

P7 Carol Singing

On Thursday 8th December we went to Glenabbey Manor Nursing Home in Glengormley to sing carols for the residents. We thought the residents might be quiet, tired and boring. We expected to be singing in front of glum elders with no energy. It was so much better than we thought. We really didn't expect such a lively crowd! We felt slightly nervous, since we didn't know how the residents were going to react. We also felt a bit excited because it was something that we had never experienced before. We didn't know what to expect, but we knew it would brighten their day, or maybe even week.

Most of the residents were very excited and happy. They had big smiles on their faces and we felt good that we were making them happy. It helped us to sing even better. They really enjoyed the carolling and it made us feel proud and made us enjoy it even more. The residents definitely enjoyed the carolling and they were very happy all the way through. It made them feel better and it made us feel better as well. We even felt a little emotional. We are very glad we took part and would gladly do it again. It just lightened up our day. We also got treats at the end which was a lovely surprise!

P7's of St Mary's on the Hill will visit 4 different nursing homes to sing carols. On Monday 12th December we will go to Ashwood Nursing Home and on Tuesday 13th we will go to Dunanney and Glebe Nursing Homes. Eighteen P7s will go to each nursing home so that all the P7's get an opportunity to take part.

Thanks to the staff of the nursing homes for allowing us to visit them, to the residents for being such a great audience and to the parents for transporting us. P6 and P7 pupils will be singing carols in Tesco Northcott on Tuesday 20th December from 1.45pm to 2.30pm. Please call in to support us.

by **Paige Stewart and Adam Conway, P7B**

SPORTS CHANGES LIFE

WHAT IS SPORT CHANGES LIFE? Sport changes life is a social activity that goes on every Monday at St Mary's on the hill. You can also do it after school! Sport Changes Life also takes older people so your Grandparents can do it to!

CAN SPORT AFFECT YOUR LIFE?

Better sleep. Fast Company suggests that exercise and sport triggers chemicals in the brain that can make you feel happier and relaxed

A Strong Heart

New Connections

WHY IS IT GOOD TO PARTICIPATE?

Playing sports **helps you stay in shape, teaches you how to organize your time, boosts friendships, and builds relationships with your friends and teachers etc.**

CELEBRATION FESTIVAL

On 8th December, we attended the Valley Leisure Centre for a final celebration. We played:

1. **Dodgeball**
2. **Football**
3. **Handball**
4. **Athletics and**
5. **Batcha, a Paralympic Sport!**



By **Cora Cassidy and Orlaith Clayton P7A**

P1 Christmas Prayer Service



On Monday 12th December our Primary 1 pupils had their Christmas Prayer Service. The children prepared so well, learning lots of prayers, songs, and poems. They have all settled well into their first full term in St Mary's

P5 CAROL SERVICE

We are working hard in preparation for our Carol Service. We all have a role to play, some of us are acting, some are singing solo and some of us are reading. Together we are all singing beautiful Christmas carols. We have had lots of trips to the church to find our positions and practise our parts.

We are working very hard to make this a special occasion. We will try our best to make this the best Primary 5 Carol Service. Everyone is welcome. We hope you enjoy it and sing along to the songs



SMOTHtalk

DECEMBER 2022

Christmas Greetings from St. Mary's on the Hill



On behalf of pupils, staff and governors, I would like to wish everyone in our school community a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. SMOTH Talk has been put on hold over the past 2 years, so I am delighted that we are able to bring the Newsletter back again. It will give you a snapshot of some of the activities that have been going on this term. You can keep up-to-date with all the latest news by visiting our website www.stmarysonthehill.co.uk or through our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StMarysOnTheHillPS/> I would like to thank everyone for their support and generosity throughout 2022. A special thank you must go to our staff, governors and PTA for giving their time so generously and enriching the quality of education we provide.

P5B are Master Measurers!



We had a lot of fun last week using metre sticks and trundle wheels to measure in our playground and around the school. We had to count one metre for every click of the trundle wheel. We had a competition to see who could estimate and measure the length of the P1/2 playground. We had a blast!

BEYOND BRICKS VISITS LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL!

