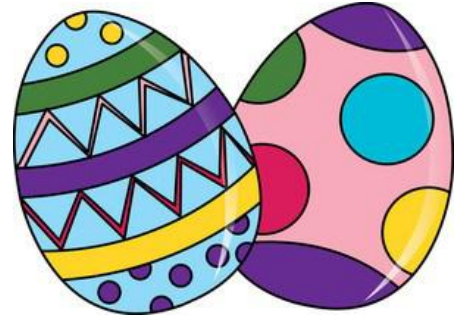


HILL WEST
Primary
FOUR OAKS



THE HILL WEST HERALD

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ISSUE 16



SPRING TERM 2018



Message from the Head Teacher



On the final weekend of this term the whole staff team came together to celebrate Mrs Nichola Leeson's 21 year tenure at Hill West Primary. As you will know Mrs Leeson leaves us at the end of this term to take up Headship at Whittington Primary School in Staffordshire. Inevitably, this has led to much reflection. Having worked together closely as Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher there has been much that we have been able to celebrate in our school's improvement journey. When I think about Mrs Leeson as a leader I think of 'servant leadership'.

Servant leadership is a very social leadership style. It places the needs of others in high regard. Servant leaders address the responsibilities and relationships in society, organizations and companies. Servant leaders ultimately seek to cultivate a deep understanding of the personal needs, emotions, fears and skills of different stakeholders in the organisation. This understanding allows the servant leader to assist and empower these people to be the very best they can be.

Servant leaders therefore become, according to Osland, Kolb & Rubin (2001), "stewards who are responsible for serving, developing, and transforming the organisation and its people." It's a selfless style: Boyatzis & McKee (2005) say that servant leadership is underpinned by the idea that leaders put aside self-interest and focus on the collective interest of other stakeholders. Hale and Fields (2007) build on this point about self-interest, arguing that servant leadership is about "emphasising leadership behaviours that focus on follower development, and de-emphasising glorification of the leader."

For me this is how Mrs Leeson will be remembered at Hill West. As a leader of and for the people. A leader who cared deeply about the achievements of others, children and staff. A leader that listened and responded with integrity. It was her ambition to empower those around her. She will be greatly missed at Hill West but her legacy will remain in the calibre and professionalism of the staff that she influenced in her time with us. I know that everyone here and across the ATLP will want to join with me in wishing her great success in the future and of course we look forward to working with her at Whittington Primary School in the months and years to come. ***Thank you Mrs Leeson for the 21 years of servant leadership at Hill West Primary School. May the next 21 years be just as amazing.***



Brookvale is a Good School with many outstanding features (Ofsted 2018).

A recent inspection by Ofsted rated Brookvale, one of our partnership schools, as a good school. This means that now all schools across our Partnership are good or outstanding. This was a strategic priority for the ATLP from the outset. We would all like to extend our sincere congratulations to the staff, governors and pupils at Brookvale on their achievements to date. Below you will find a summary from their inspection report (13th—14th February 2018).



- ◆ Teaching, learning and pupils' achievement have improved rapidly because of the relentless drive and tenacity of school leaders and governors to ensure the best outcomes for pupils.
- ◆ The latest information about the school's performance, work in pupils' books and evidence in lessons show that pupils are making good progress in their learning.
- ◆ The teaching of phonics is good. The proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard at the end of Year 1 has been above average for the past three years.
- ◆ Pupils' achievement has improved particularly well in mathematics because the teaching of mathematics has improved substantially since the previous inspection.
- ◆ Governors' vision for the school is clearly defined. It is shared by senior leaders, most teachers and support staff alike. Pupils are exceptionally well supported in their learning in a culture of high expectations.
- ◆ Subject leaders have an exceptionally clear understanding of the barriers to learning in their subjects. They have drawn up exceedingly well-designed plans to overcome these to bring about further improvements.
- ◆ Senior and middle leaders have very successfully improved disadvantaged pupils' achievement. They have spent pupil premium funding astutely to support the learning of these pupils.
- ◆ Pupils behave well around school. They are kind and polite towards each other and exceptionally welcoming of visitors.
- ◆ The pastoral manager and office manager have a highly effective impact on improving pupils' attendance. The number of pupils regularly absent from school has decreased rapidly this year.
- ◆ The early years is exceptionally well led. Learning opportunities provided have improved exceedingly well. Children make and sustain exceptionally fast progress in their learning and development from their individual starting points.
- ◆ The school's effectiveness has improved well since the previous inspection. It is continuing to improve because of the firm and decisive leadership of senior leaders, governors and officers of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership.

