

# Wychwood C. E. Primary School

Our Learning Zone was completed and ready for use in September and we wanted to have a grand opening to celebrate the development of a wonderful resource for our pupils and to thank those involved in its construction and resourcing. We were delighted, when back in May, the Prime Minister agreed to come and open it for us. This was all very top secret and we decided to pretend we had not got anyone when in September Mrs Daulton asked the children who they would like to open it on a date we had chosen.

## Who will it be?

Ideas ranged from The Queen, Prince William, the Prime Minister, Jessica Ennis and one little boy said he could open it as it would be on his birthday. Plans were well underway when just two weeks before the opening we received a letter from 10 Downing Street to say David Cameron was not able to attend after all. You can imagine how deflated we felt. We sent out messages to staff and parents about being let down and would anyone have any connections to a 'celebrity' who the children might recognise.

We were not very successful until someone said they knew the Gruffalo, a very popular book character. Again the name of our celebrity was kept secret and what a cheer went up when he entered the school hall which was filled with pupils, staff, parents, donors and contractors. There was also much laughter as he

danced during three songs chosen by the children.

## Gruffalo Gang

But we also remembered that suggestion by a pupil about it being his birthday. In fact there were three pupils with birthdays on that day, Dominic Hey, Daniel Stacey

and William Taylor, so they all got to help the Gruffalo cut the ribbon. Members of the PTA kindly provided refreshments for the adults, the school purchased cakes for the children and Mr Woodcock, a parent of the school, donated and blew up a helium balloon for each child to take home at the end of the day. Some children had a lesson on interviewing



techniques from Emily Morgan, ITN news correspondent. She joined the pupils in the Media Centre and gave them tips on how to get the most out of the green screen. The children loved it! She was very impressed by the pupils and has promised to return. Our thanks go to everyone involved for making it such a special day.

## Design and Technology Day

This took place at the end of term and the children were busy looking at, designing and making catapults. We certainly have some budding engineers in our midst. Mr Love, from Burford School, brought along his trebuchet and delighted the children as he fired 'canon balls' across the school field.

**Julie Hemming**