

Nautical – but nice!

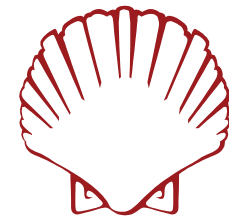
This year, our Year 6 play, *Pirates of the Curry Bean*, was a hilarious seafaring adventure about swashbuckling pirates, led by Captain Redbeard on the galleon The Curry Bean, and a bunch of hapless sailors skippered by Admiral Hornhonker on HMS Crunchy Frog. Shipwrecked together on the tropical island of Lumbago, along with Pearl Periwinkle, landlady of The Squirty Squid tavern, and her children, Jack and Liza, they hunt for Captain Swaggersword's buried treasure.

There were weeks of rehearsals, and then – suddenly – it was opening night! We didn't feel ready! Backstage was like a sauna. Most of the costumes were made from things like old curtains which were so heavy and hot it's a wonder we didn't pass out! George was allergic to his pink beard that had been coloured with food dye, which didn't help matters!

Everyone was totally 'wired'. Seeing the hall fill up made us all very nervous – but excited, too. Kiya was first on stage; she was dancing around behind the curtain to try to keep calm, and Aidan was practically hyperventilating!

Then the lights dimmed, the music started and our story began. There were a few hiccups (no one could ever find the treasure map, which ended up all over the place) and we even managed to lose a massive tree! In the hall it probably seemed calm, but backstage was bedlam. There were quick costume changes, loads of props to shift around and teachers practically shoving us on stage. A few lines were forgotten and cues missed (guys, where were you?!), but we pulled it off. There was some great acting and a lot of laughs. It was SO much fun. And we absolutely nailed it!

Archie Allcock and Lucy Lightwood

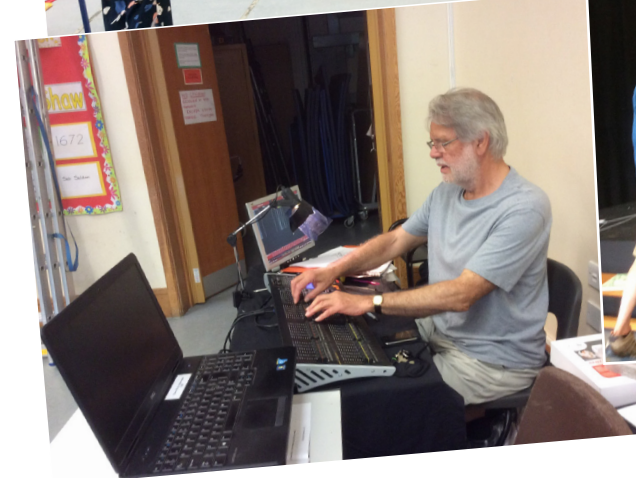


CHATTER!

Issue 9

CRADLEY PUPILS' END-OF-TERM MAGAZINE

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What a Performance!

Preparations for our Year 6 play began in the depths of winter, when director Mrs Paton chose the script soon after Christmas. However, her decision was kept under wraps until the day after the final SATS paper, when the secret was revealed and we had our first read-through of the script. Parts were allocated soon after and rehearsals began in earnest. There was a huge amount of work –

not only memorising lines, practising songs and dances, and learning stage craft, but also making props, designing scenery, cobbling costumes together, rigging the sound and lighting, selling tickets and printing programmes. Phew! It really was a team effort, involving all the staff – not to mention the parents who were roped in to lend their expertise!



Bon Voyage



It's time to say a fond farewell to our Years 6s, who are now setting off on their own big adventure to high school. It's been wonderful guiding them through their primary school years, and discovering their many strengths and talents. We are sure they will enjoy the next leg of their journey!





PIRATES OF THE CURRY BEAN