Time to say goodbye ...

By Mrs Nichola Leeson

Twenty one years ago, almost to the day, I came to what was Hill West Infant School, for my interview. It was a far cry from the inner city Birmingham school I wanted to work in but I immediately felt 'at home'. I met the Head teacher, Glen Stephens, and the rest of the team, had a tour and fell in love with the school...the rest, as they say, is history!

Working at Hill West has been a privilege and a pleasure. We can define school as 'an institution for educating children' but, for me, Hill West is so much more. It is the heart beat of a learning community made up of our pupils, past and present, their families and the staff.



Here, we have an amazing family of teachers, teaching assistants, cooks, cleaners, site supervisors, office staff, leaders and volunteers. They are an inspirational, hard-working, committed and passionate team of people who work tirelessly for the good of the school and its pupils. What a pleasure it has been to work alongside them! Each and every person brings something unique and special to the team and each and every one of them has helped to define and develop the person that I am today. As I move to pastures new, it is in the knowledge that I will take a part of them all with me, in the same way that I hope I will leave a piece of me behind. Thank you all!

There is a special place in my heart for the wonderful pupils at Hill West Primary School so. after 21 years, you can probably imagine how full my heart is. There is truly no place like a Hill West classroom, where you can share 'light bulb' moments, where you can experience first-hand a true sense of awe and wonder and where you can shape and mould articulate, confident citizens of the future. I can't tell you the sense of pride that you feel when a pupil that you have taught comes to tell you about something special that they have achieved, what they are studying at university or where they are working. All of our pupils are wonderful – they soak up learning like sponges and embrace experiences and opportunities with open arms and enthusiasm. They make me proud every single day.

I cannot finish there, as there are two people in school who deserve a very special mention. I am lucky enough to have worked in a Headship team with Beth Clarke and Hannah Cook – two key influences in my life. Their friendship, inspiration and support is unfaltering and unconditional. I will truly miss working alongside them every single day.

Although, I can't even think about it yet, I am certain that leaving Hill West will be an emotional experience. I know that the best things in life are the people you love, the places you've seen and the memories you've made along the way. Over 21 years, I've loved the staff and the pupils I've had the privilege of working with; I've experienced lots of places on school trips, residential and in different schools, and I've got bucket loads of wonderful memories to take with me. In one little quote, Winnie the Pooh sums it up far better than I can...

“How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard!”

Thank you all for your support over many years. Hill West will be forever in my heart!

Big Bang Science Fair

By Rhian Warrack

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for young people in the UK.

It is an award-winning combination of exciting theatre shows, interactive workshops and exhibits and careers information from STEM professionals. The show aims to show young people (primarily aged 7-19) the exciting and rewarding opportunities out there for them in Science and Engineering careers, with the right experience and qualifications, by bringing classroom learning to life.

Having grown from 6,500 visitors in its first year (2009) to over 70,000 in 2016, The Big Bang Fair is made possible thanks to the collaborative efforts of over 200 organisations, including companies like GSK, Siemens, JCB, Rolls Royce, The NHS, BP, BAE Systems, Zeiss, ARM, BBC, Shell, National Grid, Roche.

Hill West set off from school on Thursday 16th March. As 60 excited children chattered on the coach, we wondered what we might see at the Exhibition this year and whether we would be able to collect lots of free goodies that we could bring home. On arrival we left the coach driver and headed at a brisk pace towards the NEC. Once inside, we split up into four groups and headed out amongst the stands.

