

TAKING STOCK /

Stockport Grammar
School Newsletter



Issue 62
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OUT AND ABOUT

SETTLING IN TO SCHOOL LIFE

All First Year pupils enjoyed three fun-filled days on our free induction residential in Derbyshire to help them make new friends during their first few weeks of school.

The boys and girls stayed at Hartington Hall youth hostel and started their first day with a country walk through the dales and a treasure hunt in Hartington village.

They spent the second day exploring Chatsworth's beautiful gardens and examined the modern sculptures in the Sotheby's Beyond Limits exhibition before playing with the guinea pigs and other animals at the estate's farm.

In the evenings, the group had team building activities in their House teams including quizzes and a fashion show. With a deadline of just 20 minutes, the pupils rose to the challenge of making costumes out of bin bags and newspaper.

On the final day, pupils visited the National Tramway Museum and Heights of Abraham. They all had great fun playing together on the slides, climbing wall and rope walks before returning home exhausted but with new friends and great memories.



SIXTH FORMERS GET PSYCHED FOR PSYCHOLOGY

A group of our Lower Sixth pupils took part in an exciting psychology conference at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

A host of entertaining speakers gave the pupils insights into how evidence is presented and the differences between Psychology and Science.

The highlight of the day was Dr Peter Lovatt who explained the role of dance in cognitive processes. This involved our pupils being asked to get up and join in with his demonstrations of dance moves.

Oliver Meech explained the 'Psychology of Magic' and the day finished with a talk from world famous hypnotist Andrew Newton.



ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

Creative A-Level pupils spent a day in the capital exploring some of the world's most famous pieces of art at London's top galleries.

The trip was designed to provide visual and contextual reference material to help the Sixth Formers with their portfolios.

Pupils explored Tate Britain and along with the excellent Frank Auerbach

exhibition, they got the chance to view their permanent collection.

They visited Tate Modern before heading to the National Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum where they sketched and studied the vast variety of art on display.

Mr Davies, Head of Art and Design, explained why the annual trip is always so worthwhile:

"The opportunity to see art in such auspicious surroundings is hugely important when trying to understand the work. Time can be spent studying techniques. Despite arriving back in Stockport feeling weary, the day was a resounding success and will no doubt have an impact on the subsequent pieces that are produced."





WELCOME TO STOCKPORT

Fifth Year pupils welcomed students and teachers from our partner school in the North German town of Bad Segeberg as part of the annual exchange programme.

Our visitors from Städtisches Gymnasium stayed with our pupils' families and made lots of new friends while attending lessons at Stockport Grammar and exploring the North-West.

Out of school activities included organised visits to Manchester city

centre to do some shopping, a visit to Manchester climbing centre and a tour of Manchester City's stadium.

Some of the Fifth Year ventured as far afield as London and the Lake District with their visitors while others stayed more local for cinema and shopping trips.

The new friends will be reunited on the return leg of the annual exchange next month, when it will be our pupils' turn to stay with their partners' families in Bad Segeberg.

BIOLOGISTS ENJOY FIELD RESEARCH TRIP

Biology pupils from the Upper Sixth spent four days in Shropshire on their annual research trip.

Over the course of the trip, the group studied hydrosere succession, conservation in heather moorlands and freshwater pond ecology.

They also learnt more about collecting reliable data and analysing statistics to support their future work in the laboratory.



EXPLORING THE BATTLEFIELDS

Third Year pupils stepped back in time to explore the battlefields of the First World War on the History department's annual trip to Northern France and Belgium.

The first full day was spent in and around the area of the infamous 1916 Battle of the Somme.

The group visited the underground museum in Albert where they saw artefacts from the Great War and learned about the weapons used by both sides.

Pupils also learned about Old Stopfordian Stanley Liddell from New Mills who died on 4th March 1917 aged just 26.

Linton Armstrong and Phoebe Roberts laid a wreath in memory of Old Stopfordians lost in battle at the Memorial for the Missing at Thiepval and a minute's silence was held in memory of all those who died in and around the Somme area.

Pupils also visited the interactive In Flanders Fields museum, walked through the muddy preserved trenches in Sanctuary Wood and the underground tunnel systems.

A second wreath was laid by Katie Hicks and Matthew Rogan at the moving Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

Upper Sixth pupil Alfie Hall joined the trip to visit for a second time:

"The trip was a moving and memorable experience bringing home the sacrifice of millions yet still showing the respect that is shown to their memory. In this centenary period, it was a unique opportunity for everyone on the trip to experience the battlefields where men fought and died to create the world we live in today."