Two months ago, local school, St Mary's on the Hill Primary, was approached by Beyond Bricks to use their Legotherapy Programme. The point of the programme was to help kids manage their emotions and feelings. St Mary's decided to give the programme a try to see how the students would react. The programme was mostly successful with the lego being engaging and well enjoyed by most students. Overall, this activity was a very popular and enjoyable experience that will likely be enjoyed by kids for years. We give this a 10/10.

Written by **Lenny Dempsey & Louis Nugent P7A**

Panto Trip

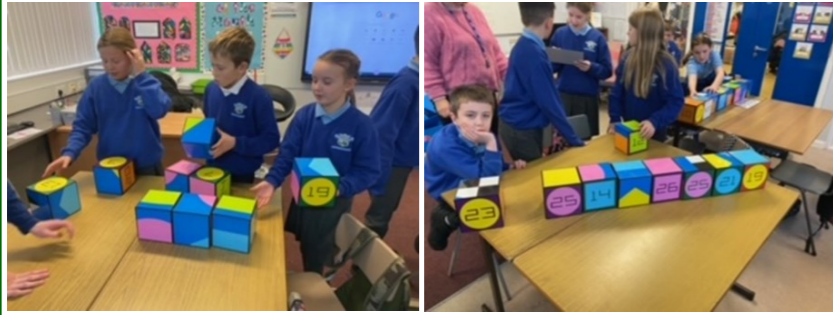
Primary One went on their first school trip, along with the children in Primary Two and Primary Three. We had a great time at the Theatre at the Mill. We watched this year's pantomime, Sleeping Beauty, and the children just loved singing along and really enjoyed the show. We had a great day and were all full of Christmas Spirit, especially as we got to meet the cast and explore the lovely stage set!



Our Trip to the Courtyard Theatre

P2B enjoyed their trip to the Pantomime to see Sleeping Beauty. The children were very excited getting on the bus. They enjoyed singing and clapping along with the cast. They had so much fun! **Oh yes they did!!**

P6 Problem Solving



In P6A, we have been putting our problem-solving skills to the test with iZak9. We worked together in small groups to solve several tasks. Once we had reached a solution, we had to explain our reasoning. It was great to see how each group approached the tasks and came to their solution in various ways. It was challenging but we had lots of fun!

P6 Library Visits

Across three Tuesdays in November, Primary 6 classes visited Glengormley Library to learn more about what the library offers. When we were there, we learnt how to use the facilities properly. This included learning about the Dewey system to find books, how to find their website and how to use their computers. We also talked about what time different activities were on, like lego club, arts and crafts, knit and nat and rhythm and rhyme.

Over the three weeks we completed challenges like word searches, finding specific books and alphabetical order activities. We also completed a quiz to check our knowledge and how much we'd listened - we scored 9 and 10! At the end of each session, we got to choose books for ourselves and check them out to take home. If you didn't have a library card, it was easy to register. You take 9 books at a time and keep them for 3 weeks - this can be extended online if needed. You can also put books on hold for your next visit. We enjoyed the challenges as a class and using the computers to browse and order books. The staff are really organised and easy to ask for help if you need it. They had also put a lot of time into decorating the library nicely for Christmas - we like the crochet squares tree and the gingerbread house around the counter! We think everyone should be a member of the library; there are books for all ages and subjects. This includes board books for children, early readers, junior fiction, teen books, adult fiction, non-fiction topic books and audio books. If you join the library you'll have lots of fun! **By Beth and Tom P6B**

Our Visit to Edmund Rice College

On Friday 2nd December, P7 A& B visited Edmund Rice College for a taster of what is to come in Year 8. We were greeted by the staff and taken straight to the canteen for lunch. We had sausages, pizza and chips. The lessons started soon after: Technology, Home Economics, P.E, Science and Art. My favourite was Art, because we learnt how to blend colours and we got to see a lot of the artwork from older pupils. In Technology, we made stationery holders - we even got to use drills and sanders! It was pizza-making time in Home Economics and in Science we made chemicals go 'pop'! We all had a fantastic time!

P4 Library visits

The two P4 classes went to the Glengormley Library for three visits this term. We walked down to the library with some of our parents. We met Becky the library manager who was very kind and taught us a lot. The first time we learned about different types of books in the library. We now know where to find the fiction books for different ages. We also got a word search. It was fun. The second day we learned about the Dewey system and how to use it to find non-fiction books. She gave us a task to find different types of books. We worked in groups. On the last day we went on the computers where we got to search up different types of books on the website. It was great fun to go to the library and we would love to go back soon.

