

# The Windmills News

Issue 5: 31st January 2019

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We were delighted to welcome parents to our Open Morning at the end of last week and hope they too could feel the buzz of activity that has been evident throughout the school since our return from the Christmas break.

We have been delighted to see the children fully immersed in their learning and so obviously enjoying their current topics. As you will see from the pages to follow, a number of organisations have visited to work alongside the teachers and children. These activities, using a wide range of teaching methods, play a huge part in enhancing the children's learning and really help to make the topics come to life! As you will see from this cover page—our year 6 pupils have really grasped the tone of the news reports at the outbreak of WW2—this has also made them realise how different the media is in today's world!



3rd September 1939:

Hello, welcome to children's hour. Today, I will be informing you of the start of the war.

The ruler of Germany, Adolf Hitler, is a horrible man who wants to rule over many countries. He has previously invaded Austria and Czechoslovakia and is now going after Poland's land. We haven't and will never let that happen, as we made a promise to Poland to protect them. Neville Chamberlain (our prime minister) gave Hitler an ultimatum: leave or we shall declare war. However, Hitler still wanted power after our warning. A war has been declared.

Don't worry as we will win. But, we have planned an evacuation for you children as you must stay safe. We have strong, brave soldiers—possibly including your parents—who will keep England from total destruction. Before the evacuation, you must help growing food that will feed your family; washing as your clothes might get extremely dirty and you must help cook. You have no need to be worried as we are confident and we are preparing for battle. As this broadcast is live, gallant soldiers are getting ready for war. You are the children of today and the adults of tomorrow—do your part. Thank you for listening to children's hour.

Elena Angelaki-King

3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1939 - BBC children's hour

This is Thomas Humphrey speaking to you from the BBC broadcasting station in our capital city of London. I wish you all a good evening.

As you may know, a few days ago, our prime minister and simultaneously us along with him, have declared war on not Germany as a whole but on the Nazi party at its centre and its leader Adolf Hitler.

The government are making preparations: they are constructing small metal structures in your back yard; this is because of the dangerous German air raids. One should not be afraid though or be too concerned though, as this will soon recede.

I would like to tell you that this war will by the 'morrow be over, but as we've learned from world war one, would that it was so simple. We have made a promise to Poland that if someone was to invade, then we would rush to their aid. You may experience some changes in the coming years: you may be evacuated to places that are regarded as safer places than where you currently are. I wish you all a splendid rest of your day. Good night.

# ANCIENT GREECE



On Monday 28th January, Year 3 were transported to Ancient Greece for the day. The Legend Theatre Company treated us to a day of drama in the Hall. Everyone looked fantastic dressed as an Ancient Greek child, we even had a visit from Pandora. Thank you to everyone who supported their children in making a costume, this made the day extra special and helped to create a different atmosphere for the learning. They truly believed that they had been transported to Ancient Greece—although it was a tiny bit chilly!

The children were absolutely fantastic all day and were transfixed by the play of Theseus and the Minotaur and excited by the roles that they had. They all had the opportunity to take part and interacted with the performance. They helped to support the actors in key aspects. They had a variety of roles: from pigeons in Trafalgar Square (at the start of the journey) to key characters in the story, including Ariadne—who helped by supplying the crucial golden thread. Some of the children sailed Theseus across to Crete to find the minotaur and rowed over very rough seas. The children listened beautifully and were fully engaged.



As well as learning about the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur the children learnt a huge amount about Greek theatre and were taught some specific acting techniques. They learnt how to mime which they then used in the afternoon.

All of the year group took part in recreating an Ancient Greek market place (known as an Agora) and we witnessed some brilliant improvisation. There were market sellers selling an array of goods as well as merchants and sailors— creating a busy, bustling market.

The children got so much out of the day. They know the story well— and have begun to learn about the traditions and the history of the time.



'I really liked it and I especially liked being part of the market, I was mining for gold to make the coins.'

Patrick—Starfish



'I thought it was really creepy when we saw the Minotaur in the maze but it was exciting as well.'

Josie—Dolphin



'I thought the costumes were really realistic.'

Sophia - Dolphin



'I liked how the actors could do really cool sound effects in the play.'

Pippa W—Starfish

'I felt really important dressing up and pretending to be a Greek Emperor. The best part was the show—I really enjoyed watching it!'

