

Castleside Chronicles

December 2019, Issue 22

School choir praised for “beautiful tone” in county competition

By Libby and Seren, Year 6

On Thursday 5th December the school choir went to Ushaw College to take part in the Durham County Primary Schools Choir of the Year competition. We had auditioned for the competition and only 12 schools out of 202 in the whole of County Durham were invited.

When we got on the bus we were all full of excitement. Finally, when we got there we were so surprised at how big Ushaw College was, even though we'd been there before.

As soon as we walked in we were surrounded by other schools, then we walked to the main hall ready to warm up our voices. We sang 13 carols and two really clever warm-ups and, by the time we finished, it was time for lunch. We all walked through an art gallery with some really interesting paintings before we got to the music room. We saw some very historic paintings and drawings.

As we walked to the entrance of the main hall, we practised our song as the other schools stared in amazement! That was where the real competition started and we were determined to come back with the trophy.



We were last to sing, meaning we got to watch the other choirs trying to do their best performance. Then it was our turn to do so.

We were quiet as we entered. Our song went well even though we were nervous and we still did amazingly.

Even though we didn't win, we were proud to take part and sing our hearts out to everyone in the room!



The judges praised our choir for their “beautiful tone”, “well controlled long notes” and “confident soloists.” Thanks to Miss Barrass and Mrs Gilbert for all of their hard work, to Mr Gilbert for his support and his fantastic photographs—and to our wonderful choir. You were a credit to yourselves and to Castleside Primary School.

Also, a big thank you to the many members of staff who have contributed photos to this edition.



KEY DATES

Monday 16th December: Key Stage 2 party, 1pm-3.15pm.

Tuesday 17th December: Key Stage 1 party, 1pm-3.15pm.

Wednesday 18th December: Christmas Jumper Day; Christmas Cabaret 2pm.

Friday 20th December: Christingle Service, St John the Evangelist; Christmas lunch in classes; Break up for Christmas.

Tuesday 7th January: School re-opens.

Wednesday 15th January: PM Whole school visit to Theatre Royal pantomime (oh, yes it is!)

Wednesday 12th February: 3.30-5.30 Parents evening (all classes).

Thursday 13th February: 4.00-6.00 Parents evening (Class 3).

Friday 14th February: **Non-uniform day;** Break up for half-term.

Monday 24th February: School re-opens.



The phenomenal Lights, Camel, Action 2 !

By Leon, Year 6

This year's school Nativity (Lights, Camel, Action 2) started with a jazzy song while the actors entered the spot-light. Then we had a very interesting introduction, followed by a flabbergasting hip-hop style song.

After each song, the three judges, Funky Camel, Caesar and the Sheep, would give their scores. Caesar almost always said, "Four." Some of the dance routines for the songs were phenomenal. This really impressed me.

The way the Key Stage 1 children remembered their lines was impressive. Overall, the Key Stage 1 actors and the Class 3 singers did a great job working through what they had to. How they executed it was phenomenal. Scott did a great job controlling the lights too.



Choir raise a record £206 with Tesco carols



Many congratulations to Miss Barrass and her wonderful school choir for raising a record £206.91 on their annual carol singing trip to Tesco in Consett. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to all of our incredible fund raising efforts this term. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to reach the following amazing totals: School Fair £1,000; Harvest Festival £156.00; MacMillan Coffee £127.56; Children in Need £82.00; Poppy Appeal £193.40.

Intrepid Emma makes a name for herself on Dukeshouse trip



By Emma, Year 5

From 12th to 15th November, Class 4 went to Dukeshouse Wood with Mr and Mrs Gilbert. Friday was my favourite day. We had problem solving and Jacob's Ladder.

On Jacob's Ladder we had to pull the rope and if you were about to go you were attached to the ground and had the job to pull up the rope attached to the harness. When it was mine and Drew's turn I got to the top of the ladder in record time and next season it's going to be known as Emma's Ladder.

Every step of the rungs got bigger and bigger as you went up. I only got to the top because of team work. I got up one rung and then I helped Drew get up. There were eight rungs to climb up and most people got up three to six. Drew got up to the sixth but then she could reach no further.