The children were able to talk to a wide range of scientists and engineers about their work and were extremely impressive, as they asked questions about what people did and about the exhibits that they had brought with them to the exhibition. They discussed the science behind the activities with the exhibitors, for example, several children were really interested to learn about the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance machine, which uses magnets to change the orientation of water. The energy released when they return to their normal state is detected by sensors and then analysed by computers, resulting in the creation of images which show slices of the human body. Charley McAuley asked the scientist if part of the image he was looking at was an eye. He was correct and the scientist was very impressed that he had realised the bright shape he was looking at, was an eye, because it is full of water.

Some of the children met a Science presenter (Marty Jopson) who works on the BBC's 'The One Show' and were even able to get his autograph!

Other children talked to School students who had taken part in the Big Bang Science and Engineering competition. They were fascinated by the wide range of scientific and engineering projects undertaken by children just like themselves!



The Big Bang Fair hosts this national competitions, inviting young people from across the UK to compete, amongst other things, for the title of UK Young Scientist and UK Young Engineer of the Year. The Big Bang Competition is an annual contest designed to recognise and reward young people's achievements in all areas of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), as well as helping them build skills and confidence in project-based work.

Previous winners include young people who have since gone on to successful careers in a range of high profile companies, represent the UK at international awards and even become the youngest ever entrepreneurs to appear on BBC's Dragon's Den.

Over 500 finalists from across the country were selected to show their ideas at The Big Bang Fair where ten were then shortlisted to pitch Dragon's Den-style to a panel of high profile judges, including Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, MBE Space scientist & TV presenter, Jason Bradbury, TV presenter & gadget guru and Dr Shini Somara, Mechanical Engineer & TV presenter.

The winners of the Young Engineer of the Year title were inspired to act after Sankha witnessed a passer-by having an epileptic fit. He then teamed up with fellow Loughborough Grammar School student, David, to create a wearable vest that monitors heart rate variability and body temperature to efficiently predict an epileptic fit up to eight minutes in advance.

Two students, George and Ed, from Somerset, have been awarded the GSK Young Scientist of the Year title for their project, investigating birds' responses to colour, in the hope of using the knowledge to help airplane engineers reduce the number of bird strikes.

In their project, the students from Churchill Academy and Sixth Form in Somerset painted a series of four feeders in different colours and filled them with food. They then introduced birds to the feeders and counted the number of bird visits to the feeders and how much food the birds ate. Their investigation found that birds were more likely to feed from a feeder painted in blue.

The children from Hill West thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Big Bang Show. When we returned to school, they were able to share all of the things they had seen and enjoyed and were all really keen to say which part of the exhibition they had enjoyed the most.

This was an opportunity to find out about the kind of uses and applications there are of science and technology, and it has continued to open the eyes of the children to what their future career could be! It has also further confirmed their love of Science, Technology and learning!

We can't wait for the Big Bang 2019!



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RAF Cosford

By Mr Chris Ellison

On the 19th April, Squirrels and Moles had the fantastic opportunity to visit the RAF Museum in Cosford. After all our learning about World War II, it was great to see some genuine artefacts and machines used during the war.

Children attended a replica WWII classroom, in which they got to experience what it would have been like during an air-raid. As the siren went off, we were escorted into the air-raid shelter. Outside, the German planes could be heard overhead as the bombs began to fall. But the lessons must go on! Even in the shelters, often almost complete darkness, pupils would be expected to 'keep calm and carry on.' When back in the classroom, we learnt about life during the war, especially as an evacuee and as an ARP Warden. Children got to try on costumes, gas masks and explore a WWII-era kitchen with fully a functional Morrison Shelter.

After our WWII classroom experience, children were eager to explore more of the museum. We looked round hangers full of the machines, mechanisms and munitions used by the RAF during the wars. Being in awe of the size of the planes and their engines, enabled them to gain some perspective on the effort needed to build such complicated vehicles. That's before we even got to see a few of the tank-carrying planes! After this, we needed to give our necks a break from all the looking up. Exit through the gift shop. Followed by lunch with the rest of Year 4.