STAGE SUCCESS FOR PUPILS OLD AND NEW

Current and former Stockport Grammar School pupils joined forces to stage an outstanding production of new musical *The Tree of War*.

The production was co-written and directed by Old Stop Oliver Mills to commemorate 100 years since the start of the First World War.

The musical is a tale of love, loss and hope that explores the lives of a group of South Manchester lads and lasses caught up in the trauma of the First World War.

Originally a one-act show performed to acclaim in 2014, writers Oliver Mills (OS 2012) and Rachel Mann reworked the show into a two-act West End style production.

Oliver said:

"The production is the culmination of a year and a half's worth of writing and six months of production. The 22-strong cast of singers and actors contains a large number of current and former pupils from Stockport Grammar School, notably our two leading men Sam Gilliatt (OS 2014) and Alex Cosgriff (OS 2014) who also led the school production of Godspell in 2014."

The *Tree of War* is Oliver's first project as a professional composer / musician having just graduated from the University of York.

ARTS



AUDIENCE DELIGHTED BY SELL-OUT AUTUMN CONCERT

The school's orchestras, bands and choirs performed to a sell-out audience at this year's Autumn Concert.

Guests were welcomed with opening performances of *Hallelujah*, *Yellow Bird* and *Ragtime Roundup* by the Second Orchestra, conducted by Mrs Short.

This was followed by String Orchestra's introduction to different styles of 20th Century music, conducted by Mr Griffith.

Upper Sixth Form pupil, Becki Smith, opened with a solo performance of Fauré's *Après un Rêve*. The set ended with Stravinsky's quirky Neoclassical piece *Vivo* from *Pulcinella Suite*.

Lower Sixth Form pupil, Emily Howling, then gave a charming vocal performance of Desmond's *Take Five* with the Jazz Band. This was followed by an extravagant performance of *Unsquare Dance* with improvised solos from George Dixon on drums, Alex Pollard on piano and Alex Jones on double bass. Jazz Band finished with an upbeat version of *Winter Wonderland*.

The first half ended with stunning performances of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Dance of the Tumblers* from *The Snow Maiden* and Dvořák's *Slavonic Dance Op. 46 No. 8* by the First Orchestra, conducted by Mr Dow.



TALENTED TRIO SCORE NATIONAL SUCCESS

THREE of our Sixth Formers have been selected to join two of the country's most prestigious musical organisations.

Alex Jones and Simon Fraser have been chosen for the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

Alex, who has been playing the double bass for almost 10 years, was first selected for NYO four years ago and has been promoted to become the orchestra's principal double bass player. Simon, who started learning the oboe when he was 11, has been selected for the first time.

The pair, who both study Music at A-Level and also take extra lessons at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music, received instrumental music

tuition at Stockport Grammar and have been part of many choirs, bands and orchestras during their time at the school.

Mr Dow, Director of Music at Stockport Grammar, said:

"This is a fantastic achievement as NYO is regarded as one of the most prestigious music ensembles available to young musicians in this country. It is exciting for Alex and Simon that several years of hard work and commitment to music-making both inside and outside school have now led to this recognition at national level."

Emily Lyons has been chosen for the National Youth Music Theatre following a series of auditions and interviews in Manchester and London.

Emily has appeared in many drama productions and musicals during her time at the school including *Down The Rabbit Hole*.

She said:

"I screamed when I found out I had been picked because it's all I've ever wanted to do. I will now be appearing in shows with the National Youth Music Theatre. It's an exciting time."

Mr Dow said:

"Emily has done incredibly well to secure a place in the National Youth Music Theatre. This is the highest level of organisation for music theatre within the UK so competition for places is considerable."

The First Orchestra opened the second half with a dramatic performance of the first movement of Haydn's *Symphony No. 104*, again conducted by Mr Dow, before Junior Band took to the stage with Mrs Taylor for a mixture of *Costa Del Sol*, *Mumbo Jumbo* and *Thriller* to lighten the mood.

For the finale, a chorus of 140 pupils sang an uplifting medley from *Guys and Dolls* with excellent solos from Libby Clarence, Molly Royle, Sarah Stretton, Claudia Thomas and Oliver Sheard.

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

A cast of 86 pupils from across the school and a production team of over 50 pupils and staff collaborated over just four weeks to create a fantastic adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*.

Over its two night run, *Down the Rabbit Hole* had audiences captivated as they followed Alice, played by Ella Burton, as she was sent spiralling down the rabbit hole due to the pressures of teenage life. School work, peer pressure, family conflict and the fear of the future are all too much for her to cope with.