After that we had problem solving. One of the problems was having to get over two planks without touching the floor. There was another one where you had to go past each other in order of shoe size.

I had a fun time and hopefully I'll go back again. We went to bed at 10:00pm and were woken up at 7:00am. The food was really nice. On Tuesday it was American, on Wednesday Italian, on Thursday English and on Friday East to East.

There was crate stacking, where you had to stack up as many crates as you can in three minutes and stand on them. We got 13, the highest any kid has ever got.



Some of us pushed our limits to get to the top of things or just got higher than they did last time. I thought everybody did really well. Mr Gilbert said it was one of the best groups he had ever had.

Dukeshouse Wood is one of my favourite places that I have visited in my life. I had a fun time and hopefully I'll go back.





Learning about Saints and surveys on our trip to Durham

By Alf T-M, Oliver and Daniel B, Year 5

On Friday November 8th, years 5 and 6 went to Durham Cathedral to learn about the Christian Saints. We looked at one of the stained glass windows, which told the story of St Oswald, then we went to the back of the cathedral to learn about St Hilda.

After that, we moved on to St Cuthbert and Alf T-M wore a clay replica of St Cuthbert's cross, which was a cross with gold and garnets. After lunch we headed to the centre of Durham to do a survey.

There was a dilemma because Alf T-M and his partner Lewis left the pencils at the cathedral so Mr Gilbert bought some new ones [generously dipping into his retirement pot!—ed.].

We had to ask the public where they had come from and how they had got to Durham. One couple had come on their first date all the way from Scarborough!

After the survey, we headed back to the bus. Some of us talked about who would win a boxing match the next day between two YouTubers. We all picked the winner!





Kitchen Zoo cook up a treat with WOLF!



Years 1 and 2 had an amazing afternoon watching Kitchen Zoo perform WOLF! at Northern Stage in Newcastle. They danced, sang and hugely enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Bob, Hannah and Barbara the Sheep for their wonderful workshop in school.



School footballers finish third in final of district tournament

By Jack B, Year 4

On Wednesday December 4th the school football team played in the Ted Young 5-a-side Tournament at Greenland School in South Moor. For the second year in a row, we qualified for the Derwentside finals, back at Greenland a week later, finishing an excellent third.

On the first night we played three games that lasted ten minutes. We won two and drew one, just missing first place on goal difference. We qualified for the finals because we were the strongest of the runners-up in the three qualifying tournaments.

In the squad was me, making my debut, Frankie in goal and also Liam, Daniel A, Seb, Natan and Marshall. In

our first game we played St Joseph's, who finished top in the tournament. We drew 0-0.

When the game started I felt a bit nervous but as the game went on the knot in my stomach started to untangle itself. If Seb's goal had not been disallowed, we would have won that game too.

In the second game we beat Burnside 2-0. I scored in the first minute also with a curling shot in the last minute. I also hit the post and Daniel and Liam also hit the woodwork.

In our final match we beat South Stanley 3-1. Frankie made some amazing saves and I scored one goal and Daniel got the other two. St Joseph's beat Burnside in their last match, which is why they beat us to first place on goal difference.

Jack Mac and Charlie came into the squad for the finals at Greenland on Wednesday 11th December. We were down to the final four, with Bloemfontein, St Joseph's and Shotley Bridge.

It was Charlie's debut for the school team. For the first game we played Shotley Bridge. Frankie kept us in the game with some amazing saves. Liam hit the post and the keeper made a top corner save but we lost 2-0.

The second match was against St Joseph's. They scored first but we pulled it back to 1-1 when Liam scored in the bottom corner. We might have won but Liam shot into the side-netting and their keeper made an excellent save.

Our last match was against Bloemfontein. Daniel Ashurst scored an early goal. I hit the post and kept on shooting the ball at their keeper. They equalised in the last minute with a re-taken free-kick. We should have won, which would have meant us finishing runners-up to Shotley Bridge, but we drew 1-1 and finished joint-third with Bloemfontein, behind Shotley Bridge and St Joseph's.