After a hearty packed-lunch (thanks, adults!), we strolled over to the last museum hangers to finish off our trip. Inside, we were greeted by some incredible science, technology and engineering activities. Exploring the materials and technologies used to create the machines we had just seen. The children compared the tensile strength of different metals, the use of cartridge bearings, communication devices and aerodynamics, amongst other plane-related experiments. So much fun, so little time! And, that's not forgetting the 4D flight experience. Children got to sit and experience what it might have felt like flying a plane in an intense, fast-paced dogfight during the war. Smoke, steam and the spray of water as bombs explode beneath them - all included.

A brilliant day out and a great way to put our learning about WWII into context.



Chateau du Broutel

By Miss Linsie Donegan

Our journey to France began, very early (5.30am) on a cold, snowy Friday morning in February, where a group of very excited Year 6 children boarded the coach (it was quite posh too). With a long day of travelling ahead we set off for the White Cliffs of Dover with lots of sweets and chocolate to eat and films to watch.



We arrived early, Year 6 were all very excited when the ferry arrived. Once aboard, we had a fantastic (albeit cold) photograph outside on the deck- 33 children and 4 adults! Year 6 enjoyed the opportunity to spend some of their euro's of sweets and chocolate. The arcade also proved to be very popular on the ferry!

Once we had arrived in France, it wasn't too long of a journey to the beautiful Chateau du Broutel in Rue. We were greeted by some excitable and friendly activity leaders. The children enjoyed a tour of the Chateau and time to chill in their rooms, followed by a delicious dinner. We were joined by Lea, who now lives in Italy, the children were so pleased that she had flown in to join us for the weekend. The children enjoyed an outdoor assault course on the first night- we thought it might tire them out after a long, exciting day.

After a great first night, most of us were feeling refreshed after a good night's sleep. Our first day entailed a tour of the grounds- it was very interesting, a walk around the town and market, all in the snow! The children and staff all had a well-deserved warm up in a local French coffee shop, all of us tucking into a French hot chocolate, after ordering it in French! We explored the local Museum's and Churches- all were very interesting. I think the children enjoyed testing out their French skills at the local market where there was food, clothes and toys on offer to buy.

The chocolate factory followed another great lunch in the afternoon. The owner, Jacob, was fantastic, and kept us all fascinated in the production of chocolate with a free chocolate! A trip to the shop to treat ourselves and our families followed. On the evening, the children enjoyed a camp fire, singing songs, telling stories and toasting marshmallows.



Sunday was spent visiting the Albert, 1916 Museum. This was extremely captivating and the children were fascinated with all that they found out about World War One. Our very lovely coach driver gave us a guided tour of the historical sites of the Somme battlefields and graves in the afternoon. Although, very thought-provoking and sombre, the children's behaviour was exemplary and we all felt proud of them. We visited La Grande Mine and the Memorial Park.



Our last evening at the Chateau involved a scavenger hunt, where children explored the grounds of the Chateau, searching for clues. This was of course after another delicious dinner which involved snails and frogs legs! Year 6 continued to be impeccably behaved on our journey home the following day, even as they squeezed in one last visit to the supermarket to buy their own lunch.



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Polar Explorers

By Mr Conor Minto

The 22nd March 2018 marked our first ever Polar Exploration Day at Hill West. Children spent the day living, eating and learning about all aspects of polar exploration. Our Polar Exploration Ambassador, Dr Anthony Green, was present to speak to the children about some upcoming and past polar adventures .



Here are some of our year 1 and 2 children enjoying some Polar Explorer's snack foods: they take these with them when exploring the polar regions as they have very little water in and so don't spoil when they freeze. Polar Explorers need to eat foods high in sugar, fat and protein. The children made *pemmican* (usually made with dried fruit, molasses, and for some people - beef jerky too). They also made polar sandwiches with peanut butter or biscuit spread and rich tea biscuits.

The children also got to try on some of the actual thermal clothing worn on polar expeditions! Look at the size of that coat!



Dr Anthony Green gave a really interesting assembly to the children and had them all gripped, telling everybody about his polar adventures and how to get involved themselves. We have to give a special thank you to our very own Dr Rhian Warrack, who oversaw and organised the whole day and without whom this amazing, informative and fun-filled day wouldn't have been possible.



