

This week Burnham Primary Pupils tell us about their success on the theatre stage, while Maldon Court Primary School celebrated World Book Day earlier this month despite the snowy weather. To take part e-mail 200 words and pictures under school report to mbsdistrict@newsquest.co.uk

World Book Day party enjoyed at snowy school

DESPITE snowy weather pupils at one Maldon primary school made sure they still celebrated World Book Day.

While many schools had to reschedule Maldon Court Preparatory School in Silver Street was still able to mark the event on March 1.

The school also stayed open throughout the inclement weather.

Staff and pupils dressed up in a variety of vibrant and exciting costumes.

Characters included astronauts, Alice in Wonderland's, Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dumb's, Cat in The Hats, Red Riding Hoods', Gangsta Granny, Saucepan Man, the BFG, Where's Wanda, Tinkerbell and many more.

The school enjoyed a Mad Hatter's Tea Party arranged by the school cooks and the hall was decorated ready for the children as a surprise.

A spokesman for the school said: "It was a fantastic school community event that was enjoyed by all that could make it into school despite the snow.

"It was truly a fantastic day, against all the odds of snow and icy weather."



■ **SURPRISE:** Pupils at Maldon Court Preparatory School marked World Book Day 2018 with a tea party while dressed as their favourite characters



■ **SEARCH:** Where's Wanda? Can you spot your favourite literary character?

Pupils take to stage for roles in West End and town theatres

By Rebecca Creed

A PRIMARY school pupil took to the bright lights of the London stage as he performed to thousands of people.

Lenny Rush, a Year Four pupil at Burnham Primary School, Dunkirk Road, Burnham, was a cast member in A Christmas Carol put on at the Old Vic in London.

The independent not-for-profit theatre puts on a range of shows each year.

In January headteacher Kelly Stock was invited to watch Lenny perform.

She said: "Lenny was one of a rotating cast of four young performers with different disabilities who played Tiny Tim.

"He showed amazing confidence performing to an audience of more than a 1,000 and even got to play the final ring in the spectacular hand bell-ringing.

"They began ten hour practices in September and Lenny performed in one to two performances each week."

Miss Stock said she was very

proud of Lenny, who suffers from dwarfism.

She added: "At the end of the night Lenny signed autographs at the stage door and met Rhys Ifans', who played Scrooge, family and friends.

"During the performance Tiny Tim is described as a 'cripple' to reflect the times of the show.

"Thankfully disability is no longer seen as an illness; the school has a number of children with various disabilities and they are often the children with the biggest smiles and hearts.

"The Christmas Carol itself is a story that reminds us it's never too late to change but especially that great joy can be found in being kind to others."

In February pupils at the school also took part in a show at the Towngate Theatre in Basildon.

Pupils in Year Two helped celebrate the 15th anniversary of Starstrucks Theatre School.

Sophie Torrie, Lorna Longley, Jessica Massenhove, Isabella Williams, Olivia Weidenauer and Thomas Oakes performed a selection of songs from musicals.



■ **SHOW:** Lenny Rush from Burnham Primary with Rhys Ifans. The Year Four pupil starred at the Old Vic in London



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