

THE HILL WEST HERALD


HILL WEST
Primary
FOUR OAKS



SUMMER TERM 2022

ISSUE 40

theherald@hillwest.bham.sch.uk



ACE; Ambitious, Curious, and Ever-respectful

Message from the Head Teacher

By Dr Beth Clarke

I am sure you all enjoyed the Platinum Jubilee celebrations this half term holiday. Parades, parties and a public holiday marked the queen's Platinum Jubilee, which celebrated Elizabeth as the first and only British monarch to reach 70 years on the throne. It was a time for celebration but also of reflection. Reflection of a life lived, characterized quite unexpectedly, by service and duty.

We know that whilst on tour of South Africa in 1947 at just 21 years of age, the then Princess, made her first public addresses. **"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong,"** She became queen in February 1952, at age 25, and was 27 at the time of her official coronation in June 1953.

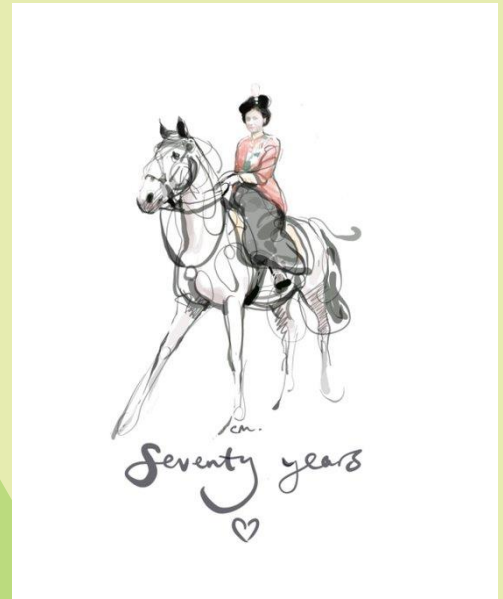
In her first televised Christmas address in 1957 she said, **"I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice, but I can do something else, I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations"**

The queen is and has been — since she was a young girl — enamored with horses. Elizabeth's parents gave her a Shetland pony, Peggy, when she was a princess aged just four and by the age of six, she was riding confidently. Since that very early age, the Queen has enjoyed riding, showing, breeding, racing and watching horses and she continued to ride well into her mid-90s.

Aptly, horses and the equestrian arts figured prominently in the Jubilee celebrations. Last month, the president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, sent her a small chestnut Karabakh horse named Shohrat. Last Wednesday, French President Emmanuel Macron gifted her a dappled gray named Fabuleu de Maucour. "The shapeliness and elegance of the horse, a seven year-old standard-bearer for the Garde Républicaine, epitomizes French horse-breeding," the French Embassy said in a statement.

With the blessing of the palace, the Windsor Horse Show, earlier this year, released an official portrait for the monarch's 96th birthday. It shows the queen dressed in a dark cape, holding the reins of two of her own stunningly white fell ponies, Bybeck Nightingale and Bybeck Katie.

From a very strong steer in her early years, the Queen has been able to embrace her passion and love of horses. We can only imagine this love has been the most welcome of distractions from the heavy burden of duty and service. We wish, for all of our children, that they too find their passion and that this passion helps them through the joys and difficulties of their lives ahead.



Robins and Wrens Platinum Jubilee

By Miss Sophie Beardmore, Mrs Lisa Pardo and Miss Sophie Roberts

Robins and Wrens did not just celebrate the Jubilee on Friday 27th May but they spent a whole week on it!! Using the key text '**Queen Elizabeth**' by **María Isabel Sánchez Vegara**, the children worked towards learning and answering our key question for the week; '**How long has Queen Elizabeth been our reigning Queen?**'

Over the week, the children explored the meaning of the vocabulary for the week: **coronation, Jubilee, scepter, orb and reigning**. They looked at photos of the Queen from different periods of her reign and discussed what was happening in the photos and what order they think the photos should go in and why. The children also learnt about the Queen's family tree; who she was married too, how many children she had and their names, as well as some of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren (Prince William, Prince Harry and Prince George).



On Thursday, the children made their crown in preparation for the Jubilee parade. Using paper plates, the children used a ruler to draw 4 lines, after the teacher made a hole in the middle for the children to start their neat cutting of the lines. Once each line was cut, the children then folded the triangles up to make the beginning of the crown. It was then time to start decorating our crowns.



