

6TH DECEMBER 2024

ST ETHELWOLD'S VA SCHOOL



Christmas is just around the corner and we are fully gearing up to and preparing for that in school, but before we get on to that, I will round up the last couple of weeks here in school.

The sponsored walk to Moel Famau was a wonderful day, if a bit windy! About 25 hardy souls braved the elements and managed to get up and down in good time, and with spirits high, the grand total raised was £770 . Thank you so much to those who went on the walk and equally to those that donated to help The Welsh Air Ambulance Service.

As part of our ongoing safeguarding work, we have had a couple of visitors to school in the last few weeks. Firstly, Sian from The Spectrum Project visited and worked with all of our classes. As part of the drive by the Welsh Government to tackle Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, the Stori's Spectrum Project is fully funded by the Welsh Government to deliver sessions on Healthy Relationships and VAWDASV topics in all secondary and primary schools in Wales.

All Spectrum sessions:

- Promote the importance of healthy relationships and raise the awareness of children, young people and adults about the issues of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Are delivered by qualified and experienced teachers, sessions can be delivered in Welsh or English and all resources are bilingual.
- Are cross curricular and are designed to promote peer discussion, using a range of techniques
- Use material that are thought provoking but are not designed to be so emotive as to cause distress

- Are designed to promote discussion not disclosure.
- Conclude with information for young people on where they can access help and support both inside and outside the school.

On top of this, all pupils took part in the NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' assembly and then did a unit of work in class. The Speak Out Stay Safe programme works on the premise that any kind of abuse is preventable and not inevitable.

Part of the work that we do to keep children safe is to explain to them in an interactive, age-appropriate way:

- What abuse is
- How to spot the signs
- What to do if they are ever made to feel scared or worried by something.

We have information around school explaining or safeguarding procedures as well as an NSPCC display which explains to pupils what they can do to stay safe.

Class 3 enjoyed a fabulous fully funded trip to Xplore Nature in Northop last week where they were inspired to use the outdoors for maths, whilst pupils in Class 2 had a visit from Wrexham University where they were successfully introduced to coding.

We were joined by special visitor originally from Afghanistan this week, this is what Miss McCormick had to say about the visit:

As part of the process to achieving the Schools of Sanctuary Award here at St Ethelwolds, we have recently had a visit from a gentleman named Gul Rasool Saber, who has immigrated to our country from Afghanistan. He delivered a service talking about Afghanistan, the different areas, foods, towns and where it was on the world map. Before the visit, the children of Class 2 had planned some wonderful messages welcoming Gul into our school and our Country. Class 3 pupils had used different forms of technology to research and create individual mindmaps with information on Afghanistan and class 1 had been involved in a small discussion about the country. Both children from class 2 and class 3 planned some fantastic questions to ask at the end of the service, with some brilliant questions also being asked by class 1 pupils. All of the learners were engaged and fascinated by the different answers and stories that they had heard.

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter and also for your support.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday morning.

With just 2 weeks of the Autumn Term left, here are, for the last time, a list of the events we have to celebrate this most special time of year:



Christmas Diary

Wednesday 11th December-
Christmas Concert Performances.
11am, 2pm & 5pm

Thursday 12th December- Christmas
Jumper Day

Monday 16th December- Class 1
Christmas Disco

Tuesday 17th December- Class 2&3
Christmas Disco

Wednesday 18th December- Christmas
Dinner Day & Class 1 party

Thursday 19th December- Party Food
Menu & Class 2/3 party

*Christmas Jumper Day- No uniform needed. Festive colours, home decorated tops, a bit of tinsel are all fine. Please do not add to the stress of Christmas if your child doesn't have or want to wear a Christmas Jumper.

** Class parties are during the school day.