



Stepping back in time...

At St. Patrick's we love to learn about our past. During this autumn, all classes have been finding out about a period of history. From revolting Romans to vile Victorians, the past has been brought to life in our classrooms. Year 3 even squeezed in a visit to Danelaw on the outskirts of York before lockdown restrictions. Here they learned how to live like Anglo-Saxons for the day. Our young Saxons made bread, moulded clay pots and even went off to battle. A fantastic day was had by all. Class 4 brought the Beamish experience to Thornaby. Children travelled back to Victorian times to find out what it was like in school back then through dressing up and enjoying writing on slate - not a tablet or iPad was in sight!



Learning about Faith

In school, we have been finding out what it means to belong to God's family and the importance of baptism to welcome people into his family. Reception children made their own churches in class and looked at the different symbols used. This term we also found out about the Jewish faith. We learned about the special artefacts which they use in prayer and festivals.



Weird Science

Our young scientists get up to all sorts of weird and wonderful experiments in their science lessons. In nursery, children have been finding out all about animal habitats outside in our school grounds and even found a hedgehog to adopt and look after. They found out what food would keep her safe and well throughout the Winter. We look forward to seeing her in the Spring again. Year 4 scientists found out what owls like to eat by looking at their digestive system. Through looking at owl pellets, they found out that Barn Owls don't eat McDonalds.



Smartest Dog in town

With winter approaching fast and temperatures falling, we thought that it would be best to get Teddy our school dog kitted out in some warm gear. We didn't want him to get in any bother for not wearing the correct uniform!



We will remember them

Traditionally, November is a special month of remembrance for all those that have gone before us in our families and those that have made the ultimate sacrifice in wars. We sold poppies and merchandise for the British Legion as well as holding special liturgies in our classes for our loved ones that had died. Our Year 6 made a special visit to Thornaby cemetery and local memorials on a heritage walk to remember the fallen.



Sports Stars

How good it is for our children to get out into the playground and showcase their sporting skills and great teamwork. Forget the present England Rugby superstars, we have the rugby stars of the future. We have them all, tough tacklers and pacey passers. And in basketball we have the St. Patrick's globetrotters with dribbling and shooting skills that would grace any court in the world.



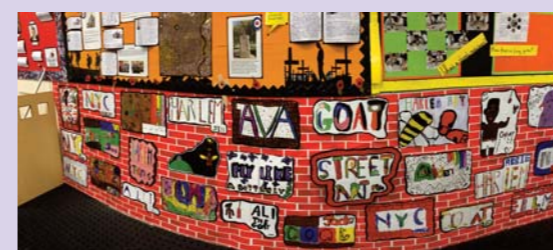
Children in Need

At times like this, we need to remember that there are lots of people who need our help. We enjoyed a non-uniform day and took part in the Pudsey activities as we supported this year's Children In Need appeal. Our generous children and parents managed to raise a total of £526.04p and proved yet again that St. Patrick's is a community that just keeps on giving.



Artistic Moments

We have some very expressive children, and this is especially evident when it comes to art. Our talented Y6 artists linked their art to our Black History month topic as they put their finishing touches to their Harlem Street Art. The children enjoyed adding splashes of colour to their street art. Younger children enjoyed linking their artwork with Bonfire Night celebrations as they experimented with paints and pastels.





The Great Outdoors

We are all taking the opportunity to get fresh air and look after mental well-being in these difficult times and this is no exception at school. Our playground and school grounds have become an extension of our classrooms. Our youngest pupils use their surroundings and nature to develop their numeracy and literacy skills while older children find out the number of different species of trees that we have. Thanks to the creative skills of caretaker Mr. Hammill, all trees are labelled up for us to help us identify them.



Celebrating First Holy Communion

Before the second lockdown, we were able to commence our First Holy Communion celebrations. Thanks to a dedicated health and safety team at St. Patrick's Church, small groups of children were able to celebrate their long awaited special day as they received the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. We look forward to more of our Y4 children being able to do the same in 2021!



International Music Day

This year we combined European Languages Day with International Music Day celebrations. Each class looked at a famous song from around Europe, learned the language of the song and then performed it for parents remotely through google classrooms. You could say we had our own Eurovision song contest but without "Royaume-Uni" taking part. The countries represented were; France, Italy, Iceland, Spain, Germany and Holland. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and learned a different language through music and song.



Farewell and Thank you Mr. Hardy

We finally got to say our fond farewells and a huge thank you to Mr. Hardy, our caretaker who retired in the Summer. Ken was with us at St. Pat's for the last 14 years and he never missed a stroke of time as he looked after us all and kept us all safe. He was the forever Mr. Reliable but we leave him now to do all of the caretaking at home now and making sure all of the meals and cleaning at home are done for Mrs. Hardy. Enjoy your retirement Ken and we will see you around-probably out on your bike!