Robin—Seahorse





On January 23rd, a fantastic group of year 4 students went to Warden Park where they took part in an interschool sports hall athletics competition, organised by Mid Sussex Active.

This was the first time that this event had been organised, for this year group, and it was an overriding success.

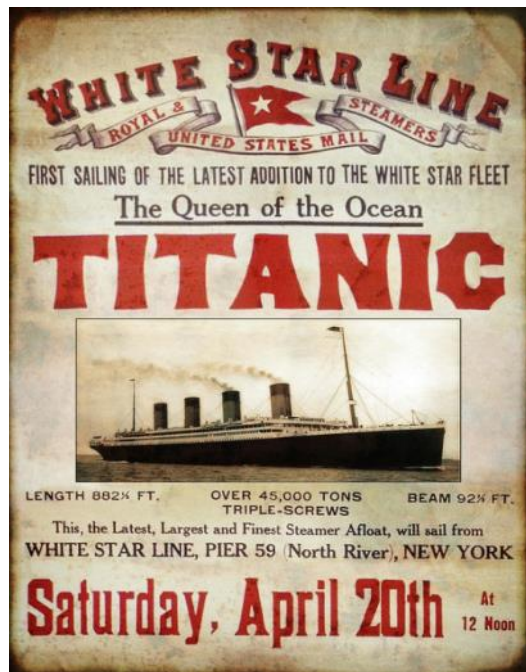
Mid Sussex Active supports their network of primary and secondary schools to provide their pupils with greater opportunities to participate and compete in high quality PE and Sport. It also allows children at secondary school to take on the responsibility of sports leaders which is a great experience.

Our team were absolutely fantastic; supportive, co-operative, determined, impeccably well behaved and an absolute pleasure to work with. Every child tried their very hardest in every event.

We did really well, especially considering a number of the events were totally new to us. Results to be given out in assembly tomorrow!

10 schools, 200 children, 30+ sports leaders, 13 activities:  
7 field—throwing, jumping, speed jumping and balancing  
6 track—running, relay, obstacle and hurdles





As part of our 'Changing States' topic in Year 4, we have been exploring the tragic story of the Titanic.

To immerse the children in the topic, we invited in Kim Wright, from JK Theatre Arts, to run a workshop. Each child was given a real name of someone who embarked on the Titanic on that fateful journey. There were people such as the man in charge of the White Star Line, brave people who gave up their seats on a lifeboat and musicians who continued playing right up to the end.



During the day, the children were split into the different social classes to experience what life would have been really like, at the time, on board the most luxurious ship ever built. They were welcomed into the drama arena by the Captain, Edward John Smith, and used props to bring their character to life. The children then explored life on the Titanic for their class, such as promenading around the deck, relaxing, reading in the library and playing games.



As part of this experience, the children learnt either a waltz, rag-time jazz or an Irish folk dance, depending on the social class they would have been based in. This was fantastic and the children picked up the moves very easily!

'We made interesting shapes with our bodies and had fun. It was so brilliant that I thought I was going to burst!'

Ryan - Octopus

'I enjoyed dressing up in all sorts of different clothes because it was interesting to see what they would have worn ages ago on the Titanic.'

Leon - Turtle

'I liked how quickly our dance was and I enjoyed learning a new style of dance.'

Jack - Turtle

'I loved the workshop. It was really fun to dress up and do a dance. I wish I could do it again.'

Ava - Octopus





Whilst the drama workshop was happening, the other children explored historical sources to find out about the daily life on board the ship in the different classes. They had to find the right answers to break a challenging code. They then wrote a postcard to a loved one back home describing the most exciting voyage of their life.

At the end of the day, we all came together and imagined what it would have been like when classes did mix, as this did not happen very often. One of the first times, was when the ship was going down and they had to help each other. The children also performed their dances to each other; this was one of their favourite parts of the day.



'I liked it because it was a good experience of what it would have been like. I would have been thinking that first class was just for the rich and very fancy.'

Sophia - Swordfish

'I learned how to do a Titanic dance that 1<sup>st</sup> class passengers did. I enjoyed dancing in a very posh way! I liked how the music went with the dance so well.'