The outdoor activities

were so much fun. They ranged from building dens in the forest with Mr Carrol, to weighted sledges across the field with Dan (the Rugby Coach from Veseyans RFC). Even the staff got involved. Here's Mrs Kaur and Mrs Anderson giving a very happy Miss Jones a pull on their sledge.

Celebration Breakfast for Science By Dr Rhian Warrack

On Monday 19th March, Dr Rhian Warrack welcomed around 50 talented Hill West Scientists to the Key Stage 2 Hall, to our first Science Celebration Breakfast. The children were accompanied by an adult – and there were a wide variety of people including fathers, mothers and Grandparents. On arrival, people were welcomed into the hall and invited to collect their breakfast from Anita, who had kindly given her time to prepare a delicious cooked breakfast. Everyone said that they had thoroughly enjoyed the food and a very grateful Dr Warrack thanked Anita and her staff in the kitchen for preparing such a delicious meal.

Once we had all finished our breakfast, Dr Warrack explained that as part of her role as the Science lead at Hill West Primary School and as a Senior leader of Education for Science, she was delighted to celebrate the development of superb practice in Science at school and to share the

achievements of children who class teachers have identified as excelling in science with people that mean a lot to them.

We celebrated the fact that enquiry based and hands-on learning in Science at Hill West continues to go from strength to strength.



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A wide range of topics have been covered by the children present at the celebration breakfast including: electricity, light, plants and animals, adaptation and evolution, forces, space, seasonal changes and habitats, no name but a few. Each child was presented with a certificate to reward their achievement and everyone was able to pose for a photograph.

Before we finished our morning, we carried out an experiment with snow and bubbles, to see if we could make ice-crystals form on the bubble.

The event was concluded when Dr Warrack thanked people for attending and we very much look forward to sharing the scientific achievements of our pupils next time.



Spring Musical Evening

By Lara Jones



What a wonderful time we had again this year for our annual Spring Music Evening. The hall was packed with over 100 parents and children and there was a buzz of excitement in the air.

The evening started with our school choir, who have grown in size again and gave us an uplifting account of 'One and a Million' by Emily Barden. This was followed by our Year 5 and 6 flutes and clarinets, who played a number of pieces in solos, duets and trios, including an amazing rendition of 'Oh When the Saints', where all the children played their parts brilliantly.



This was then followed by our brass department. Starting was Jess, who played 'Where is Love?' from the musical Oliver on the tenor horn and it was amazing to see the progress she had made in a year. Following Jess came Naomi, who I played a duet with (she kept me in time!) and finishing off the brass were our new starters on trombones, who played 'Hot Cross Buns'.

We then welcomed on the choir where they sang two traditional songs. The first, 'Will ye go, Lassie, go?' was sang sweetly and showed the choir splitting into different groups and this was then followed by a traditional African song called 'Si Njay Njay' that got all of the audience tapping their feet.





We then heard from our army of guitars who entertained us with a variety of music, including 'Tango' and 'James Bond'. Within this set, we also heard our more experienced guitarists play challenging music such as 'The James Bond Theme' and Lady Gaga's 'Bad Romance'.

After the guitars we listened to our violins, which included our youngest performers of the night from Year One, all the way up to Year 6. They played with such confidence and again wowed the audience. It was here that you could see our older children really flourish and show how much they have progressed over the years- well done all!

Our last instrumentalist was Eva Morris on the piano, who played a piece from her grade 1 exam. She played so rhythmically and joyfully and her piece was enjoyed by everyone!

To close the evening, the choir came back to sing one last time. They performed songs from the stage and screen, first with 'Scales and Arpeggios' from the Disney film The Aristocats and finishing our concert with 'Bad guys' from Bugsy Malone. Smiles were beaming as they finished this song and I know they fully enjoyed performing it.

Congratulations to all of the children on their performances, they were truly all superstars and it was the biggest and best Spring Music Evening to date.

