

Talbot Primary School Newsletter



Monday 5th December 2016



Year 2 The Great Fire of London Museum, interactive workshop



Year 4 Forest Schools Project at Roundhay Park



Year 4 using virtual reality headsets as part of Google Expeditions experience



Bubble machine at the KS1 Disco

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of November, every class has been involved in various enrichment activities. **Reception** pupils love learning outside in their shiny, new outdoor area and almost every parent/carer managed to attend one of our 'Stay and Play' sessions last week so they could see how their children learn. **Year 1** pupils had the mobile planetarium to help them learn more about 'light and dark', which was exciting. **Year 2** has learnt just about everything to do with *The Great Fire of London* and the children proved their knowledge by acting as curators in their own pop-up museum; their exhibits and knowledge were impressive and it was well attended. **Year 3** had an exciting Stone Age workshop to bring their topic to life; the children loved the energy of the actors. Many **Year 4** pupils visited Roundhay Park and participated in the Forest Schools link project with Raynville Primary School (over the year, every child will get to meet and work with Raynville's pupils). **Year 5** also visited the mobile planetarium but their focus was on the solar system; seeing the universe wrapped around them was memorable. Finally, **Year 6** has been very busy visiting Eden Camp to learn more about WWII. I was delighted that several members of the public went out of their way to compliment the children on their behaviour. Year 6 has also had an interactive Macbeth workshop. The children were incredibly animated as they came out of the hall and I was delighted to see them starting to appreciate Shakespeare.

As educators, we know that these exciting and memorable experiences help the children make connections and embed the learning for longer, acting as useful reference points. I saw this in 6SA's Good Work assembly last week, which was based on their Creative Curriculum topic: 'Do Brazilian Children Have More Fun?' The children linked geography, science, PE and art to learn about the country, climate, an artist named Romero Britto and carnivals. The amount of learning they had done was impressive.

Lastly, we did a parent/carer survey to assess how effective parent/carer evenings were, to understand what we are doing well and to learn where we might be able to do better. The results were very encouraging; they can be seen on the homepage of the school website.

Next up – getting ready for Christmas!

Mr Rivers (Acting Headteacher)

Additional Information

Children In Need

We raised a brilliant **£544** in donations, as children and staff wore spotty clothes to school. The School Council, supported by Miss Wood, also did assemblies to explain how the money will help others.

Google Expedition

Our new Computing Co-ordinator, Miss Ambler, has already begun to make her mark on the subject by inviting Google Expedition into school on Friday, 25th November. Pupils in KS1 and KS2 were given virtual reality headsets and taken off on expeditions under the oceans, to famous landmarks around the world or even to outer space!

As Acting Headteacher, I felt it was very important that I monitored at least one of these sessions personally and I had a hugely enjoyable half hour with 5RW, swimming past sharks. I could hardly drag myself back to my in-tray.

The headsets are actually just holders for standard smartphones, the Google Expedition app is free and so are thousands of virtual reality scenarios on the internet. Perhaps this will be reflected in some of Santa's lists this year ...

Governors

There have been a number of changes on the Governing Body:

Helen Haigh has stepped down as a co-opted governor after 16 years; she started with us when her own children were at Talbot. Jimmy Middleton has stepped down as Talbot's staff governor after 10 years and Jaci Knowles has retired as a parent governor after 3½ years. We would like to thank them all for their dedication, advice and expertise, which has helped drive school improvement.

This term we are welcoming two, new co-opted governors: Niki Kilby and Vicky Cooke, who were selected from eight applications. We are confident they will be able to help support the Governing Body with their skills and backgrounds. Sue Alpar has kindly agreed to become the new staff governor, so staff views continue to be represented.

Lastly, school will be holding elections for two parent governors after the New Year. We will shortly be sharing information about this process and hope that many of you will consider applying.

PTA Discos

A huge thank you to all the members of the PTA who ran the Reception, KS1 and KS2 discos earlier in the month. The children had a fabulous time dancing, chatting and eating sweets. They also raised lots of money, which will be spent improving the facilities and equipment for the pupils.

REMINDERS

Three ways to keep the playground safe before and after school:

School is busiest at the start and the end of the day. Help us keep everyone safe by following these simple rules; please help your children keep to them too:

1. Dogs are not allowed on the playground, in case of biting or fouling.
2. We ask people not to ride bikes, scooters or skateboards on the playground, in case someone is knocked down.
3. Ball games are not permitted on the playground, as balls can go out on the streets and children might run out onto the road. Even if your child has good road sense, a younger child might copy them.