

Dear Parents,

Thank you for coming to support the children in their performance of Panto Pandemonium on Monday night. I'm sure you'll agree that they were fantastic and that their singing, dancing and acting helped to bring the play to life. The 'baddies' dance, which they have been working on in PE with Miss Sarah, was a great way to start the performance, and the seven dwarves provided plenty of laughs in their scene too - all of the singing and acting practice at school and at the Galtres Centre paid off. Well done to everybody!

Continuing the pantomime theme, our trip to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at the Harrogate Theatre on Thursday was a great success. The children had a great time cheering, singing, booing and hissing at all the usual characters.

The children have been doing some festive maths this week, and learning to balance equations. They were given the role of being part of the SSAB (Sleigh Safety and Balancing) team at the North Pole, tasked with ensuring the sleighs setting off to countries in every corner of the world are balanced and safe to fly. In order to do this, they had to apply their reasoning skills to the equations, and either prove that they were balanced or imbalanced, and to find missing values, represented as letters, by using problem solving and inverse operations. This activity pulled together all of the skills they have been developing throughout this last half term's 'multiplication and division' unit: algebra, long multiplication, bus stop division, factors and multiples, square, cube and prime numbers and multiplying and dividing by powers of ten. These will all be vital skills when we move on to fractions, decimals and percentages in January.

In science, we've been feeling festive, and have been investigating forces. The children constructed a sleighs out of balloons, straws and card, which were then hung on the 'sleigh run' (fishing line) from one end of the classroom to the other to see how fast they would travel when the balloon was cut at the end. We used this as a basis for discussion about friction, air pressure and air resistance. The children also learnt how to calculate velocity and think about the effect that these forces and the construction of the sleigh had on it. The fastest sleigh was made by Ollie and Hannah, which reached an impressive velocity of 6.68 metres per second, or 15.2mph. The children then carried out some writing and diagram drawing to demonstrate their findings and knowledge.

We've also crammed in some assessments this week, with the children demonstrating how much they have progressed in maths, grammar, spelling and reading.

Have a great weekend,

Tim Easton