

# BENWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## MARCH 2016



Hello! Considering this has been a really short term we have packed lots of things into it! I hope you enjoy reading about our busy few weeks.

### World Book Day - 2nd March

World Book Day came to Benwick School on Wednesday 2nd March! The children came to school in lots of fabulous costumes, based on their favourite book characters. So did the grown-ups! In class, lots of the day's learning activities were themed around books and reading.



Miss Garner would like to say a big well done to Evie in KS1, who came dressed as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz and Alex H in KS2, who came dressed as Fantastic Mr. Fox, as these children were chosen as the winners of the day's fancy dress competition. They will be awarded their £10 book vouchers when we come back after Easter.



### 7th and 9th March - Parents Evening

We had a very busy 2 parent's evenings with 98 / 115 children being 'talked' about! If you were unable to attend parents evening but would like an update on your child's progress please contact your child's teacher to arrange an appointment.

### 3rd March - Voice In A Million

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 35 of our KS2 children, Mrs Wood, Mrs North, Mrs Baker and Miss Goodale went to Wembley Arena to take part in Voice in A Million 2016. As always the event was superb. Guest performers included the African Children's Choir and a return appearance from Bars and Melody. This year we were extremely lucky as our school was picked to be a 'Featured School' and therefore we sang on the main stage for the entirety of the first half. The choir had worked hard in the months approaching the event and their dedication really paid off. They were fantastic and I am very proud of the effort they put in. **They can now say that they have performed on the stage at Wembley!** A big thank you to Mrs Wood for all of the hard work she did to make this happen.

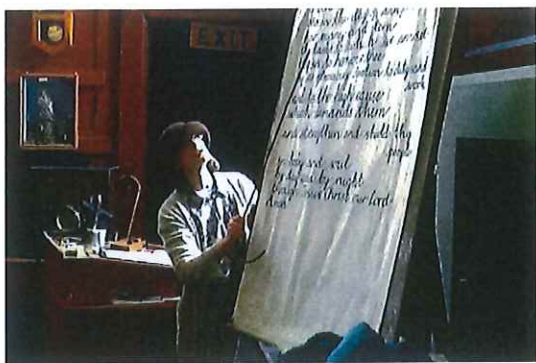


### Safety Zone for Year 5

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, the Year 5 children attended a Safety Challenge at March Fire Station. They carried out a range of activities, and learned about the importance of keeping safe in a variety of circumstances, which included: when being a passenger in a car, when playing near water, the steps to take if they were involved in a house fire, and a demonstration from St. John's Ambulance which taught them how to correctly apply a bandage. The children were each presented with a safety goodie bag at the end of the afternoon.



## *8th March - Class 4 Stibbington Visit - Evacuation Day*



On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Class 4 had an amazing trip to Stibbington. They dressed up as evacuees and used role play to empathise with children who were evacuated from London in the 1940s.

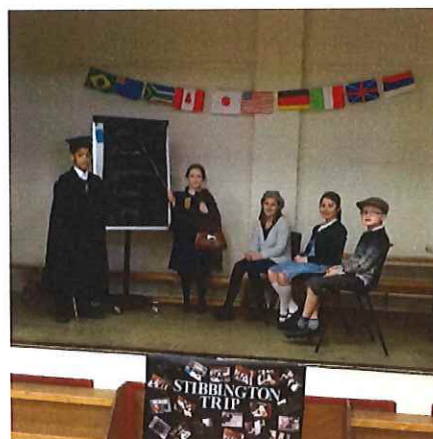
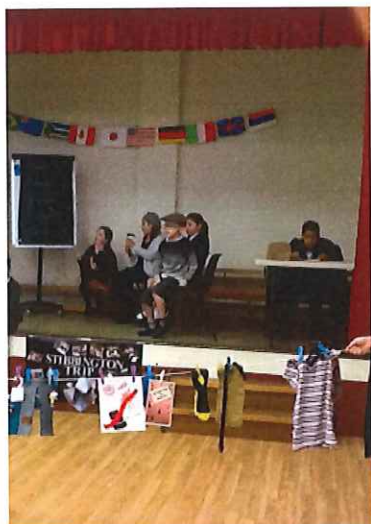
Upon arrival at Nene Valley Railway Station, the children were escorted to a railway carriage where staff, in the role of billeting officers, welcomed them to the countryside. During a walk to Stibbington Centre, Class 4 found out about homes where they might have been billeted to, and about life in the countryside during wartime Britain. The afternoon took place in the period classroom, and involved

the children having lessons which included: a gas mask drill, singing, spelling and arithmetic. A fabulous day was had by all, including the adults



## *Class 4 Assembly*

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, Class 4 performed their amazing assembly which was based around World War II. The children had a wonderful time sharing the knowledge and information which they have gathered throughout the term. The assembly included: Neville Chamberlain's speech declaring World War II, information about propaganda and how it was used during the war, demonstration of a gas mask drill which was carried out across all schools, and a mock classroom where children, and the teacher, participated in a spelling lesson. Class 4 thoroughly enjoyed performing to their audience. Well done to all of you!





