



News from Whitchurch C of E Primary School

As I write this, it is the Easter break. It's raining – but the Easter weekend has not been as dismal, weather wise, as we might have thought it would be based on the forecast, and it's lovely to see the signs of spring all around....the lambs in the fields, the daffodils waving (at times dramatically) in the breeze/high winds and the masses of people in the garden centre...clearly it is Spring!

Last week, we were certainly awaiting the holiday in anticipation and a sense of needing a rest! It is always the case that, regardless of how long the term is, the final week reflects that people are getting a little tired...whether this be the adults or the children. Despite the end of term fatigue, I found myself driving home last Wednesday at 8:00pm, with a huge smile on my face. I was tired, with the interminable cough that many of us seem to have picked up this term, but I was feeling elated. The reason for this...our Year 4 pantomime – Cinderella, Rickerfella. It was, in my entirely unbiased view, an artistic triumph.

There was much to celebrate about the performance. The singing of the chorus was enthusiastic and tuneful – the children had worked hard to learn the lyrics, they kept the beat beautifully, with emphasis in the right places and injected an appropriate sense of rhythm and flow. The comedy was delivered wonderfully, with comic timing and a good level of confidence – all credit to those who were delivering these lines; for some of them this would have been their first time of having a 'part' in a production, and comedy is tricky, even for the 'pros'! The children took to the stage at the right time, moving seamlessly from one scene to the next and the lead characters performed wonderfully. There were solo performances to be celebrated, with beautiful singing from Cinderella, Rickerfella (the Prince), the ugly sisters, and the 'agent' (a Simon Cowell figure no less!). The imagery for the scenery had been carefully selected and the whole event was a great success – reflecting the hard work of the children and adults alike.

It is always wonderful, as staff members to watch the children in these performances – to see those who sometimes find learning difficult come to life, those who can be anxious at times stand proudly and confidently on the stage, to see children's individuality and character come shining through. What was also lovely and a privilege was to watch the faces of the families as they watched their children. It was heart-warming to see their pride, to watch older siblings mouth the words of the songs or lines (either because they have performed them in the past themselves, or because they had been helping their younger siblings learn them), to see parents beaming with pride, giving a thumbs-up, shooting an encouraging glance or smile towards their child, mouthing, 'Well done,' or 'Go on'. There was also, without doubt, a celebration of each child, of their characters, their uniqueness, their difference, and their brilliant contribution. As said, it made me smile all over my face – and, having spoken to the children and watched the parents, I have no doubt that it made them all smile too. What could be better?