

Wychwood (C.E.) School News

Christmas started for us with the Foundation Stage Unit nativity performance, not a dry eye in the audience. The children sang and read beautifully. The following week we held two carol concerts at St Mary's Church in Shipton. KS1 performed '*Mend the Manger*', a novel version of the nativity story. KS2's performance was '*Rejoice with Us*', the Christmas story told through bible readings, poems and songs. Retiring collections from these performances raised £307 for Helen and Douglas House Hospice.

Mammoth!

Between these events we held our annual Christmas dinner, 240 children, staff and governors enjoyed a full roast turkey dinner, a mammoth task for our three kitchen staff who also provided 70 dinners for Leafield Primary school. Our thanks go to all our staff for the extra hours put in to provide the festive events.

Residential Trip to Kilvrough

In November 2008, all 45 of the year 6 students in Wychwood Primary school went on a residential trip to the Kilvrough Manor, on the Gower, in

Wales. Isla and Laura's reports give a flavour of the challenges they faced.

Isla's Report

Everyone joined in and no one missed a single activity! The challenges were to cave, canoe, climb but most importantly to face fears and build our trust by

working together. At first it was hard to think of leaving for a week with no-one to comfort you from your family. It was scary at first but you start to get used to the routine and soon forget about home sickness and start to think up the next day's plans.



The Tele-tubby Suits!

Every morning we went to the barn and put our activity clothing

on such as waterproofs and wellies, helmets and big life jackets. One particular suit was known to us as the telly-tubby suit because it was all-puffed out and very hard to move in.

It was especially fun caving because when we got to the letter-box, which is a very tight space that you have to crawl through, every one kept banging their heads on the top making funny noises all the way through the cave!

Isla Weir

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Laura's Report

After the long journey we finally reached our destination. Everybody was waiting for the excitement to come. Whilst our teacher went to see the instructor, we started to think of how we could work as a team and to co-operate. We all wondered what it was going to be like whilst we were walking off the coach. We realized that we were sleeping in Portakabins and we found out which groups, dorms and duty groups we were in. I was in group D with Justin as our instructor, who persuaded us all to work together. Our first day was centre-day, not the best weather but the activity was really fun, you had to co-operate and communicate a lot. The best activity I particularly liked was caving because we helped each other if our torches went off and we waited for each other if they were a bit behind us.

I think that our friendships became stronger and stronger as the week went on. The week went fast but I think everybody enjoyed it. Our activities that we did for the week were centre-day, caving, climbing, canoeing and river study. All of us trusted each other and nobody felt that they couldn't do the activities because every one of us can do something.

Laura Hinchliffe

Sports Successes

We have been very active with sports and PE. Mrs Barrett took pupils to Hockey Club at Carterton Community College on the astroturf. 35 children have attended regularly and our thanks go to Iain MacLaughlan and the sports leaders from the community college for running the sessions. Teams taking part in hockey tournaments have also been successful. Our U11 boys were runners up in our

partnership tournament and now go on to the West Oxon competition in February 2009. Our Year 6 girls were on their residential visit, so their place in the U11 tournament was taken by Year 5 and 4 children who played extremely well, improving with each game. We also won the Mid-Oxon football competition that was held at Carterton Primary School.

Changing the Goal Posts

At our last school council meeting it was decided we needed some new goal posts for the playground. Some of the children on the committee, with the help of Miss Chappell, organised a 'Fun Football Friday'. Everyone paid £1 to come in non-uniform and then paid for football activities during the day. £280 was raised and at our first meeting of 2009 we will be looking through the catalogues to find the goalposts we want to buy.

The Brilliant PTA

The PTA was very busy towards the end of the year organising the Firework Display which raised £796, Ladies Night £320 and a Christmas Bazaar which raised £678. These three annual events are always well supported by families and local people and at a time when the credit-crunch is biting we are so grateful for the extra funds to buy much needed resources for the school.

So far this financial year PTA funds have paid for:

PE swimming trolley - £215, PE shelving - £215, Intervention program resources - £450, 30 Junior world atlas joint class resource - £210, KS1 Music Festival resources - £50, running the school swimming pool - £700, £100 worth of books per class - £1000, Guided reading books - £198.

Julie Hemming