The collaboration of drama, dance, music and art brought the traditional much loved characters to life as Alice met up with, sought advice from and gained perspective on her journey on how to grow up and stand on her own two feet.

The actors brought their own interpretation to their individual portrayals of such iconic characters.

Slick scene changes, excellent acting, singing and dancing gave the production a professional air that all involved can be rightly proud of. The adaptation by Drama teacher Mrs Moffatt was amusing, entertaining and thought provoking.



SPORTS



THE NATIONAL FINAL...AGAIN!

Our hockey 1st XI have kept their dreams of retaining the National Schools Champions title alive after securing a spot in the final.

The girls were runners up in the North Final, beating St Peter's, York, 3-0, Yarm School 4-0, King's Chester 3-0 and Cheadle Hulme 3-0 in the heats.

The team, captained by Sophie Cunningham, lost 4-1 to Leeds in the final but go through to the National Finals as runners up, giving them the chance to retain their National Schools Champions status at Lee Valley Olympic Stadium in March.

Miss Withington, Head of Hockey, said:

"All of the squad performed superbly, but a special mention must go to Captain Sophie Cunningham who led by example. As always, the group of parents followed us to Leeds and their support and encouragement certainly lifted the girls. Olympic Stadium here we come!"

Stockport Grammar School are the reigning champions after beating Cranleigh 1-0 in the National Finals in March last year.

In addition to the team's success, Lily Wolstenholme (who scored eight goals at the North Final) and Lauren Hunt (who scored twice) have been chosen to attend the England Under 18s Assessment and Training Camp.

INAUGURAL RUGBY CUP SUCCESS

The Rugby First XV stormed to a 40-27 victory against Manchester Grammar School in the inaugural Ben Stollery Challenge Cup at Stockport Rugby Club.

A crowd of over 300 gathered to watch the teams play on the SRUFC 1st team pitch. Tries from Max Wood, Thomas Power, George Chatterton, Harry Mellor, Louis Jones and Michael Sidebottom, along with five conversions by Max Lederwerg, secured the match.

The Challenge Cup will be contested each year in memory of former pupil Ben Stollery and to maintain awareness for teenage boys of the risk of depression.

A talented rugby player, Ben had represented the school as a promising No. 8. He tragically took his own life last year following a period of clinical depression.

A fund set up by Ben's family to support the Young Minds Trust has so far raised more than £12,000. Read more about this story on the school website at www.stockportgrammar.co.uk

FOOTBALL SELECTIONS

Fifth Year pupil Will Callan has been selected to join the National Independent Schools Football Association U16 squad.

The talented footballer was picked following a North v South selection match and was invited to attend a special training camp at St George's Park last month.

Second Year pupil Tom McDonald has also been picked to join the ISFA North West squad. He will play a host of matches at a training camp in Shrewsbury later this year.

Football teacher Mr Bowden said:

"The boys have done really well to get picked for the ISFA and proved that hard work and dedication pays off. Will can look forward to playing teams from schools around the world and this is the first time Stockport Grammar has had someone picked for the ISFA national squad. Tom will really enjoy the experience of playing for the North West squad."

The ISFA is affiliated to The Football Association and is responsible for developing and promoting football in the independent sector.



WIN FOR WARREN

Friendly rivalries came to the fore when Warren, Arden, Vernon and Nicholson battled it out on the netball court for the Senior House Tournament in the Sports Hall.

Warren claimed overall victory beating Arden 5-3, Vernon 3-1 and Nicholson 4-2.

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR RUGBY BOYS

A number of our Senior School pupils have been picked to represent their counties and districts as well as being chosen for the Sale Sharks Player Development Group and Junior Academy.

George Chatterton, Max Lederweg, Tom Power and Michael Sidebottom were picked for Cheshire U18s while Max Wood joined Cheshire U16s.

George was also picked for Sale Sharks U18s against Gloucester U18s, where he scored a try, and Max Wood has been picked for the Sale Sharks Player Development Group and Junior Academy.

Jenson Cullen and Andrew Goodwin were asked to train with the Manchester District U15s and Jacob Hinton and Zak Sebouai and George Ross have joined Greater Manchester U14s. Max Gilbert, Seb Walker, Tobey Barnfield-Lee and Emilio Ramirez joined East Cheshire U14s and Kieran Langwallner, Bradley Boyd and Max Crompton were picked for East Cheshire U13s. They have also all been selected for the Sale Sharks Developing Player Programme.



