

Millie's Musings.

Hello again!

It's been a busy couple of months here at Lydiard Millicent Primary School. Not only have the children and teachers been having fun as Time Travellers - finding out about the times of the dinosaurs, the Mayans, the Romans and the Great Fire of London, to name but a few - but then we found ourselves in the midst of preparations for something called Christmas. And, of course, from my perch in the entrance foyer, I get to see everything which goes on.

I'd been feeling quite at home here since I was brought back to the school, after my transformation from lump of oak to tawny owl, but do you know, at the beginning of December, they actually brought a tree inside the school! Not an oak, of course, but a very pretty fir tree with soft needles (thank you Toomers) which almost made me feel like I was back outside. And then our Headteacher, Mrs Luce, was very busy making it even more beautiful by decorating it with all sorts of shiny things. Shortly afterwards, the school became even busier than usual, as the Hall and some of the classrooms were taken over by a "Christmas Market". It looked great fun, with music, lights, decorations, games and food, and a special visitor dressed all in red with a white beard. I caught a glimpse of him once or twice – he looked very jolly - and the children were so excited to be able to meet him. It was all organised by some extremely hardworking friends of the school who call themselves "FOLMS", and who, I've heard, raised over a thousand pounds for the school, just in a couple of hours!

The children are always very busy at Christmas time. For many weeks, I was treated to such beautiful singing drifting around the school as the younger children prepared for "Lights, Camel, Action!" – an exciting show which told the story of a very special baby whose birth, many years ago, is still celebrated every year in December. They all worked so hard to give a fantastic performance, and didn't they look fabulous in their costumes! Each year, the older children walk down the lane to celebrate in the church, so I couldn't go to see their "Carol Service", but I have some feathered friends who live in a magnificent window down there at All Saints, who keep me well informed whenever the children visit the church. The robin, who's an especially friendly fellow, told me that the children sang so sweetly, he thought he had been joined by a choir of angels!

Towards the end of term, amid all the Christmas festivities, there was one week when the school was quieter than usual, as Classes 5 and 6 spent a few days at our partner school, Ridgeway Farm, working together on a special project which encouraged them to be creative and to care for others: they made their own "Flour Babies", which they then had to care for. I did miss our eldest children, but it was such a fantastic experience for them, and I've enjoyed hearing all about their adventures with their new friends.

It's been a little lonely here recently, as the children all stayed at home for two weeks, to spend more time with their families, but I'm looking forward to the New Year and all the exciting opportunities of the new school term.