Class of 2022 Reception Platinum Jubilee



Swallows and Swifts Platinum Jubilee

By Miss Emily Arkinstall, Miss Eleanor Smith, Miss Linsie Burton and Mrs Charlotte Massey

Year 1 had lots of fun celebrating the Queen's platinum Jubilee in school. We began the day decorating Jubilee themed bunting and hanging them around the school field. They were proudly hanging ready for our afternoon celebrations! Then we came together as a Year group to learn and rehearse the National Anthem. The children worked hard and sang beautifully.

The children in Year 1 discovered interesting facts about the Queen's reign from the coronation to the Jubilee celebration. The children were excited to discover that the Queen found out about her new role whilst on a royal tour, with her husband, in Kenya. They were also fascinated to know that she was only 25 when she became Queen of England!

The children then got creative and made their very own royal crowns; bedazzled with glittering jewels, to make them feel like royalty.

Whilst their crowns were drying, the children enjoyed their delicious Platinum Jubilee lunch.

Before the royal procession, the children proudly put on their crowns and took their balloons and wristbands outside to meet the rest of the school. The children happily paraded around the field in concentric circles. It was a magnificent sight to behold! It was then 'show time'. The whole school erupted into chorus, singing our National Anthem loudly and proudly.

The children were very excited to enjoy some delicious frozen ice-lollies whilst enjoying the entertainment.

A wonderful day was had by all!



Owls and Kingfishers Platinum Jubilee

By Mrs Sarah Terry, Mrs Emma Freer and Ms Kerry Lynch

Friday 27th May 2022 marked a very special day at Hill West – an entire day to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee! Year Two couldn’t wait to join the festivities. In the week leading up to the celebration day, we talked about the Queen and her role as monarch. Some of us would like to be the monarch ourselves!



The first thing we did - after admiring ‘Buckingham Palace’ just outside of our classrooms – was to create some bunting to decorate our school. The children carefully coloured in their own Union Jack flags and by mid-morning, the area outside our classrooms was a sea of red, white and blue.



The next activity was to delve deeper into the Queen’s seventy-year-reign. We studied videos and photos of the UK and the people in it that had been taken since 1952 and couldn’t quite believe some of the fashions and how things have changed. We also practised singing the national anthem, God Save the Queen, ready to sing with the rest of the school in the afternoon.



We knew the afternoon would consist of a whole-school party. What better accessory to wear to a Platinum Jubilee celebration than a crown? Children spent some time carefully crafting their marvelous crowns with glitter, stickers, sequins and much more.



After a slap-up Jubilee lunch, it was time to celebrate! We all gathered on the field with the rest of the school for a fantastic parade. The sight of over 400 children wearing crowns and carrying balloons was phenomenal! Once children had paraded, it was time to sing the national anthem with pride. Children then took their seats with ice-lollies for an exciting show – Years 4, 5 and 6 had been working incredibly hard to perform songs from the duration of the Queen’s reign. The children in Year Two couldn’t stop themselves from singing and dancing along.



The final activity of the day, after a fun-packed playtime, was for children to visit ‘Buckingham Palace’ and to sit on the throne like real monarchs. Wow! They even spotted some corgis inside. What a special day to mark such a momentous occasion. The children loved it and will certainly not forget it in a hurry.



Rabbits and Hedgehogs Platinum Jubilee

By Mrs Farzana Walele and Ms Kelly Bailey

The day started with classes full of smiling faces ready for the days celebrations, the prospect of not having usual lessons was clearly exciting... this was before I had even told them we were going to have a tip top and a whole school playtime at the end of the day! Our first task was to learn about why today is special and what (and who) we were celebrating.

We think our Queen looked so beautiful when she was younger and that she has had such a busy life. We wish we could travel the world as she had. We were very interested in hearing some of the more unusual facts about her too...did you know she is an Arsenal fan? We then made bunting to decorate our school, red and blue felt tip pens were in high demand.



Did you know the Queen has a pet Jaguar? - Hannah.

Did you know she has been Queen for 70 years? - Kai

Did you know she became Queen aged 26? - Rosie

Did you know her father died when she was young? - Beatrice

Did you know she has two birthdays? - Isla



I really enjoyed learning the national anthem – Molly.