NETBALL GIRLS UNDEFEATED

Our U14 netball squad are through to the next round of the National Schools competition after being undefeated in the regional round.

Coming first out of 18 schools, our enthusiastic team won the Greater Manchester round of the National Schools competition at Wright Robinson in November.

Competition was tough and the girls began by winning the group stage, beating St Peter's 14-5, Wright Robinson 9-6, Bolton School 15-5 and drawing with Cheadle Hulme School 4-4.

In the semi-final they faced Oldham Hulme and were losing 3-2 at half time but managed to turn the game around and win 7-4.

They progressed into the final beating Loreto 14-9 and Bury Grammar School 9-6 to win the competition.

The winning squad was made up of Mia Addison, Phoebe Christodoulou, Daisy Hanson, Beth Taylor, Emily Daniels, Macy Jefferies, Emily Hibbins, Francesca Cooke, Imogen Belshaw and Lucie Hanson.

They are now through to the North West round which takes place on 23rd January.

MADDIE'S IN THE SWIM

Super swimmer Maddie Crompton is gearing up for the British Championships in Glasgow in April where she hopes to make it to the Junior Section Finals.

Maddie, who trains nine times a week at Stockport Metro, is focusing on achieving her long term goals and has her sights set on the 2020 Olympics.



SHOOTING FOR SUCCESS

Sisters Beth and Megan Taylor have been rewarded for their fine form on the netball court by being chosen to play for their regional squads.

Megan was selected for U16 Greater Manchester County after a string of impressive performances for the school and her club.

Her younger sister Beth was picked to join the Greater Manchester U14 academy squad after showcasing her remarkable skills throughout the year.

The girls will be training on a weekly basis while continuing to play for the school teams.

Head of Girls' PE, Mrs Goddard said:

"Congratulations to the girls. They thoroughly deserve their places after all the hard work they've put into their netball in and out of school, and we're really looking forward to seeing how they get on!"



SCHOOL LIFE

OOH LA LA

Second Year pupils put their linguistic skills to the test as they watched and participated in a French production.

French theatre company Onatti visited the school to perform *Les Garçons*, a humorous tale about a problematic evening of babysitting.

The play was performed entirely in French and pupils were delighted that they were able to understand almost everything.

Olly Underhill, Taha Ahmed, Elliot Mills and Josh Furtado-Mendes all volunteered to take part in audience participation. They delivered lines in French and understood and followed stage directions from the actors.

Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Ms Gibson said:

"The pupils really enjoyed the production and it was a fantastic opportunity to hear the language in a new context. We are looking forward to having the company back for another play in the New Year – this time a German play for Third Year pupils."



FORMER PUPIL SHARES THE SECRETS OF HIS SUCCESS

Habib Esfahanian, who left Stockport Grammar School in 2003, made a return visit to offer support and guidance to current pupils.

Mr Esfahanian is now Vice President in Bulk Commodities Trading in one of the leading US banks.

He spoke about the path he took after leaving school, telling pupils he studied at the London School of Economics before securing a job at Lehman Brothers. He was working there in 2008 when the company went into bankruptcy and subsequently moved to Geneva as an Oil Trader before he was offered a role back in London nearly six years ago.

Mr Esfahanian is now actively involved in Graduate development and said the main qualities he looks for in potential new employees are enthusiasm and passion for the role.

He added:

"The trading environment is extremely competitive. Deep fundamental knowledge combined with competent risk taking are the keys to acquiring results. We look for strong candidates with the same desire to excel and develop as an individual as well as adding value to the team."

GOING FOR GOLD

Former pupils got the royal treatment when they collected their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards at St James's Palace.

Matthew Allison, Robert Clarke, Catriona Leggat, Vinayak Mandagere, James Ruddock, Jake Saunders, Elizabeth Worthington and Laura Wynne met HRH Prince Philip, the Award's patron, before actress Dame Helen Mirren presented them with their certificates.

Dame Helen said:

"What a fantastic room to celebrate this achievement and what an honour it is to share the celebration with you. You are the gold of our country. You've demonstrated discipline, consistency and concentration, you've faced untold challenges."

Stockport Grammar School is an Independent Operating Authority for the Duke of Edinburgh Award with 324 pupils currently enrolled across all levels.



TASTY TREATS RAISE £750 FOR CHARITY

First Year pupils and the Charity Reps put their baking skills to the test as they did their bit for a good cause.

The Quad was the place to be when stalls full of delicious cakes, biscuits, sweets and chocolates were set up at morning break. The event raised £750 for Francis House Children's Hospice.



