



## **The Victorian Era topic**

Our topic before Christmas was clearly enjoyed by all children, staff, parents and the wider school community. We used the Victorian theme to learn about different areas of the curriculum. The children gathered new learning through our visit to Beamish, hard work in our Christmas performance 'How Christmas came to be', using resources from Tullie House and through their own research in different lessons. The children's recall of key facts is impressive and they all talk with enthusiasm about their learning. This was also identified by the two Ofsted inspectors who visited school just before Christmas. They commented on how well the children helped them to gather evidence about our school. They are a credit to us and their parents. You will find further information throughout this newsletter about the many events covered to support the children's learning. You will see that we ALL had great FUN!

### **Beamish**

On Friday 22nd November, we had a fantastic day out at Beamish. The children had time to explore an area of their choice in small groups, before meeting at the funfair. Some chose The Town and some chose Pockerly Manor. We all gathered for a quick lunch before heading up to Home Farm for our traditions of Christmas workshop. The staff there and throughout Beamish were very knowledgeable and could tell that our children wanted to learn more! They were all great with them. After our workshop, we had time to visit the Pit Village, which included the school. Beamish was decorated beautifully throughout for Christmas. Again, our children did us proud and we are very appreciative of the high number of parents, other family members and friends who were able to join us.



### **Children in Need**

It seems like a very long time since we had a visit from Pudsey Bear! Belinda Artingstoll from Radio Cumbria, brought Pudsey along as part of his Children in Need tour. We got time to ask him a lot of questions and Belinda told us some information about how the money we raise for Children in Need, helps children locally and nationally.

Our school council did a brilliant job of organising events for the week and children particularly enjoyed the penny trail. Throughout the week, we raised a total of £69.46 was raised. WELL DONE EVERYONE!

### **We certainly made £5 GROW!**

At the time of writing our last newsletter, our total raised for Hospice at Home stood at £1150. Only 6 weeks on and closing our project, the grand total raised through the many different ideas was £3146.77.

This opportunity for our children has exceeded all expectations. The children have learned so much from their projects and have been able to develop many different skills. This has really brought the whole community together and we have had so many comments about how impressed people have been with the hard work and effort from our children. Thank you all for your support with different projects and for giving generously in different ways.

Our final figure was announced at The Brewery craft fair on 14th December. Many children attended to man our stall which raised £86.65 school funds. Another fantastic amount of money raised.

Thank you to local funeral director Ian Blair, who gave each child in school £5 to make grow. This was to celebrate 25 in business and to raise money for Hospice at Home.

### **A busy day!**

Thursday 19th December was a very busy day! We enjoyed spending the morning with Mrs Coupe who came in to make table decorations for our Christmas lunch. We enjoyed welcoming parents, relatives and friends of school to our Christmas lunch. We had the most number of adults we have ever welcomed for lunch. Thank you to those who came along for our delicious meal. After a little rest, we made our way down to Walton for our Christmas service. It was a lovely service led by Reverend Angela, and gave us time to think about the true meaning of Christmas; the gift of Baby Jesus. We went to the village hall afterwards for refreshments, a Christmas quiz.

Afterwards, we ventured out around Walton to entertain residents with our carol singing. It was well received and we made £33.51 for Hospice at Home. We even received a tub of sweets!

### **Hot off the press!**

We are very pleased to be able to announce the recent result of our Ofsted inspection before Christmas. We are a GOOD school! The inspectors found that our school is a happy school with a strong climate for learning. Pupils like to try new things, they feel safe and they are enthusiastic about their learning. Staff have high expectations of all pupils, they promote a celebration of books and reading and they are very proud to work at the school. Leaders of the school are highly committed and dedicated and are clear and confident about the curriculum. Parents say that they school is like one big family! Visit the Ofsted website to read the report in full.

Toddler group runs in our school hall every Tuesday morning 9.30-11am, 50p per child. This includes a healthy snack and drink, a cuppa for the parents and carers and sometimes we even have cake!

If you would ever like to get in touch with us at school, please give us a call on 016977 2577, e-mail [head@leeshill.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@leeshill.cumbria.sch.uk) or pop along to see us anytime!