## Bring Mum to School Morning

This was our most successful 'Mum's' morning yet! Over 50 (yes 50!) mums, aunts and nans came to spend the morning learning alongside their children. The excitement was only heightened by a power cut. The electricity went off at approximately 10 a.m. and wasn't returned until 11:30 a.m. The teachers, although internally devastated that they could not use their prepared lesson plans on their interactive whiteboards, outwardly carried on as though nothing had happened. A huge thank you to all the staff for agreeing to host these days; it is quite a challenge to teach with 10 + extra adults in the room. Here are some of the comments:-

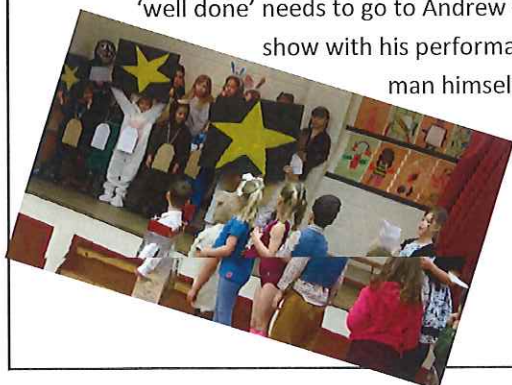


- ♦ *What fun you have! I hope I will be invited to join you again.*
- ♦ *Loved it! Children happy. Fabulous teachers! 😊*
- ♦ *Children seemed to be listened to and an awareness of who needed more help.*
- ♦ *Nice to watch how lessons are done and see how your child interacts.*
- ♦ *To see the children at playtime, what they chose to do and how they played.*
- ♦ *Class well run even when lights went out.*
- ♦ *Children seem happy and interested in lessons.*
- ♦ *Is great to see how children learn using different methods.*
- ♦ *It was really nice for my child to be able to show me his school day.*
- ♦ *Very much enjoyed this morning with the children. Can't see why kids would get bored, I didn't.*
- ♦ *All staff very welcoming.*
- ♦ *Teachers work well with all the children. Very consistent, hard working.*
- ♦ *Happy children = good results.*
- ♦ *Impressed by the respect shown by children to each other and the teacher.*
- ♦ *The children were all well behaved and listened really well.*



## Class 2 Assembly - 23rd March

On Wednesday 23rd April Class 2 performed the story of 'Toys in Space' by Mini Grey to the school and lots of mums and dads. The children had lots of fun coming up with ideas for how to act out the story and also enjoyed making the props. All of the grown-ups that work in Class 2 were very proud of the children who delivered their lines very well and acted with confidence. At the end of the assembly, the children sang along to 'Starman' by David Bowie and a big 'well done' needs to go to Andrew who stole the show with his performance as the man himself.



## 22nd March - Rotary Club Schools Make Music.



This week 19 children in KS2 performed at the School's Make Music concert at Cromwell Community College in Chatteris. This is an annual event that the schools within our cluster take part in. As this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Chatteris Rotary Club we were asked to pick songs from 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 or 2016. Our choir performed Valerie and Rule the World and although the choir was small in comparison to our VIAM trip, it did not detract from their performance. They sang beautifully and did a fantastic job at representing the school. They have also committed a great deal of time and energy to the rehearsals for the event as we only started preparing for it after our trip to Wembley.



## Dates for Your Diary - Summer Term

### April

- 11th - School Closed. Teacher Training Day
- 12th - Pupils return to school
- 21st - Class 1 Assembly at 9:10 a.m. in the village hall
- 22nd - First of 5 swimming sessions for Class 3
- 29th - Netball Tournament at Doddington

### June

- 6th Library Resource Centre Day at Cromwell for children transferring to Cromwell in September.
- 10th - First of 5 swimming sessions for Class 4

### Week beginning 13th - Year 1 Phonic Tests

- 14th Sports Day - 1:30 p.m. on the school field
- 16th - Whole school photograph

### May

**All absence of leave in May will be unauthorised, without exception.**

**KS1 will be sitting their SAT's throughout May**

### 9th - 13th Yr 6 SAT's Week

- 11th - Artist, Paul Priestly, will work with the children
- 19th - Class 3 Assembly at 9:10 a.m. in the village hall
- 27th - School Closed. Teacher Training Day
- 30th May - 3rd June - Half-Term

### July

- 5th - KS2 performance. 1:30 p.m. in the village hall
- 7th - KS2 performance. 7:00 p.m. in the village hall
- 13th - KS2 Athletics at Parkfield
- 19th - Doody Circus Day

**Next years term dates were in the last newsletter and are available to view on the school website.**

### Class 1 Trip to Hamerton Wildlife Park - 22nd March

On Tuesday Class 1 enjoyed a fun day at Hamerton Zoo. We started our day off looking at a range of animal skins and feathers. We also got to touch a snake and hold some snails. For the rest of the day we walked around the zoo and saw lots of animals that related to our 'Safari' topic such as Zebras, Meer cats and Cheetahs along with lots of other interesting animals. We finished the day off with a quick play in the park. The children and staff had a lovely day and some of us enjoyed a quick nap on the way home!



### 18th March - Sports Relief



On Friday the 18th we raised £101 for sport relief. The children and staff dressed up as sporting heroes, we had a range of costumes including, cyclists, boxers, swimmers and footballers. A poster competition was held to advertise the cause, Lacie Smith was the winner! At lunchtime lots of children entered the obstacle course to see who could run it the fastest. There was a prize for the fastest person in each class. Leon won in Class 4, Thomas P won in Class 3, Lacie won in Class 2 and Luc won in Class 1.

Thank you to all the contributed.