It was lovely to watch the performances by Y4, Y5 and Y6 – Anita.



Throughout our morning we frequently paused to practice singing our national anthem. The creative activities continued when everyone made their own crown ready for the parade. A whole afternoon on field is a rare treat. Singing, laughing, cheering and being together is just what the doctor ordered at the end of a busy term. We would like to thank Years 4, 5 and 6 for the time and effort they clearly put into practicing their performances. We really enjoyed it!

We were so lucky to have the sun shining down on us, as we were able to collectively celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as a school, a memory that we will all have for years to come!

Squirrels and Moles Platinum Jubilee

By Ms Clare Whelan and Mr Steve George

The children in Year 4 – Moles and Squirrels - enjoyed a special day of celebrations in the lead up to the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, as they prepared for the half-term holidays. The off-timetable event saw the whole school take part in a raft of fun activities in honour of the Queen’s 70-year reign.



The staff and children kicked off the day making crowns, flags and bunting to decorate the school. The Year 4 children were given the 1970’s to focus on, as this was one of the decades of the Queen’s reign. They all learnt the words and a dance to the song ‘Dancing Queen’ by ABBA. Much fun was had during rehearsals.



In the afternoon all children paraded their flags, balloons and crowns around the school field as all year groups came together to celebrate. Year 4 performed their song and dance to the school showing great artistic flare and talent.



Dr Warrack, Deputy Head Teacher commented, “All involved had a memorable day. As a school we have not

been able to host anything on that scale for a long time, so it was wonderful to see the whole community coming together again.”

Other activities included jewel-making crafts, a themed luncheon and every child had the opportunity to be part of the Jubilee bake off, where they could join a TEAMS call with their teachers to demonstrate their baking skills. Later on that evening, they decorated their cakes and tweeted their end result. Before the Easter break, every child was also presented with a commemorative pin to take home.



James in Squirrels said, “It was so nice to bond with the younger year groups during this special event as we haven’t had much chance over the last few years.” While Molly said, “It’s exciting to be sharing this event with Her Majesty and I hope she likes our Twitter photographs”.



Lyra in Year 4 baked an amazing Victoria Sponge for the Platinum Jubilee, with the number 70 made out of candles. Definitely fit for the palace!



Amrita enjoyed baking a cake for the Queen’s Jubilee with her sister and the class Squirrel, Sammy, joined in too.

Hares and Badgers Platinum Jubilee

By Mrs Alison Downes, Mr Adam Henrick, Mr Ryan Horne and Miss Anjali Parekh

The Jubilee morning in Year 5 was a busy one, with many crafts to complete and skills to master, before the big procession and performance in the afternoon. Bunting, with which to decorate the field, was the first order of the day and for this, Hares and Badgers pulled out all their creative abilities, producing a beautiful array of Jubilee bunting. We created some show stopping designs using pencils, pens, paint and tissue paper, to add texture and interest to our bunting. We were very proud of the finished product, which adorned the play area during the afternoon's festivities.

We then moved on to the most important song of the festivities – The National Anthem. The children belted out 'God Save The Queen' with a vigour and pride which was a joy to behold. They showed their understanding of what we were celebrating.

For the marvellous procession, which was to take place later, each child required a crown and Year 5 did not disappoint. A huge variety of embellishments, colours, fabrics and skills were pulled out of the bag to create a fabulous array of crowns – many could rival the crown jewels themselves!



Our choice of music was the 1962 hit, 'The Locomotion' by Little Eva. This song was presented to the whole school audience complete with backup singers and some amazing choreography by the Year 5 class. The children had a blast learning the words to the music and shared a laugh as they practised the song in its entirety. Teachers were especially impressed with how quickly the children learned the lyrics and tried out the dance moves.



Carrying white balloons attached by blue ribbons to red wristbands, Year 5 made their way outside to join the jubilee procession with the whole school. They made their way onto the playground, onto the white lines of the tracks while the national anthem played in the background. Year 5 were elated as they joined the rest of the school to walk around the track, being careful to stay on the white line as they walked around!