OVERSEAS CHARITY MISSION

Family holidays are usually a time for rest and relaxation, but Sixth Former Seun Odusanya used her trip to Nigeria to lend a helping hand to two worthy causes.

Seun goes to Nigeria every couple of years to visit family but decided that she wanted to do something worthwhile this year.

In the week leading up to her visit, Seun recruited friends and family for baking duties and held a cake sale at her church. She raised £419 – more than double her original target.

While in Nigeria, Seun spent several days volunteering at the Living Fountain Orphanage in Lagos where more than half the children are HIV positive. She bought food and basic supplies for staff as well as donating £200. She also taught the teachers new nursery rhymes to sing with the children.

During the second week of her holiday, Seun volunteered at the Cerebral Palsy Centre which was set up by Nonye Nweke in her own home when her daughter was diagnosed with the condition. Seun learnt more about the work carried out at the centre and donated £200.

She said:

"Every time I go to Nigeria, I see the poverty and I always promise that I will do something to help. This year I decided it was time for action.

"I can only describe my visit as a true eye opener. You don't realise how fortunate you are until you experience the conditions some people live in.

"The staff at both centres were so grateful for the time I spent there and the donations that I made. Knowing that I have made a difference to these two organisations and changed lives for the better is an amazing feeling."



SUPER SCIENCE

Talented physicist Philip Thomas paid a visit to members of the Café Sci group to discuss the potential future uses of graphene.

Mr Thomas, who is completing a PhD at the School of Physics and Astronomy at Manchester University, told pupils how graphene is made and how scientists discovered how to extract it from graphite following years of research.

He explained that in future, graphene could be used for water filtration, flat screen technology and Light Emitting Diodes.

DEBATE DELIGHT

Prestigious prizes were claimed by a delegation of 28 pupils when they attended a Model United Nations (MUN) conference in September.

Acting as diplomats from Argentina, Kuwait and Lithuania pupils discussed world issues from their researched country's viewpoint. They were successful in contributions to debates and were commended for

their performances in the general assembly debate.

Individual winners included Tom Pearce who was named outstanding delegate in the Economic and Social Committee for representing Argentina.

Lili Jones, who represented Lithuania in the Political Committee, and Max Hulse, who represented Kuwait in the Economic

and Social Committee, were commended while special mention went to Arvin Sadeghzadeh-Araghi and Muhammad Ali.

The Kuwait delegation won the outstanding award for their performance in General Assembly thanks to their emotional and rousing speech to more than 500 delegates.



EVENTS

ON A MISSION TO MAKE CHRISTMAS MORE MERRY

Pupils from the Nursery to the Upper Sixth did their bit to support Key 103's Mission Christmas campaign, which aims to help children in need across Greater Manchester.

Our pupils' present donations helped make the mornings of local children living in poverty.

This is the fourth year the school have supported Mission Christmas.

As well as collecting toys for Mission Christmas, our pupils spent several hours spreading festive spirit by carol singing at Handforth Dean Shopping Centre with all money raised donated to Beechwood Cancer Care.



ON TOP OF THE WORLD

A talented trio of Fifth Year boys proved their Geography knowledge was second to none when they won the Worldwise Quiz.

Stockport Grammar hosted the quiz with Manchester Grammar School, Manchester High School, King's Macclesfield, Cheadle Hulme School, Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, Longdendale High School and Stockport Academy all taking part.

The Stockport Grammar team – made up of Sam Howard, Adam Keyworth and Finlay Nolan – claimed the top prize with a round to spare.

The quiz is run by the Manchester branch of the Geographical Association and tests geographical knowledge and skills.

TIME TO REMEMBER

Pupils welcomed Old Stopfordians as they joined in the school's annual Remembrance Day Service.

Fifty two Old Stops died during the First World War and a further 60 were killed during the Second World War.

The service took place in Hallam Hall, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

The Old Stops, who attended the school between 1941 and 1962, received a talk from current pupils who had recently returned from a trip to the Somme Battlefields where they laid a wreath in memory of Old Stopfordians lost

in battle at the Memorial for the Missing at Thiepval.

Former pupils travelled from far and wide – including France, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man – to attend this year's event.

Joe Barnes, who left the school in 1944 and who served with the Royal Marines from 1946-48 and the Territorial Army from 1954-81, said:

"I attend the Remembrance Service every year and it's something I really look forward to. It's wonderful to come back to the school and mark the occasion with current pupils and see them paying their respects."