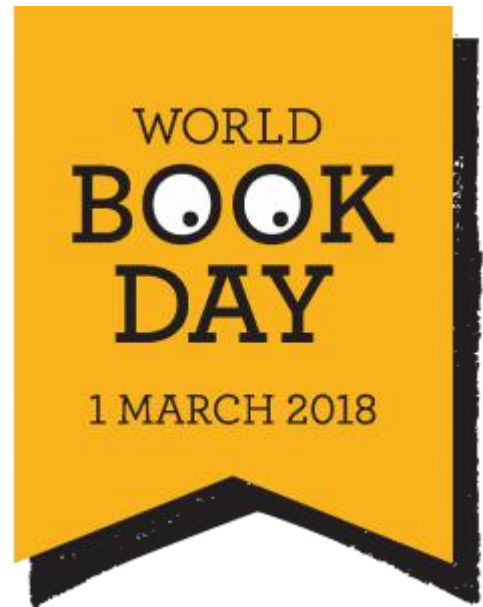


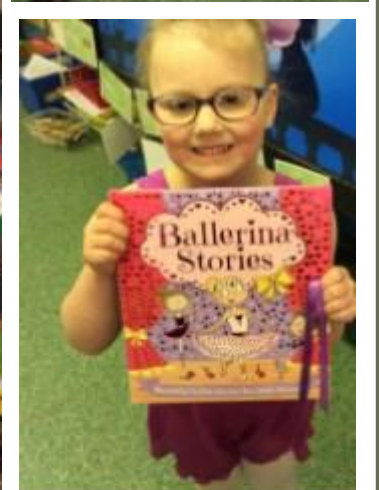
World Book Day 2018

Reading for pleasure is a key part of the new national curriculum and something we have always promoted here at Hill West Primary. We expose pupils to a love of reading through books and show how ideas can come to life in a nationally celebrated day.

This year at Hill West we asked children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and to bring along a copy of the book their character appears in. Children and staff really got into the spirit of the day and arrived at school dressed as characters from their books in readiness for an action packed day of fun activities.

We were introduced to a whole range of characters, some firm old favourites and some who were new to us.





Rabbits assembly—The Egyptians

By Avril Anderson

Rabbits class assembly, took us all on a whirl wind, time travelling journey in Dr. Who's classic police box. In the play, something kept going wrong with the 'Tardis'.

On their first adventure, the Tardis took them to Ancient Egypt when Cleopatra was Pharaoh. With the help of her slaves, she told us how the clothes and jewellery, including a rather ornate headdress, she wore, was how a real Pharaoh should be seen and the story of how she was the last Pharaoh and the best!

While in Egypt, we also met another Pharaoh, Tutankhamun. The children beautifully sang a song which told us how he became Pharaoh at the age of 9! And how he married his sister, reigning for 10 years before his untimely death at the age of nineteen. Howard Carter discovered his tomb in 1922.

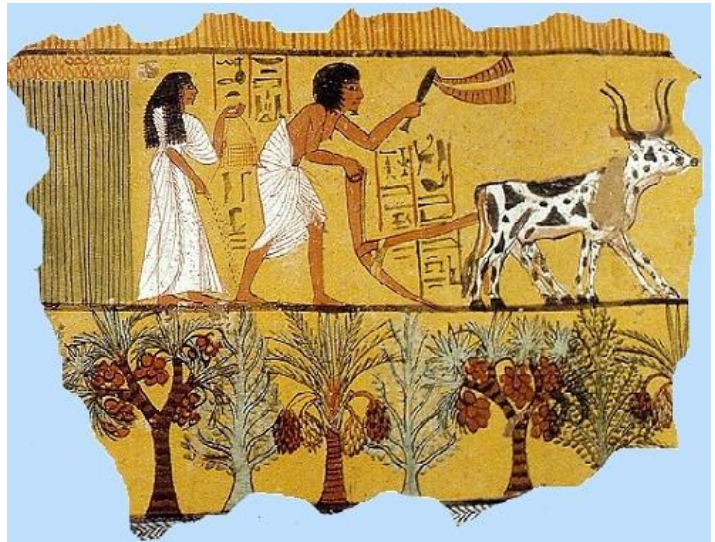
The good Dr. jump back into the Tardis and set off on another adventure, this time, a more modern era. Straight into the world of David Walliams' book, Billionaire Boy. Rabbits articulated how they had written a letter to stop a 'Bumfresh' factory being built on our precious school field.

