



Ver Heil Og Sæl! (Be Healthy & Happy)

We begin our December 2019 newsletter with an appropriate Viking greeting. This Term Year 4 have been learning all about the Vikings. The highlight of the topic was a trip to Tullie House where the children had the opportunity to participate in a Viking workshop. They developed their understanding of Viking burials, Vikings as traders and settlers and they had great fun taking part in a drama activity about the Viking gods. A good time was had by all!



In the Community

Children in Need 2019

A massive thank you to everyone for once again making our annual Children in Need fund raising event a successful one. We raised an impressive £551 which will contribute to making the lives of children in the UK and elsewhere in the world a little easier.



Mini Police

Our Year 5 and 6 Mini Police team have had their first official training session with CSPO Dane this term. They enjoyed sharing their knowledge with their classes and received a special treat for their hard work and dedication - a visit from a police van. The children are looking forward to their first community engagement soon; helping out at the library in Denton Holme.

We also enjoyed our visit by the Mayor of Carlisle, Deputy Lieutenant Tess Hart, and PCSO Dane Herd. Children in Reception happened to be making their own chains of office when the Mayor called in!



Festivals & Thanksgiving



Harvest and Remembrance

Our harvest assembly at St James Church is just one of the many ways we mark the changing of the seasons. It is a time when we remember how fortunate we are to have good food available, and remember those for whom it can be a struggle to put food on the table at times. At Robert Ferguson Primary School our key word is always “kindness” on any school day, but it is good to focus strongly on ideas of compassion and care for others on these occasions.

Once again, our pupil representatives took part in the Remembrance ceremony in Carlisle, presenting a wreath to remember all who serve in the armed forces and those who have given their lives to bring about peace or protect it.



Extending the Curriculum



Gardening

The main focus of our gardening efforts this term has been the planting of trees and shrubs, in the garden and wider school grounds. Please encourage your little ones to help us care for these as they grow - the shrubs and trees can take a lot of punishment if the children do not realise how fragile plants can be, and how important they are to our health and environment.

Dance

This term we were very proud of our year 3 children who took part in Evolution Dance Festival. The Children took the idea for their dance from the musical Cats. They worked hard after school to choreograph their piece before performing it on the big stage at The Sands Centre in November. For most of the children this was their first experience of a performance on such a large scale. In true Robert Ferguson style they all rose to the occasion and were outstanding in their performance.



An Audience at Christmas



Celebrating and Singing at Christmas

It has been truly delightful to see and hear the children perform and sing for such encouraging and appreciative audiences - thanks for coming along! There have been: 2 Early Years Nativities, 2 Key Stage One Nativities, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 assemblies, 2 choir performances (and a partridge in a pear tree). The choir sang for members of the local community at Currock Community Centre and Denton Holme Community Centre.

With your donations, including Christmas Jumper Day, we raised £834 for Cash4Kids. Thank you!

On the subject of music, Years 2 and 3 have had djembe drumming lessons this term, while Year 4 learned clarinet and Year 5 learned guitar.

Thank you to Friends of Robert Ferguson Primary School and all who came to the Christmas Fair, which raised £1,500 to support school resources and events.

Wheelchair Basketball



Nat Pattinson, our visiting wheelchair basketball coach updated us on his progress in competition - he won the British Premier League title with Middlesborough. Once again this charismatic sporting personality inspired the children to work hard and persevere to achieve their goals in life.

Youth Zone Taster for Year 3



Year 3 headed to Carlisle Youth Zone for a taster session, to experience sessions in gym, dodgeball, the challenge of protecting an egg from a drop of 20 feet, making chocolate treats and playing musical instruments.

A Dog Treat



We were very lucky to welcome Kerry and his dogs, Max, Paddy and Harry into school. Kerry talked about how Max helped him recover following an accident and the special relationships dogs and their owners have. He also talked about the charity work they do

and how they support recycling and the environment.

"It was inspirational because it shows you what you can do if you really want." - Ava (Year 6)

"It showed us what is actually happening in the world." - Rebecca (Year 6)

Learning Beyond the Classroom for Year 6



History

Year 6 have been studying key events and life during World War 2. Our visits to the Military Museum and Devil's Porridge Exhibition gave us a greater insight into life, particularly in our local area, through workshops and hands-on activities.

"It was really interesting to learn what happened in the local area." - Robert

"It was shocking learning about how much destruction there was in those days." - Warren.



Internet Safety

As part of our work about internet safety, we attended Carlisle Magistrates Court. We took part in a mock trial about a real life case of online bullying in which we had to decide the verdict. We were correct!

Although this was a fun visit, Year 6 all acknowledged the very serious issues about staying safe online.



Keeping on Reading!

A big thank you to the 45 of you who returned the quick survey on reading. It is very encouraging to know that the majority of you are finding time to read with, or to your children each week, and that you are encouraging your child to enjoy reading for themselves.

Don't forget to pop in to the school office area to browse through our 30% discounted book sale for some great books for them to read over the Christmas break!

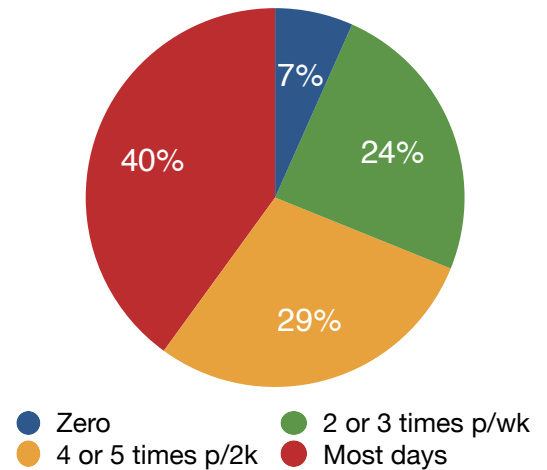
It was a privilege to meet one of my literary heroes - Michael Rosen - earlier in the term. Michael Rosen signed a special copy of his classic book "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" for the school. We look forward to reading it to the children!

From all of us at Robert Ferguson Primary School, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

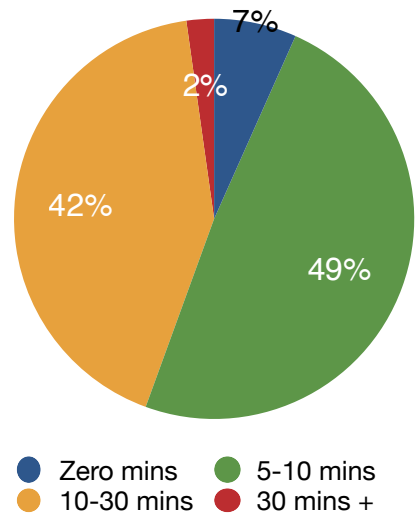
Graham Frost
Headteacher



Hearing your child read or reading with them in an average week



Reading to your child on an average day



How much time does your child read/enjoy books by his/herself on an average day?