Headmaster Mr Chicken said:

"The Remembrance Service is a significant event in our school calendar each year. Many of our boys and girls have visited the battlefields of the Great War on our popular annual tour and they learn a great deal from sharing their reflections and responses with former pupils of all ages."



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



ANIMAL ART ATTACK FOR OUR JUNIORS

Our Year 1 pupils brought their reading to life when they made animal masks.

The children have been reading *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* in class and invited their parents in to get involved with their art session.

Teacher Miss Ripley said:

"The mask making complements the book we have been reading and the children really enjoyed making their tiger faces. Parents also enjoyed the chance to see what kinds of activities their children do in school."



LEARNING MORE ABOUT HEALTHY EATING

Pupils were visited by Jackie Harte, a food and health advisor from Stockport Council, to find out what should be on their plates at dinnertime.

Mrs Harte explained the importance of a balanced diet and told pupils what vitamins they need to keep them healthy.

The children sat around a giant plate divided into different food groups while Mrs Harte told them about portion sizes.

YORK BOUND FOR ROMAN FUN

York was the destination for Year 4 as they embarked on a fun-filled, action packed overnight trip.

The excited group spent their first day in Roman fancy dress at Murton Park's Danelaw dark age village. The children faced a day of hard work to both maintain and defend their new settlement – once they'd worked out how to see through their helmets.

Some of the pupils were guards while others practised weapons training and made oil lamps.

The next day, the group visited the Castle Museum in York.

Frazer Assheton-Smith said:

"The Victorian street was really interesting with a real sweet shop, dungeons and an old toy shop. There were sounds played to make us believe we were actually in Victorian times. The toy museum had a lot of things from the past 100 years – the teachers all recognised a lot of toys from when they were young."

After lunch in the Merchant Adventurers Hall the pupils visited the Jorvik Centre. Inside there was a glass floor which showed a Viking house underneath.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Our younger pupils got stuck into a host of teddy bear themed activities to show their support for Children in Need – and their efforts raised an impressive £835.

Pupils across Nursery, Infants and Juniors learnt more about where the money raised is used and the problems faced by some children around the world.

Junior pupils wore superhero capes with some even designing and making their

own while the Infants made medals for their teddy bears, enjoyed teddy bear-themed Maths lessons and coloured in Pudsey Bears.

The highlight of the day was a Teddy Bears Picnic where children enjoyed tasty treats with their favourite toys while listening to animal themed music.

At the Nursery, pupils hosted a presentation ceremony where they gave medals to each other's teddy bears and read *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* before enjoying a bowl of porridge.





BRINGING SHAKESPEARE TO LIFE

Year 5 pupils experienced a dramatic performance of Macbeth when the Young Shakespeare Company paid a visit.

The theatre group brought Shakespeare's tragedy to life using the children to help create dramatic scenes. They made the sounds of thunder and lightning as the actors performed the mysterious scene of the witches on the heath.

Volunteers from the audience were also given the chance to take speaking parts in the play and were encouraged to explore the motives, thoughts and feelings of the characters throughout.

Pupils are now learning about Shakespeare's plays in more detail before going on to perform some of his works in the courtyard in the summer.



TIME TO GET TECHNICAL

Year 5 pupils enjoyed all the fun of the fair when STEMworks scientist Simon Kettle shared his computer programming skills.

The children designed and built their own fairground model before using control boxes and specialist Knex software to make it move.

The exciting session was designed to tie in with pupils' ongoing computer and design technology work.

Callum Horsley from 5SM said:

"We were told about how to program the Knex models by using the computer program and then built a simple fairground ride, then we made a more complicated version and tested our models with lights and music."



PUG PALAVA

Author Philip Reeve and illustrator Sarah McIntyre entertained our Junior School pupils with an afternoon of pug-tastic fun.

Pupils were full of enthusiasm for the dynamic duo as they came to launch their third book *Pugs of the Frozen North*, which tells the tale of a race to the top of the world by a pug-powered sledge.

The pair – dressed in bright yellow and blue – began by reading extracts from their book before challenging the children to design their own board game.

The visit ended on a high with a ukulele-led singalong before pupils were able to get their books signed.

JOLLY JELLYBEAN JAPES

Our Reception pupils boosted their counting skills with the help of hundreds of jellybeans.

The children spent a fun-filled day colouring virtual sweets using a special computer program, making their own pictures with jellybeans dipped in paint and mixing colours to create their own jellybean flavours.

The highlight was a baking session where pupils made jellybean shaped biscuits which they topped off with their favourite colour of icing.