After that, they found themselves back in time in the Stone Age. They met some stone age people who explained how they made necklaces and clothes themselves from teeth, bones, animal fur, mud and blood! The Dr. was made an honourable tribe member, then the Tardis beckoned again.

Next, they found themselves up on top of The Herefordshire Beacon, where they met some geologists. They gave them a lesson in the different types of rock. Some mountaineering travellers just about made it to the top with some encouragement from Rabbits who impressed us with their recorder playing to Eye of the Tiger.

And so, after a thrilling whistle stop tour of Rabbits fantastic learning so far this year, the assembly came to a show stopping end with a great song about friendship and helping each along the way.

I know Rabbits all really enjoyed putting on the show and dressing up. As always, thank you to the parents, carers, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and anyone who supported the children. We greatly appreciate it.



"The tardis looked real!" - Katie

"I liked the way the tardis was built."
- Carlo

"I really enjoyed being a stone-age person and I wore animal print clothes." - Evie

"I liked the recorders and we had to practice." - Thomas

"I got to pretend that I was time travelling in the tardis." - Louisa

Eco Explorers

By Steve Carrol

Most of you know we have an eco warriors team who I have the pleasure of looking after once a week.

Over this extremely harsh and prolonged winter the children have always made sure that we have re replenished the bird feeders in our grounds and made sure that there has always been fresh water for drinking and bathing for our feathered friends

It is very reassuring to know just how concerned they all are about our local wildlife.

It didn't end there, when one of the children spotted one of our bird houses in the tree and asked me if I had made it myself, I had to say "no". That day at the end of the eco warrior session I explained that we were all going to build our very own bird box to take home. I went home that night and figured out what we needed.

I managed to find some timber and bits and bobs we could use and we all set to task; building our bird boxes. All learning together along the way.

We had to consider where to hang it, in what direction and how big the entrance hole should be. For some of the children their favourite part of the task was using a tape measure or a screwdriver for the first time.

This week, just in time for spring, the team completed their bird boxes and it was delightful to see the look of achievement in the children's eyes as they left school with their creations in hand.

Sometimes is nice to have something tangible to take home to show your parents as school isn't always about good grades its about having fun and being outdoors.

Well done eco warriors you should feel very proud of yourselves.



An egg-citing build up to Easter in Reception

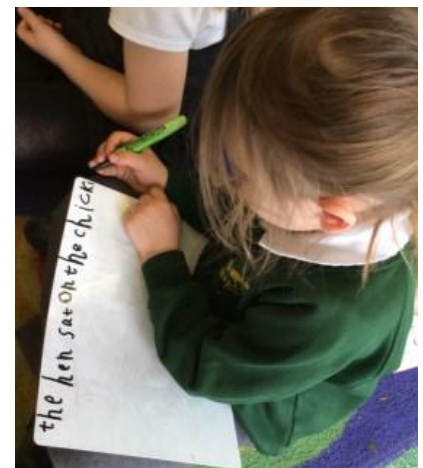
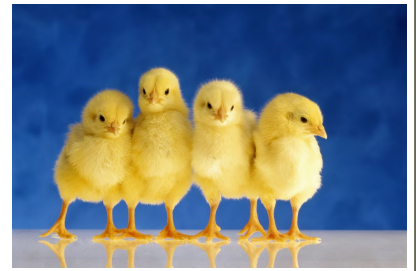
By Lisa Pardo

It all started when our little eggs arrived from Oak Tree Farm. They were carefully placed in their incubator.

We kept checking ... and checking ... and checking them, until one day we saw the eggs beginning to shake and make tiny chirping noises. We kept a close eye on them and saw little cracks appearing in their shells.

We all packed up and left for the night and when we arrived on Thursday morning we had 5 beautiful baby chicks to care for! This experience has inspired our writing; we have made posters and cards for the chicks, written sentences to name them and we have even written instructions about how to look after them!

Children were set a homework challenge to create anything related to Easter and what creative parents we have! From delicious chocolate nest cakes to Easter board games and even 3D Easter scenes- well done everyone!



Our Easter celebrations continued with an AMAZING Easter bonnet parade followed by lunch with parents.

