

NEWSLETTER

EDITION 4

APRIL 2022

Hello again....this half term has been all about music and performance. We have truly loved being able to host a variety of performances for the Gresham community this half term. It's been so much fun!

Gresham's Global Beats

For this half term's activity, we chose "Global Beats" - as another continued exploration of the countries we assigned to each class back in September.

Each week we presented a different class with a song or dance routine from their assigned country.

Each session began with a body percussion warm up in their respective classrooms. Songs from Encanto seemed to be the favoured theme across all the classes!

After the warm up we got down to serious business, learning and rehearsing our performances. With assistance from our volunteers, the children either worked in small groups or as a whole group to perfect their class performance. This was no mean feat as the children only had around an hour and a half to learn their entire performance from start to finish. They were real superstars!



"The body percussion warm up was so much fun!" Year 6 pupil

The performances ranged from dancing, to singing with percussion, to body percussion or playing African drums!

Each class teacher was invited as "Guest of Honour" to watch their class perform. However, the most incredible part of this half term was giving the children the opportunity to share it all with you. It's been so long since school were last able to offer you the chance to see your child/ren performing. We hope that those of you that were able to join us for the "Friday Surprises" enjoyed watching their little faces smiling back at you!

Impromptu Quartet Concert

Our fourth reverse school trip saw the school hall turned into Gresham's very own concert hall for the afternoon. We hosted two 45-minute concerts – one for the younger and another for the older classes.

The curtains were pulled to create a dimly lit atmosphere with stage lighting poised on the main stage. The audience seating was arranged in three tiers to mimic a theatre. The children and staff entered the concert hall to the sound of the quartet softly playing. The quartet looked lovely in their black tie and ball gown finery – a lot of the children were in awe!

Once everyone one was seated the quartet introduced themselves and the musical journey they were about to take everyone on. There was a pause for conversation between each piece for children to ask questions and describe how the music had made them feel.

After saying goodbye to their new musical friends, the children and staff left the concert hall to the sound of the quartet playing.

The children's faces said it all – it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon! We think it may be our favourite Reverse School Trip so far.

If your children were captured by the concert and would like to see the performers playing again in their "proper job" (as members of St Paul's Sinfonia), you can find details here:

www.stpaulssinfonia.com



"One of the best afternoons ever. The music was fantastic and to see the children mesmerised and enthusiastically clapping was brilliant."

Ms Steele

CONCERT REPERTOIRE LIST

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Chanson de matin | 6. Jeeves and Wooster |
| 2. Handel Hornpipe | 7. Por una cabeza |
| 3. Eine kleine 1st movt | 8. Mr Blue Sky |
| 4. Barcarolle | 9. Bruno (Encanto) |
| 5. Pizzicato polka | 10. Happy (Despicable Me) |

Gresham's Thinking Tree



You may recall our activity in the run up to Christmas was the creation of the Gresham Thinking Tree mural using the handprints of the children and staff.

Some children and staff were unfortunately absent for their Wellbeing afternoon during that half term however, we are pleased to say we were able to spend a morning in school earlier this half term to give all those children and staff affected a chance to add their hand to the tree mural. Here's a photo of the finished tree.

All good things must come to an end...

The Wellbeing Programme was designed to be a one year only programme to lift the spirits of our lovely school community after such a fractured two years. Therefore, we wanted to remind you all that the programme will finish at the end this school year.

However, rather than come to an abrupt end, it has been agreed with Ms Steele that the concept of Reverse School Trips will continue for another academic year from September 2022. These are the events that take place once per half term where an external "provider of fun" sets up camp in school for the day to share their skills and energy with the children and staff.

Further to this, the Gresham Parents' Association (PA) have committed to continue to sponsor these and raise enough funds to cover the cost for another academic year. This is no mean feat as this could cost anything up to £3,000.

Hopefully you will have seen the adverts for the PA's forthcoming Platinum Jubilee Summer Fair and seen that 100% of funds raised from this particular event will be put to this exact cause. We would therefore like to ask each of you to do all you can, in whichever way you can, to support this event.

Wouldn't it be simply wonderful to go into the next academic year already having raised enough money to fund the continuation of Reverse School Trips for our children and their teachers for another year?

Thank you...

To our volunteers:

Once again, thank you to those of you that have volunteered this term! We say it every half term, but it honestly wouldn't be possible to run the activities without you.

Please contact Sarah and Ali (sarah.burwood@btinternet.com) if you'd like to understand more about volunteering in any of the forthcoming wellbeing activities.
[insert comment from a volunteer]

"Being part of the Wellbeing Programme this term was great. The children at Gresham are really fun, made me giggle and appreciate the activities that have been prepared. For me, it's an easy way to give back and also connect with some of the parents too."

Jihan, Volunteer

For your LEGO donations:

Massive thanks to those of you that have kindly donated your unwanted LEGO to the Wellbeing Programme. Particular thanks go to Freddie and James (in Year 6) who have both parted with extraordinarily large collections of LEGO for our benefit. Thank you, boys!

We do still need LEGO – so please keep your donations coming! All LEGO will be donated to the school at the end of the summer term.

To the Gresham Parents' Association:

Huge thanks again to the Gresham Parents' Association for continuing to fund the Wellbeing Programme. Their ongoing sponsorship is fundamental to the success of the Wellbeing Programme – without it, it simply wouldn't have been possible to share any of these experiences with your children and the staff. Please keep an eye out for the PA's forthcoming events and support them where you can.

If you'd like more information on how to get involved with Gresham's Parents' Association, please contact Andy (the Chair) at: greshamschoolpa@gmail.com

We really do hope your children have enjoyed prancing around with us and that you've enjoyed being able to share it with them. We've had a ball! We look forward to seeing them all again after Easter for more laughter and tomfoolery!

We wish you all a lovely Easter break!
Best wishes,

Ali & Sarah