Eventually, the whole school sat in a circle around the track, whilst music was playing and the sun was beaming down, as the excitement of the celebrations began. Year 5 waited in anticipation to do the performance that they had been practising all day. After Year 4's wonderful performance, it was Year 5's turn. In front of the rest of the school, Badgers and Hares showed off their 'locomotion' dance moves and fabulous singing voices in their performance – everyone sang and danced their best. Well done Year 5!

After the performance, everyone enjoyed a refreshing and delicious ice-lolly. It was a fantastic way to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and end the half term.

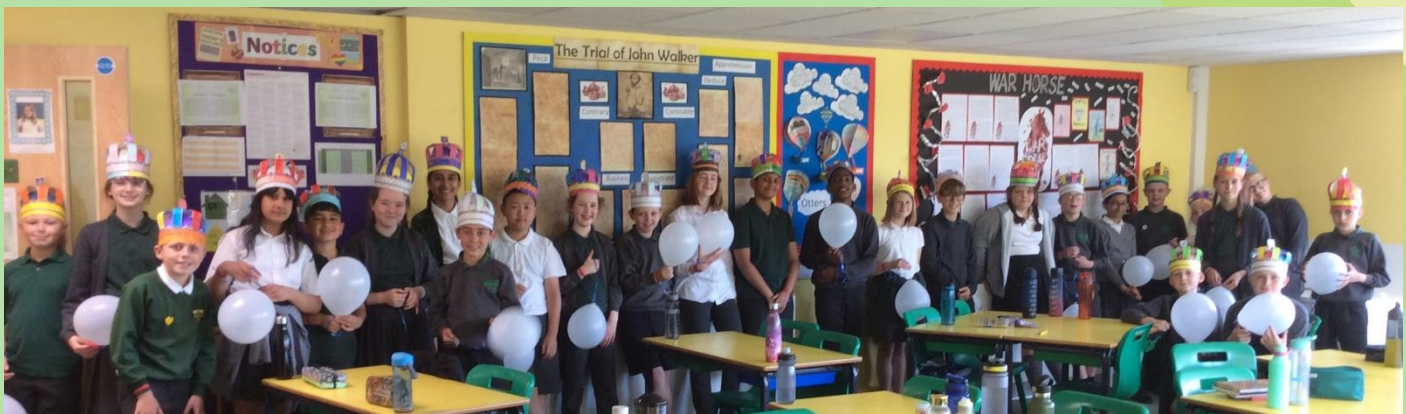
Foxes and Otters Platinum Jubilee

By Mr Chris Ellison, Mrs Kerry-Lynn Lampitt and Mr Joel Holmes

On 6th February this year (2022), Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June and here in year six we wanted to celebrate in style!

The week started with children across school, in their year groups, taking part in a Queen's Jubilee Bake Off, where teachers joined the children on a Teams meeting to support and talk them through the baking challenge. Families went out and got all of the ingredients and necessary equipment e.g. weighing scales ready for the bake off show down. Children then shared their pictures of their creations on the school Twitter website; Mrs. Lampitt and Mr. Holmes also had a bake off, the staff had to choose which cake belonged to which member of staff. Can you guess who won?





Later on in the week, The Platinum Party at Hill West Primary was the calling for this momentous year's celebrations; this included designing and making a crown fit for a Royal party, being part of the whole school pennant making and learning a song (Jailhouse Rock-Elvis Presley) from the 50's era of the Queen's reign. Year 6 had an excellent time practicing their moves in readiness to perform at the whole school Platinum Jubilee party.

"Sharing performances from other year groups as we come together as one big family is something that we will never forget and will always make us think fondly of our Primary school days", Shivani (Otters) said.

Children across the school stood in concentric circles on the school field while singing the National Anthem in unison. This special tribute was also a reminder of how much the Queen has been a constant figure of hope and pride to our country, the Commonwealth and the community that we live in. The children then had the opportunity, whilst enjoy their ice-lollies in sun, to perform and listen to iconic songs that were released during the Queen's reign. Seeing the field filled with the white balloons, crowns and the sound of children singing made for an amazing day. Shortly after, the music was turned up and the disco started. A great opportunity for Year 6 to show off their crowns and strut their stuff. This momentous occasion and its associated shows and performances the following week, will be an indelible marker for the memories of the children – one that they will be able to look upon fondly as they grow and move onto pastures new next year.



Congratulations Ma'am on your Platinum Jubilee





