

## *Netherton Moss Primary School Educate Awards 2024 – Outstanding Arts in the Primary School*

As with so much of our work at Netherton Moss, the impetus for our whole school arts performance comes from the children, their interests and from what is going on in school. As part of our whole school development we are always looking for opportunities in which we can enhance the learning experiences of the children and make the curriculum content more memorable and the knowledge it contains, easier for the children to access and later retrieve and recall. As part of this work, we have sought to add, to all aspects of the curriculum, a more personal, real-life dimension by linking each aspect of the children's learning, to an inspirational role model from the various fields of endeavour. In so doing, the children are able to make stronger connections between the curriculum content they learn in school and the world beyond the classroom, as they hear the stories of a wide range of inspirational individuals who have contributed to every aspect of our lives through their courage, intellect and creativity! Developing an understanding of these individuals and their testimonies has given the children a set of concrete examples to which they can connect their developing knowledge and understand some of the more abstract ideas contained within the curriculum. This in turn allows them greater fluency in their subsequent recall.



In terms of knowledge and skills, we have found over many years, that performance is one of most effective ways through which children can communicate and embed their understanding and so for us, giving the children opportunities to read, write, speak and perform is vital and our whole school performance is key to delivering this.

The resulting whole school performance entitled *'A Night at the Museum'* was very much a showcase of the knowledge and connections the children have made throughout the year as they have engaged with the school curriculum. The finished piece saw every child of every age collaborate and perform a combination of drama, dance, and music, against a backdrop of props and set they designed and made themselves.



From our storytelling, writing and drama activities throughout the year, the children know that every good story needs a problem or a quest and it was on that basis that our arts performance for 2024 was born. The story begins as a group of school children take a trip to the 'Museum of Inspirational People' to learn more about the figures, past and present who have made a significant contribution to society over the years. As the school trip ends, in the rush to leave, a mix-up results in a few children being accidentally left behind! The five children find themselves alone and their natural curiosity to know more soon takes over. They decide to explore the museum by night. The atmosphere becomes magical as they wander through the exhibits and the statues come to life. The children are astonished as the figures they have learnt about in school begin to walk, talk, and share their stories. Each statue has a unique lesson to impart. Through these interactions, the children gain an insight into their own lives, their dreams for the future and the challenges they must overcome. The more inspirational individuals they meet, the more the children grow to realise that greatness is not confined to the pages of history books, but is achievable by anyone who dares to make a difference.

During their nocturnal explorations, the first exhibit the children visited was dedicated to key workers in our community that help to keep everyone safe. Every year, **Daisy Class Reception** enjoy their 'Local Heroes' topic, the children believe that no matter what life brings, you should always be proud of your achievements, their dance was inspired by the people who help us in our local community and who continue to make us proud.

The next exhibit the children encounter on their travels is 'The Noble Nurses'. **Sunflower Class Year 2** have really enjoyed learning about Mary Seacole this year and they wanted to continue to spread the word about her amazing pioneering work during the Crimean war. The story of Mary Seacole teaches us how important it is to treat everyone as an equal.

Following their map of the museum and guided by the various statues that come to life during their visit, the children move on and join **Clover Class Year 3** at the 'Meeting of Great Minds' exhibition, where the children are introduced to famous scientists Mary Anning, Marie Curie, Alexander Fleming, Albert Einstein and Sir Tim Berners-Lee. Who will be Simply the Best scientist?

When the children reach the 'Fabulous Fashion' section of the museum they are joined by **Poppy Class Year 1** and the design icon, Coco Chanel, who has been the inspiration for the children this year in their Art and D&T work. The children worked in teams to design and produce their own garments, all of which were on display in the museum. The children took to the catwalk to showcase their creativity, teamwork skills and fabulous designs.

Next, the children stumble across the Horrible Histories exhibition where they are reminded that not all historical figures can be considered inspirational, but some act as a reminder that history should not repeat itself. They meet Henry VIII and his wives and discover that while Henry's legacy left a lot to be desired, his wives made significant contributions to the world in one way or another.



Our intrepid adventurers then moved onto the 'Inspirational Authors' section of the museum where they were joined by **Oak Class Year 5** who chose Roald Dahl as their inspiration because he is a fan favourite in Year 5. His imaginative storytelling and memorable characters have captivated the hearts and minds of generations. His tales are not only entertaining but also carry powerful morals. His lessons have inspired Year 5 to be better individuals and to appreciate the magic in everyday life.

As their adventures continued, the night-time explorers met up with **Maple Class Year 6** children who told the story of the Suffragettes during the late 19th and early 20th century, fighting for women to have the right to vote. The Year 6 boys played the role of the male Members of Parliament, presenting their contrasting viewpoints, whilst the Y6 girls performed a contemporary dance charting the struggle of women, the rise of the Suffragettes and their persistent campaign for change.