Georgina - Turtle

'I enjoyed everything, especially writing a postcard home and thinking about what my passenger would have said.'

Dylan - Turtle

'I thought dressing up was fun as I had a massive hat.'

Herbie - Swordfish

'I really enjoyed throwing the hats in the air as part of our third class dance.'

Bayley - Turtle



## MUSIC Workshops—so far this year—THANK YOU FOWs

Year 3: Back in November, Year 3 enjoyed a workshop run by African drummer Kwame from 'African Activities'. Kwame brought in 30 African drums so each child had one to play and he taught the children various rhythms and techniques. He also shared some of his vibrant culture with the children, wearing traditional dress, telling stories and singing songs.



Year 5: Year 5 had a wonderful day of workshops, provided by Ollie from 'Beat Goes On'. Their morning workshops involved a range of body percussion techniques including stamps, claps, clicks and cheek slaps. They followed rhythms accurately and composed their own. During the afternoon the children experienced becoming a samba band! They played samba instruments such as sordo drums, ganzas and agogo bells. The children had to follow complicated rhythms on their given instrument, as well as following direction about stopping, starting and changing volume. The sound was amazing!



Year 6 : Year 6 were lucky enough to be visited by Bass6 from the world champion 'Beat box Collective'. Each class had a workshop with Bass6 where they enjoyed the incredible sounds he can make using only his voice. The children had a go at making their own sounds and then some children had a beat box battle with Bass6 as the judge. He even popped into assembly and wowed the whole school with his beat boxing techniques! It was a fantastic day and a unique experience for the Year 6 children.





## Musical Instrument Project— Yr 6 Tenor Horns

In their music lessons last term, year 6's Shark class had a special opportunity to learn a brass instrument: the tenor horn. This is collaboration with WSCC music service and funded, as ever, by our marvellous FOWs. We asked for something small and easy to store, a flute perhaps and received 30 tenor horns!

Tenor horns are similar to their larger relative, the tuba, but are easier to hold and their sound is at a higher pitch. The children have already learnt to play five notes on the tenor horn and arrange them into tunes, which they proudly demonstrated to parents and relatives at the end of term.

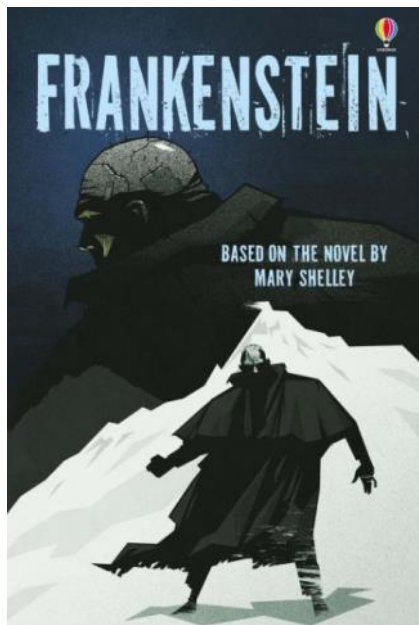
Led by their tenor horn teacher, Mr Roff, and their music teacher, Mrs Scott, the class played a selection of well-known songs including Hot Cross Buns, Happy and Jingle Bells. The audience were highly impressed by the children's skill with the instruments (after a single term of practice), as well as the deep, rich sounds they were able to produce.

We are hopeful that this unique opportunity will encourage the children to be courageous and try different things and hopefully inspire some to continue to play a brass instrument.



'Playing the tenor horn was really fun—a once in a lifetime opportunity. I really enjoyed the chance to perform in front of everyone too!'

Olivia—Shark



## YR 5 The Mad Scientist Laboratory

The children have shown a huge enthusiasm for their topic 'Explorers' so far this term. We have been reading the story of Frankenstein, learning about the science exploration that Dr Frankenstein conducted as he tried to bring a human to life...

