

Issue 22 – Spring Term 2017

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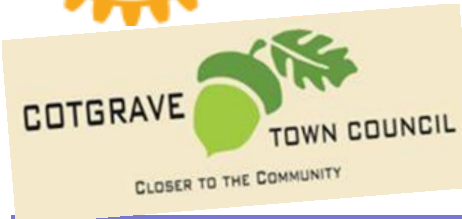
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This enabled us to work with mixed media and movement specialist Usha Mahenthiralingam and award winning illustrator and author, Laura Quick. With their skills and guidance the pupils have created two enormous collaborative pieces of artwork in response to the book 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea'. One of the pieces takes Cotgrave and its mining history as its inspiration. We will take our artwork with us when we return to Cotgrave.



The wonderful and generous Jessie's Fund (jessiesfund.org.uk) have been working with our school throughout the year and this term to create pieces of music in response to the book. Musicians Dave, Ros and Andy have brought their musicianship and technical skill to support our pupils and to develop our staff team's ability to lead music sessions.



Arts Fortnight

Arts Fortnight has been a great success! The Vale of Belvoir Rotary Club and Cotgrave Town Council very kindly supported this project.

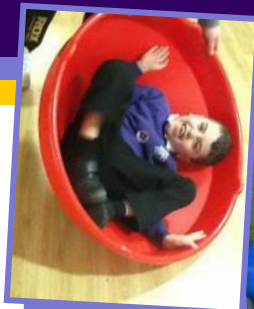


We hope that those of you who came to our showcase events enjoyed seeing the excellent work produced. We are very proud of our pupils' achievements and contributions.





Class 1 have had a fantastic term we have been having fun finding out about the weather. We have danced in the rain and even got caught in the hail stones coming back from the park! We have cooked some fantastic bread and biscuits over the last few weeks and made everyone hungry with the delicious smells coming from our room. But the highlight was meeting Mrs Skillington's new baby boy Samson.



Class 3

During this term, the Primary classes have enjoyed sensory exercise sessions with a variety of exercise equipment. This has included scooter board races, rolling over physio balls and peanut rolls, spinning in a cone and exploring the ball pool. Nicola, the O.T. has led these sessions and they have been great fun for all those taking part as well as working on the children's sensory processing needs.



Class 5

This term as part of the 'Eco Warriors' topic Class 5 have been working with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to maintain areas of the Skylarks' nature reserve. Over the term we have been involved in a number of projects including building bat boxes; clearing and cutting overgrown areas, building insect homes, moving materials to build shelters and filling in potholes to improve access. We have also enjoyed nature walks, birdwatching and spotting the early signs of Spring. The class hope to bring some of the things they have learnt back to school next term for work in their own garden. The final session was a chance to celebrate what had been achieved with an open fire, marshmallows on sticks and a cup of hot chocolate! Delicious!



Class 2

Primary have been taking part in two mainstream links this term. Candleby Lane have joined us at school to share signing songs and outside play. A group of Ash Lea children have gone over to Edwalton School to take part in 'Forest School'; growing plants and animal care activities. The children have made some good friends and started to learn from new experiences.



Class 4

Spring term has been a busy one. We have been on several visits to Australia inspired by the book 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea'. We've painted our faces just like Aboriginal people, played music to follow the story and discovered different sounds and objects found in the forest. We've also enjoyed dancing to the NCN Rock Band this term, eating pancakes and making Mother's Day gifts. We have been lucky enough to end the term with a 'Wow' with our visit to see The 'Frozen Light' Theatre, which all the pupils thoroughly enjoyed. We loved taking part in Arts Fortnight creating 'Cotgrave' artwork.





Class 6

Our topic this term has been The Rainforest, linking with our book 'Where the Forest meets the Sea'. We have looked at the layers of trees and plants in the Rainforest, the animals and birds that live there and describing the scenery. We have been using great describing words and putting them into sentences, remembering our full stops and capital letters. We have done some art work based on rainforest scenes, and we have even cooked and tasted some fish, just like the boy and his father did in the book!



Class 8 have had a fully immersive Aussie term. We have taken our inspiration for our work from the location of 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea'; following our version of the story, exploring Australian environments, from the Daintree Rainforest to the Snowy Mountains. Our artwork has been inspired by Aboriginal traditions painting on natural objects, with natural objects and on ourselves. We have delved into the history of Australia, taking the dangerous voyage that many convicts undertook across the Ocean. 'Jessie's Fund' have supported Mrs. Mitchell and us to create a piece of music inspired by the book too. Ms. Davies has found a hidden talent in being an astonishingly good Digeridoo player. Harris and Lowri in particular loved this instrument!



Class 9

We have continued working towards our accredited courses. Some of these have involved accessing the community using public transport and eating out. We have used the bus and eaten out regularly. Pick of the events though was going out as a class for Chris's 18th birthday which not only involved two games of ten pin bowling but also a huge meal at Frankie and Benny's. A good time was had by all!



Class 7 want to share a few pictures of being out and about in the community. Aneesh and Frankie have been visiting charity shops and looking for things that they want to buy as well as as visiting cafés and practicing their independence skills. Ethan, Marcus and Jack have been visiting the café at the park in west Bridgford and have started to work on choosing and paying for their own drink.



Diary Dates & Info

Governor Award

Governors Mrs Nicholson, Dr MacDonald and Mr Gardener attended the Annual Governor's Conference. They found it very useful and it was great for them to spend some time together outside of the formal meetings. There were three awards one of which was awarded to Dr MacDonald, **The Loxley Award for Effective Governance for an Individual Governor.**

Congratulations Dr MacDonald, well deserved.



Charity Football Match

Thank you to Ash Lea Ladies and Sherwood Ladies for raising £406.50 at the charity football match. A special thank you to Rebecca Walker for organising the event.



D of E Gold Award

Congratulation to our former pupils who collected their D of E Gold Award Certificates at St James's Palace. They all looked very grown up in their smart dress and behaved impeccably. They were presented with their awards in the Throne Room by television presenter Suzi Perry. She asked questions about their D of E experience but mainly got answers about football! Mrs Withers also went along and was lucky enough to meet and chat with HRH the Duke of Edinburgh himself.

Diary Dates

- 18th April - First day of Summer term
- 1st May - May Day Bank Holiday
- 26th May - Last day of first half term
- 5th June - Return from half – term holiday
- 14th June - Open morning-primary phase - classes 1, 2 and 3
- 26th -30th June - Dukes Barn residential
- 18th -21st July - Lea Green Residential
- 7th July - Leaver's prom night
- 24th July - Leavers Presentation evening and family barbecue FOALS chocolate and sweet Tombola
- 25th July - Last day of summer term
- 31st-4th August - Fun Week 2017

Charity Fundraising

Red Nose Day - £102.25
Autism Awareness East Midlands - £103

Our current fundraising total is **£62,448.86!**

Thank you to everyone who has donated
Please visit our **Creating a Better Environment** fundraising page if you would like to donate or set up your own fundraising event. Thank you.
mydonate.bt.com/events/creatingabetterenviroment

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