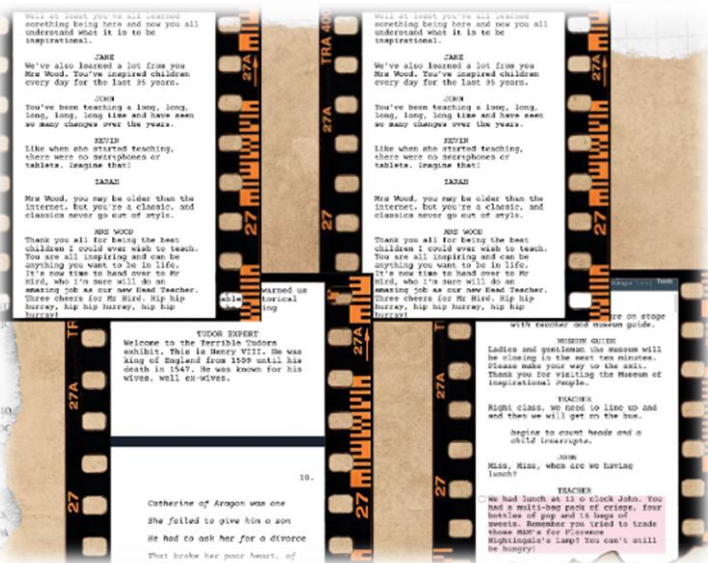
As dawn approaches, the children reflect upon their adventures in the museum and start to identify the skills and talents they each possess and how all this potential might be put to positive use. With the help of *Willow Class Year 4*, they celebrate that everyone here at *Netherton Moss* is inspirational, for both the things that they've done and the things of which they will be capable in the future, to do this everyone must believe in themselves if they are going to demonstrate they have the 'Power in me'!

As the children were finally discovered inside the museum and the time comes for them to go home, the audience were treated to a final surprise scene, celebrating the inspirational contribution that has been made to *Netherton Moss* by our *Headteacher, Mrs*

*Fiona Wood* who is retiring this summer after devoting her entire 35-year teaching career to the school and its community. Truly an inspiration to us all!

The driving force behind our arts performance is always participation and inclusion, it is absolutely key, everyone must be involved, no question. From Reception Class to Year 6 all the children have had a part to play. The children operate in teams to produce every aspect of the collaborative work, with each year group creating their own contribution to the overall performance. Each element is woven together by the Drama Club who use the script, written by the children to link all of the themes. Ownership of every aspect of the performance is another vital element and the involvement of adults is kept to a minimum, staff are there to facilitate and guide but never to take over, the children are at the very heart of the creative, decision-making process.

In keeping with our key aim of participation, each class produced a range of stunning artwork linked to the performance in order to enhance the action; every child in the school contributed to this in some way. The stage space and projections were prepared by the stagecraft team who made the set and props; controlled the sound, and lighting. Last but not least the publicity team who designed and produced the posters, programmes and tickets to ensure that our finished work was enjoyed by a capacity crowd!



**In order of action:**

**Daisy Class**

Daisy Class believe that no matter what life brings, you should always be proud of your achievements. Our dance has been inspired by the people who help us in our local community who continue to make us proud.

**Sunflower Class**

Sunflower class really enjoyed learning about Mary Seacole this year and wanted to continue to spread the word about her amazing pioneering work during the Crimean war. The story of Mary Seacole teaches us how important it is to treat everyone as an equal.

**Clower Class**

Join Year 3 at a meeting of the great minds, where you will meet famous scientists Mary Anning, Marie Curie, Alexander Fleming, Albert Einstein and Sir Tim Berners-Lee. Who will be Simply the Best scientist?

**Poppy Class**

Coco Chanel was the inspiration for Year 1. In teams, the Year 1 children designed and produced their own garments. They take to the catwalk to showcase their creativity, teamwork skills and fabulous designs.

**Oak Class**

We chose Roald Dahl as our inspiration because he is a fan favourite in Oak Class. His imaginative storytelling and memorable characters have captivated our hearts and minds. His tales are not only entertaining but also carry powerful morals. His lessons have inspired us to be better individuals and to appreciate the magic in everyday life.

**Maple Class**

Year 6 children tell the story of the Suffragettes during the late 19th and early 20th century. Fighting for women to have the right to vote. Our Y6 boys perform as male Members of Parliament, whilst the Y6 girls perform a contemporary dance representing the struggle of women, the rising of the Suffragettes and their persistent campaign for change.

**Willow Class**

Willow class believe everyone here at Netherton Moss is inspirational, for both the things that they've done and the things that they are capable of in the future. Therefore, we are performing as ourselves and showing the 'Power in me'.

**Netherton Moss Primary School**

Proudly Presents:

**A Night at the Museum**