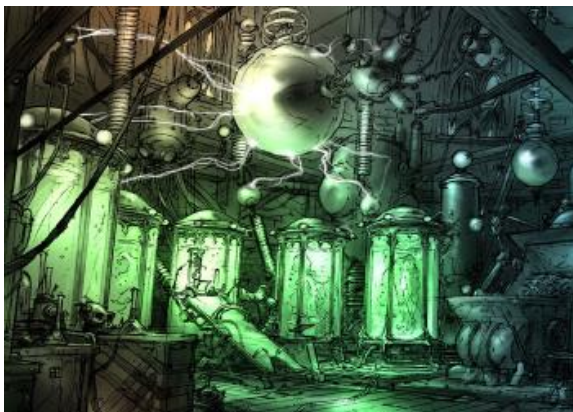
On the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, Year 5 became curious explorers and took a journey through a mysterious building. We explored the abandoned laboratory of Dr Frankenstein. We crept under cobwebs, clambered over upturned chairs, and fought through clouds of smoke, investigating the brain filled jars and forgotten bones (all the while aware of the eerie echoes of water dripping and doors creaking around us). Cascaded along Dr Frankenstein's desk, the children

Lying scattered on the dusty, cracking, wooden floor, were some revolting human bones. My heart shook. They looked old as the blood on them was a dark crimson and some of the bone was glazing off. Everything around me was covered in sheets and one of the chairs was knocked over. The building must have been left in a hurry. As I turned the corner, the disgusting scent of rotting animal hit me. What could it be?

Hannah- Coral

discovered sketches and drawings that he worked tirelessly to bring to life.

After our thorough investigation, we returned back to the classroom to begin yet another fantastic piece of writing, building tension and atmosphere as they told the story of their journey. The children were full of incredible ideas of what they had seen, heard and felt throughout their



As I stepped into the house, my spine started to tingle. I started to hear dripping water that has just come from the ceiling. There were cobwebs in the corner of the room with spiders crawling on the floor. SMASH!

Charlie - Marlin

Me and Josh ran in to the room that it smashed in. Where did that come from? Broken and shattered pots were on the ground. Slowly oozing from the pots, revolting goo dripped on the surface.

through the lab. We used these ideas to plan and write their narrative - **The Abandoned Laboratory**

As Josh pushed the door open, a century's worth of dust poured down all over Algie's head. All around them was smashed glasses with acid and chemicals spilling out. Attached to the ceiling, were sticky, gluey cobwebs that criss-crossed the room. As the brothers looked down, a gust of wind streaked across the faces making them tremble in fear.

Oakley Coral



As we went outside, I gazed up at the dark evening sky. She shivering, I pulled my cardigan tighter over my shoulders. I wished we had stopped to put on coats.

Emily C - Marlin

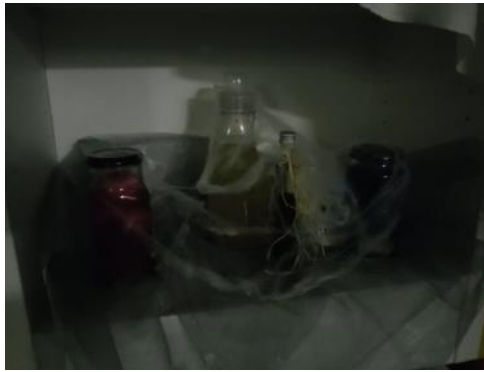
When we arrived at the abandoned building, I arrived quickly. I wiped <sup>ancient</sup> condensation off the window. It dripped down the moss-covered walls and landed in a pile of mould. Taking no notice of the ever-growing pile of mould, I arrived peeped inside.

"I can't see anything!" she exclaimed. "It is completely dark." I <sup>eyes</sup> rolled my. It was an abandoned house, of course it was dark. I reached up to knock the rotting wooden door but, before I touched it, the door creaked open.



The dirt-encrusted windows blocked sight of light. As I walked further in, it got gloomier, darker and scarier. Just then, I heard a smash. It was a jar of red liquid and it stained the misty sheet. In front of me was a collection of ghostly bones and assorted organs. What will we find next?

Isaac H - Crab



I eventually approached the groaning stairs of the abandoned building. Nervously, I pushed open the dirt-encrusted door. The thick, grey cob webs covered my trembling hands. My stomach flipped. Slowly, I took a step further into the old, forgotten laboratory. Carefully, I tiptoed over the sharp rocks and large cracks. I made my way over to the closest room. Dark covered every surface in sight...

I slowly crept through the dark room. The sunlight dimmed because the windows were smashed and dirt encrusted. I continued to creep forward tripping many times.

Beth - Crab