By Eilidh Morgan and Ayla Yildiz P4B



Fun at Forest School

P2A have been having great fun at Forest school. We love Forest school because we play fun games like birds and worms. We also like the 'feeling the tree' game. Our class really enjoyed using the blindfolds to cover our eyes and guess different materials that our partners gave to us. We have had so much fun!



Museum on the Move

In September and October, we had two zoom calls from the museum. They were about life in the olden days on a farm and the objects they used in houses compared to what we have now. We talked to the education officer, we watched videos and we could touch the objects, like laundry tongs and dolly pegs. The dolly pegs are for putting up laundry and the laundry tongs are for lifting the clothes from hot water. But now we have a washing machine we use pegs that make a clicking sound. We also saw and held an iron trivet which was for putting the hot iron on. We think the olden day objects are interesting but the ones we have now are easier to use. **by Sophie McGuigan and Caelan Baxter P4A**

What I like about Snow

The freezing touch of it
The dancing dazzle of it
The soft flake of it
The ice white of it
The cold crunch of it
The slippy slide of it
That's what I like about snow.

by Pearse McMullan P3A

What I like About Snow

The bright white of it
The hush and slush of it
The slippy slide of it
The dancing dazzle of it
The deep footprints of it
The cracking crunch of it
That's what I like about snow.

by Ava Beattie P3A

What I Like About Snow

The special sparkle of it
The soft crack of it
The bright white of it
The dancing dazzle of it
The cold crack of it
That's what I like about snow.

by Charlotte Brady P3A

What I Like About Rain

The drip drop of it
The plip plop of it
The splashy sploshy of it
The splosh splat of it
The muddy puddles of it
The bright rainbows if it
That's what I like about rain.

By Rose McLaughlin-Donnelly P3A

TRINITY COLLEGE

Kacie and I really enjoyed going to Trinity College with our favourite subjects being science and H.E.

The chips and pancakes were delicious, and the teachers were informative and nice. P.E was enjoyable with the main aspect being unihock. In science we did a flame test using salts over fire to make different colours! In H.E we baked cupcakes, so that was fun.

We got to see two turtles (nameless) in science and we got to make loud **BANGS!** with magnesium and we played with ooblek.

The best part, in our opinion, was being able to bring the cupcakes home and eat them going down the hill!

By Kacie McMahon and Lorcan Smyth P7A

What I Like About Sunshine

The sunny bright light of it
The happy heat of it
The hot rays of it
The blazing hot of it
The bold, bright blaze of it
The sticky sunscreen of it
The dazzling shine of it
The sticky sweat of it
That's what I like about sunshine.

by Fiadh Turley P3A

What I Like About Thunder

The smash and bash of it
The exploding sound of it
The flashing crash of it
The massive bang of it
The ziggy zag of it
The dark sky of it
The lightning bolt of it
That's what I like about thunder.

Zuzanna Wysocka P3A

P3B Visit to the Pantomime!

Sleeping Beauty

We went to a pantomime.
Sleeping Beauty got a curse.
I loved Jester he was so funny.
Sleeping beauty got a kiss from Prince Philips.
Snarly was a good dragon.
Sleeping beauty cut her finger on the spinning wheel.

By Nancy Corey.

Sleeping Beauty

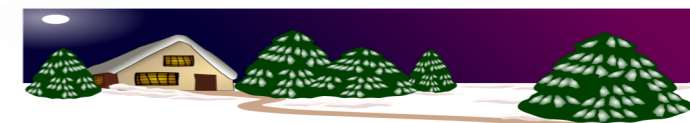
We went to the Pantomime.
I like the bit when the Prince Philip fought the Dragon Snarly.
I liked it when the Prince kissed Aurora.

By Finn Rolston-McVeigh

Sleeping Beauty

We went to a pantomime. It was funny. My favourite part was when the Queen dressed up like Maleficent and it was funny. Aurora pricked her finger on the spinning wheel. Prince Phillip fought the dragon with the sword. The baby was called Aurora. The baby peed. It was funny when it peed. I loved it. It was amazing.

By Ava Bellamy



Merry Christmas